

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE: VERSION 2.0

LAW 619 | PROFESSOR WAGNER | FALL 2001

COURSE INFORMATION & ADMINISTRATION

[this document can be found at www.law.upenn.edu/law619/students/administration.html]

I COURSE WEB SITE

As befits a class about electronic commerce, this course is built entirely around internet resources. The center of course activity is the course web site, found at

<http://www.law.upenn.edu/law619/>

We will be using the “Fall 2001” area, which can be reached by following the links, or by using this direct URL: <http://www.law.upenn.edu/law619/f2001/>

In the Fall 2001 area, you will find the following main sections:

course calendar: topics to be covered, links to reading materials and Commentary Post assignments for each class session;

course syllabus: an outline of the topics covered by the course, with links to reading materials;

course discussion board: online discussion board system used for Commentary Posts, question & answer, and class discussion

course administration: general information about the course and grading, etc.

II CLASS MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

The class meets from 10:10 AM to 11:35 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 213. Attendance is mandatory, and though the roll is not formally taken, unexplained absences will be noted and considered as part of the class participation score (see “Grading System,” below). The class meetings are run according to a modified Socratic style; all students are expected (and assumed) to have read and considered the assigned reading materials.

III TEXT AND COURSE MATERIALS

There is no text to purchase for the course. All class materials will be distributed online, through the class website. After the drop/add period has closed, copies of the course materials in printed form will be made available through the Law School distribution center for students' convenience. The "official" class materials will be those found online, however.

IV OFFICE HOURS & OUT-OF-CLASS INSTRUCTION

I strongly encourage students with out-of-class comments or questions to utilize the class discussion board system (see "Course Web Site," above). Many students have similar questions and often have interesting views on the class topics. We can all benefit from hearing your comments and questions, and I will respond quickly to questions posted there.

An excellent way to reach me individually is via email (pwagner@law.upenn.edu). I will respond to all email inquiries as promptly as possible. My office phone number is 215.898.4356; however, the answering machine is quite unreliable.

For a more "face-to-face" experience, I will be available immediately after each class session for approximately 15-20 minutes to answer questions. In addition, I will hold a drop-in office hour from 1:30 to 2:30 PM on Tuesdays in my office, Roberts 212. I am also usually around the law school (mostly in my office) Mondays through Thursdays during business hours – if my office door is open, feel free to stop by. Or if you see me in the halls, stop me. I am also happy to set appointments for meetings at our mutual convenience.

V GRADING & COURSE EVALUATION

Rather than assign the entire course evaluation to a final exam, the grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Class participation:	15%
Commentary Posts:	15%
Take-home essay:	35%
Final exam:	35%

An explanation of each of these follows.

Class Participation

Informed and consistent class participation is essential to the success of this course. The class participation score will include equal consideration of both in-class participation and online participation (e.g., active and informed posting on the class discussion board system). Quality, not just quantity, is desired, and will be rewarded accordingly. Class meeting sessions are run in a modified Socratic style; all students are expected (and assumed) to have read and considered the assigned reading materials.

Commentary Posts

Commentary Posts are short required posts to the class discussion board, assigned to several students per class on a rotating basis (each student will be assigned two Commentary Posts over the semester). See the attached page on Commentary Posts for more information.

Take-Home Essay

Approximately two weeks prior to the end of the term, one essay question will be assigned. The responses will be due on the first day of the exam period, and may be completed in conjunction with up to two other students. The essay will be blind graded (you'll identify your essay by your exam number only).

Final Exam

During the exam period, an in-class exam will be given. The exam will have a multiple choice format and be open-book. The length is TBD, but will probably be one or two hours long.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at pwagner@law.upenn.edu.

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ABOUT COMMENTARY POSTS

[this document can be found at www.law.upenn.edu/law619/students/cp_info.html]

Commentary Posts (CPs) are short pieces written by students on a rotating basis, and posted to the class discussion board. They are designed to: (1) encourage students to read and consider the topics and reading materials before the class meeting time; and (2) stimulate both in-class and out-of-class discussion.

REQUIREMENTS

Length.

At least 300 words. (This is about 1/2 page, single spaced.) There is no maximum length, though the intent is to keep them brief yet useful for other students. I suggest not writing more than a page.

Where/how to turn them in.

Post them in the appropriate thread on the class discussion board -- the one labeled with the topic and date you've been assigned. This is achieved by clicking on the first message in the thread (posted by the instructor) and "replying" to this message.

Content.

For general information about content, see "Content Suggestions" below. Content-related requirements are as follows:

CPs must be on-topic. That is, they must relate directly to the assigned topic and/or reading materials.

CPs must be original to you. You can include quotes and links, but be sure to attribute them and respond to or discuss them in your own words.

CPs cannot be repetitive of an earlier-posted CP on the same topic. Several students are assigned the same topic/materials. You can respond with your views on an earlier-posted CP, but don't just repeat what's already there.

When to post.

All CPs for a particular topic must be posted by 12:00 noon the day prior to the class meeting to discuss that topic. That is, if you are assigned the topic that will be considered at the August 28 class meeting, you must post your CP

by 12:00 noon on August 27. Note that the “non-repetition” policy lends an incentive to post earlier rather than later.

How to find your assigned topic.

Look at the “Calendar” or “Syllabus” section of the class web site. Find your name. Each student will be assigned two CPs during the term.

CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

The content of a CP is open-ended and largely subject to the preferences of the individual student. (Subject to the content guidelines noted above, of course.) Keeping in mind that the goal of the CPs is to stimulate discussion and understanding, some possible topic ideas are listed below (this is not an exclusive list – feel free to take your own approach):

- ¶ a brief summary of one or more of the assigned reading materials, with responsive comments;
- ¶ an overview of competing arguments or points of debate related to the topic, with your views;
- ¶ a suggestion for further reading on the topic, with appropriate links and responsive commentary;
- ¶ a response to views expressed in an earlier-posted CP.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at pwagner@law.upenn.edu.