

3LDROX09 – Introduction to the Common Law and Tort Law

Professor: Coralie RAFFENNE
Contact information:
coralie.raffenne@dauphine.psl.eu
Department: LSO
Semester: 1

Course level: Undergraduate (L3)
Domain: Law
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 18
Number of course sessions: 12 + Exam
ECTS: 3

Course description and objectives

This course will be taught in seminar format, with an interactive analysis of cases and materials relating to the topics in questions. Particular emphasis will be placed upon debate & discussion. The aim of this module is to provide an introduction to the study of the common law illustrating its basic functioning through examples from the law of torts. A number of seminars will focus on the defining characteristics of common law legal systems, including different patterns of legal reasoning, the distinctiveness of sources of law, and the question of the “mentalité” of the common lawyer. With this background in the mind, the course will then proceed to examine key issues in respect of tort law, including the structure and approach of tort law, an examination of component torts, such as the iconic tort of negligence. This will be undertaken by means of case law analysis, legal reasoning and advocacy. The focus of the course is upon the English common law.

Prerequisites

Legal background and sound knowledge of legal English

Learning outcomes

Understanding the specificities of the Common Law reasoning and argumentation
Problem solving and advocacy
Basic knowledge of the law of negligence

Assignments and grading

- 60% class work 40% exam

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

Class participation: Active class participation – this is what makes classes lively and instructive. Come on time and prepared. Class participation is based on quality of comments, not quantity.

Exam policy: In the exam, students will not be allowed to bring any document (except if allowed by the lecturer). Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit cases will result in zero grades in the calculation of numerical averages. Exams are collected at the end of examination periods.

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	The origins of the Common Law
2	Common Law classifications
3	The Justice system
4	The civil courts
5	CLASSROOM TEST
6	Negligence: the duty of care
7	Negligence: the duty of care
8	Negligence: breach of duty
9	Negligence: causation
10	MOCK TRIAL PREPARATION
11	MOCK TRIAL
12	MOCK TRIAL
13	Final Exam

Bibliography

- Bermingham, V, Watson, S, Nutshells Tort , (Sweet & Maxwell, 2014) 10th Edition Frison Danièle, Hutchinson Wesley, Moisan Jean-François, Weil Françoise, English Law and British Institutions , (Ellipses, 2005) 3e édition Horsey, K. and E. Rackley, Tort law . (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) 4th edition Slapper, G. and D. Kelly, The English legal system 2015–2016, (Abingdon: Routledge, 2015) 16th edition To look up case law: <http://www.bailii.org/>

MyCourse

This course is on MyCourse: **Yes**

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.

Academic calendar

Dates (Monday/Sunday)		L3 Droit
02/09/19	09/08/19	
09/09/19	15/09/19	
16/09/19	22/09/19	1
23/09/19	29/09/19	2
30/09/19	06/10/19	3
07/10/19	13/10/19	4
14/10/19	20/10/19	5
21/10/19	27/10/19	6
28/10/19	03/11/19	Holidays
04/11/19	10/11/19	7
11/11/19	17/11/19	8
18/11/19	24/11/19	9
25/11/19	01/12/19	10
02/12/19	08/12/19	11
09/12/19	15/12/19	12
16/12/19	22/12/19	Exams
23/12/19	29/12/19	
30/12/19	05/01/20	
06/01/20	12/01/20	Exams
13/01/20	19/01/20	