

Instructor Report - Torts (Klick) - Sec 1A - Jonathan Klick - 2019C

Course response summary

Raters	Students FFO
Responded	32
Invited	40
Response Ratio	80%

Response distribution by question

1. Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 1A

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 1A				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	3	9.38%	Response Count	32
2	5	15.63%	Mean	3.41
3	6	18.75%		
4	12	37.50%		
5	6	18.75%		

2. Workload:

1 – too light, 3 – appropriate, 5 – too heavy

1. Workload:				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	2	6.25%	Response Count	32
2	6	18.75%	Mean	2.88
3	20	62.50%		
4	2	6.25%		
5	2	6.25%		

3. Satisfaction with course materials

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Satisfaction with course materials				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	32
2	3	9.38%	Mean	3.66
3	14	43.75%		
4	6	18.75%		
5	9	28.13%		

4. Clarity and effectiveness of presentations

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Clarity and effectiveness of presentations				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	1	3.13%	Response Count	32
2	2	6.25%	Mean	3.75
3	9	28.13%		
4	12	37.50%		
5	8	25.00%		

5. Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	32
2	0	0.00%	Mean	4.69
3	2	6.25%		
4	6	18.75%		
5	24	75.00%		

6. Would you recommend that other students take this course?

1 - Would not recommend, 3 - Would recommend, 5 - Highly recommend

1. Would you recommend that other students take this course?				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	1	3.13%	Response Count	32
2	2	6.25%	Mean	3.94
3	9	28.13%		
4	6	18.75%		
5	14	43.75%		

7. Overall effectiveness of instructor – Jonathan Klick

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Overall effectiveness of instructor – Jonathan Klick				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	32
2	2	6.25%	Mean	4.09
3	8	25.00%		
4	7	21.88%		
5	15	46.88%		

8. Overall effectiveness of the course

"5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking.

1. Overall effectiveness of the course				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	32
2	2	6.25%	Mean	3.81
3	12	37.50%		
4	8	25.00%		
5	10	31.25%		

14. Please note the approximate percentage of classes that you attended.

Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
94.45	99.00	9.86

15. Please note the approximate percentage of classes for which you had read the assigned materials in advance.

Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
44.86	30.00	40.41

Comment responses

9. Is there any special preparation or background necessary to take this course?

Comments
Logical Reasoning. While Professor Klick brings economics into the course, he explains the concepts with great clarity so no background is needed.
No
No, however a background in economics would be very helpful.
It would help to know a little Econ (since that's the primary perspective of analysis Professor Klick teaches from), but I wouldn't say its essential to success in this course.
No. Just have common sense.
yes. would be nice to have law & econ background. he explains a lot but still a background in econ would definitely help you in this class.
No, but some background economics helps
Not at all.
None needed!
N/A, Econ knowledge may help understanding.
Economics helps
No
Absolutely non. Reading the textbook is a waste
It helps to have an economics background, but it was not necessary.
While an economics background is helpful, it is not necessary. Professor Klick explains things pretty well.
Some background in economics is certainly helpful, but to the instructor's credit, the concepts are broken down in ways that any student can understand (even basic statistics).
maybe some economics background
No, but econ knowledge helps.
1L Req
this course is excellent for anyone trapped in their way of thinking. no background in anything is necessary. the ONLY requirement is to be able to see other sides of issues and get outside the toxic liberal bubble that permeates the campus
No, but having an econ background makes it easier and more fun
No.
No special preparation is needed but a background in economics definitely is helpful. However, Professor Klick provides the foundational knowlodge so it's definitely not necessary.
Would be good to have taken microeconomics or at least a course that covered political economy.
Learn econ.
N/A
Probably basic foundation in certain economic principles would be helpful but are not necessary.
no

10. Comment on the instructor's (Jonathan Klick) stimulation of interest in the subject matter and independent thought.

Comments
Professor Klick made torts class incredibly thought provoking (and fun!). He stimulates independent thought by encouraging all different viewpoints, including those that may be unpopular. This course definitely helped me grow as an independent thinker, and it helped me appreciate different perspectives.

Comments
He stimulates interest in independent thought and to a lesser degree, the subject matter.
Prof. Klick is clearly very interested in the subject matter, at least where it intersects with policy and society at large. As to independent thought, Prof. Klick did a great job of pushing against the views of those in class. One of the most valuable benefits I got from the class was a new framework to examine the world in. Klick did not let us make normative/moral arguments at the beginning of the year in order to force us to consider the other economic/utility driven arguments.
While Professor Klick doesn't seem particularly interested in torts itself, he does seem to enjoy having discussions about torts–related concepts and encourage highly analytical, independent thinking about torts and law in general. I really enjoyed this class because it's one of the few where we were actually encouraged to reason through why we have certain views rather than skirting around those.
Klick clearly knows a lot about law and econ framework, but he did not teach black–letter tort law in a way that was clear.
Professor Klick is an incredibly knowledgeable and engaging professor. He is realistic about how we at Penn Law should think about torts – it is more about the role of incentives in society than litigating injury claims. Professor Klick has a deep knowledge of this area of academia. He engages with all points of view and does a great job of bringing current events and societal challenges into class discussion. He gets a reputation for being a conservative, but that's because he challenges everyone's preconceived notions, and 90% of the class comes in with liberal preconceptions. Whenever students came in with a full–on laissez faire point of view, he would challenge that just as thoroughly – but obviously that was rare because this is Penn.
Klick makes torts fun. And he definitely challenges the way students think. What more could you ask for?
Professor Klick was fantastic when it came to making torts interesting. His law and economics approach forced me to ponder issues and angles I had never thought about and broadened how I think about the law. He also welcomed student participation, which was great!
Klick really makes you think. I think it can be a shock to first years(based on others reactions), but he makes you consider things you hadn't before as well as pushes the level of thought on students comments. Reactions were mixed but I think it is the type of thing needed in today's law school (thinking outside of your normal range).
Professor Klick brings takes a really interesting approach to teaching torts. I really liked how much it incorporated economics and public policy considerations. Professor Klick wanted us to learn how to think, not just to memorize the elements of different tort claims.
Klick is one of the smartest professors I have ever worked with. He is highly engaged with the topic and was able to simplify complex economic topics easily for those without any background in econ.
I was slightly interested in the topic.
Professor Klick did a great job of facilitating discussion in this class. He gave us time and space to delve into issues and always challenged us to find new ways to defend our points, particularly because he approached issues from a libertarian/law and economics perspective that was different from the perspective of most students in the class. This was the only class in which I regularly participated in discussions.
Professor Klick is great at keeping class interesting and welcomes challenges to his views.
With Klick everything is open to debate regardless of normative viewpoints, which enables students to really consider every motivation for a rule or element of a tort. In that sense, even if the discussion sometimes appears off–base, it all enriches our knowledge of the subject area and the lines of thought within it.
stimulate lots of interesting debates in class
one of the best profs ive had for the stimulation of independent thought. he will push back on you no matter what you say and get you to see that the issues are complicated and that we should be careful about getting stuck in our own echo chamber. He he great knowledge of the material and and it was the most engaging class so far in law school.
Very good at it
Professor Klick didn't really make a huge attempt to sell the importance of the subject matter, but he did stimulate independent thought by always entertaining student answers/theories, even while applying appropriate criticism. Most of class discussion was student conversation.
Professor Klick encourages you to (temporarily) set aside your assumptions in an effort to understand another viewpoint, and to take an argument a step further by thinking about longer term implications.
Professor Klick really lets the students lead the class. He argues with every single comment that students make, and forces us to be clear about our ideas. The questions he posed to the class were genuinely challenging. Not because they were confusing, but because they challenged long held normative views.
Professor Klick clearly knows the material and is very passionate about law and econ
Prof. Klick does an excellent job stimulating classroom dialogue and independent thinking.
Professor Klick was always open to student's different ideas and approaches but also consistently pushed up against them (in a respectful way).

Comments
he is very knowledgable

11. Comment on the instructor (Jonathan Klick) with respect to attitude toward students and accessibility outside of class.

Comments
Professor Klick is incredibly accessible. He is willing to meet during office hours, and he was always happy to make another appointment as needed. He also responds to emails.
Klick had some nice back and forths with students in class about issues that were brought up and never demeaned anyone. He emphasized thinking from all different sides.
Prof. Klick is very respectful to students, more respectful than any other of my 1L professors. He really seems to respect us and our time. He is also very accessible in his office or via email. Popping into his office unannounced is welcome, which I appreciated. He is also the most relaxed professor I had this semester. His calm and cool demeanor truly did undercut the intensity/stress of first semester 1L.
Professor Klick cares about students and really does treat students with respect – which is evident by how he actually engages with students in class. He's probably the most accessible professor I have this semester outside of class.
exclusionary in a lot of his views. can be condescending toward student comments
Klick was there for office hours. I'm not sure about his attitude towards students. I think he thinks we're all dumb spoiled brats. He's not completely wrong about this (but he is a little bit wrong). Whatever he thinks, he's kind enough in class to students. He usually hears students out and is charitable in his interpretation of their questions.
Professor Klick was always very funny and engaging with students. He's also easy to talk to outside of class.
I didn't access him outside of the class although perhaps I should have. Seems like he had plenty of office hours available.
Professor Klick is hilarious and fun with students. He's laid back and down to earth. You'd never know he was a fancy law professor. He was very respectful with students, always had office hours and answers emails very quickly!
Klick is great. He pushes you to think beyond your initial gut reactions. Some students found this destabilizing, but it should be – this is law school and the point is to learn about argumentation and how to defend an argument going beyond just moral senses of right and wrong. He was playful and light hearted with students which was a breath of fresh air in a doctrinal course. He is a true expert but is neither pompous nor arrogant.
He's great in office hours and 1-on-1.
Professor Klick can seem unapproachable to some students because of his libertarian/law and economics perspective. He says outrageous things in class to provoke discussion or because they are justified by economics, but students who are not familiar with economics have trouble understanding his rationale. For many students, particularly those who are underrepresented, he can seem exclusionary, particularly after reading his response to the Wax controversy.
That being said, Professor Klick does care a lot about his students. He is willing to answer endless questions, even if they do not directly relate to the course, he is willing to give advice/help if a student approaches him, and he was often accessible in his office.
He is a very approachable person and willing to engage with students outside of class.
A certain degree of informality in the classroom can help students feel comfortable to discuss and investigate complicated subject matter, and Klick strikes a good balance of formality and manner.
very accessible
Attitude toward students: Klick talks a lot about wanting to push on our normative views and challenge us, but he is very quick to shut students down for pushing back at all. Accessibility outside of class: he responds to emails.
very accessible outside of the class and respected other students. i think some people may have misinterpreted his questioning at times but he was just being the devils advocate, as a prof should be. A lot of the students were afraid to explore other perspectives and he did an excellent job of pushing them and poking holes in their own ideologies. He doesn't disagree, he just wants the students to be able to defend their positions
Very accessible
Professor Klick made himself accessible to students outside of class. He made jokes about students generally – but didn't say anything that wasn't true, and wasn't mean towards anyone.
Professor Klick is extremely approachable, patient, and willing to hold office hours or private study group meetings by appointment. He is extremely responsive via email. Professor Klick is willing to explain topics in multiple ways to try and force understanding. Furthermore, he didn't cold call which allowed for a different type of discussion relative to other doctrinal classes. People seemed

Comments
more willing to participate relative to those other classes.
Professor Klick's office hours were helpful and he quickly responded to me emails. I think that he seemed supportive of students and had high standards for its work.
Very responsive
N/A
Professor Klick always took students' questions throughout class, which created a lively and participatory classroom environment.
I never went to office hours bc I'm socially anxious but I've heard he's very helpful

12. Comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the course. How could it be improved?

Comments
I would appreciate a bit more guidance regarding navigating the textbook. Professor Klick would encourage us to read a 20–30 pages in advance for each course. I would have an easier time keeping up if I knew which aspects of the reading to emphasize.
Klick encouraged live discussion and always had interesting insights to share. I think he could do more of his classes in the format that he did his Action Park class. I believe the class structure on that day
The course lacks significant structure, which can be very confusing. Also, what we learn and discuss in class is not necessarily what we are tested on; the class conversations are meandering, and they typically track policy arguments you could make on the exam, however I wish Klick would occasionally reel in the class discussion and relate this back to the issue at hand and "connect the dots."
Maybe some more fundamental torts law every once in a while, but I really enjoyed the law and economics framework. I don't think the law and econ framework encourages us to think one particular way – it actually provides a great starting point for nailing down where our normative beliefs come in, and then asking ourselves in a reasonable way whether we agree or disagree with a particular policy/law.
no cold calls which fostered more student discussion and more engaging conversations. not much structure in the class so didn't always know what's going on.
The main improvement I would suggest would just be being more clear about the elements and black letter law on the issues discussed. That aside, it was a stellar course!
Strengths include Klicks knowledge, humor, and level of thought. I felt some students were taken aback by things he would point out, but you have to understand he is pushing the envelope for our benefit, to take our thinking as future attorneys beyond our preconceptions.. I think Klick, while using a different approach, was a very valuable first semester teacher to me. I feel I gained a lot more than I would have in a plain torts class going down the list one can find in a hornbook.
Weaknesses would be it took me a long time to get a footing on some of the economic discussion so I felt up in the air for some discussion, but I feel I caught up eventually.
The economics, statistics and public policy Professor Klick incorporated into the class was amazing. I really appreciated having that in the class. I think my one suggestion would be to structure the course a little more. It was very loose and it was hard to know what Professor Klick wanted us to focus on for each class. We had to kind of learn the basics of torts on our own, and I think it would have been good to limit the discussion (which went in many different directions in class, sometimes good but sometimes confusing) and weight class time to just learning the basics.
The class is taught just by lecture. At times it was difficult to ground myself in where we were in the material early on in the course. I would suggest starting the class with a brief over view of the types of torts we will learn about and focusing a little more on the elements of the torts in general.
More structured classes – not taking so many questions/random thoughts from students.
Professor Klick focused on teaching law and economics principals rather than torts principals, so I had to use external materials to get a comprehensive understanding of the subject and fill in gaps in my knowledge. But his class does prepare you for policy questions and has a lighter workload than other 1L courses, which I found exceptionally helpful. The course could be better–organized. We followed syllabus (which states what chapters are covered on what days), but I never really knew what we would learn each day.
I think that the course's biggest strength is the degree that he challenges his students to think critically about tort as a regulatory regime. The biggest weakness of the course was the initial restrictions on letting us discuss normative viewpoints. I think there is a way to both discuss the economics perspective and also say "but there are normative judgments that would also impact someone's thinking on this".

Comments
Strengths: recognition of the field's variety based on common law principles, good identification of the motivations behind the law's rules and challenges to them
Weaknesses: some math, or at least an idea of what the math would be.
the class can be more structured and the class could be clearer on the doctrines of torts
More structure. Klick casually goes through our book, but classes are mostly dominated by off–topic discussions that vary wildly.
i think it was an excellent course. Klick is engaging, entertaining, and commands the room. I would take another class from him.
Lots of policy, not enough actual law
One strength of the course is that it was much less rigid than our other courses, particularly in the discussions. This encouraged constructive discourse, but I think it came at the cost of using our textbook. Cases were only mentioned in passing, and usually it seemed like only a few students ever knew the facts of the case. Maybe introducing cold–calling for the basic facts of the case would encourage more reading of the textbook. Especially towards the end of class, I felt we didn't really need to use the textbook.
Strengths: –challenged my way of thinking –lack of socratic method made for a relaxed environment where I could more readily focus on the material
Weaknesses: –None (truly)
Klick doesn't expect us to read, but if we came up with some easy and sponsored way to cover case materials, it would help to guide the class.
It is hard to follow lectures, the econ tangents make it hard to stay engaged
The course is set up to encourage classroom discourse around torts, law and economics, and policy. I found the set up to be useful.
One of the weaknesses was we really didn't spend much time on understanding basic tort concepts.
Strengths: Professor Klick was open to having the discussion go in many different directions so that flexibility was nice.
speak slower

13. Other comments.

Comments
I have really enjoyed (and learned a lot from) this course.
I really enjoyed him and think anyone would with the right perspective.
N/A
Nice guy. Engaging professor.
N/A.
I firmly believe that first year students should not be required to take classes with Professor Klick. The level to which he brings his beliefs into the classroom is inappropriate for students who have no choice in being there. Students who suggest any argument for fairness and equality are immediately shut down, while (white) students who compare creating an affirmative duty for doctors to help people who are dying to slavery are lauded. There is a difference between allowing open conversation and allowing racist, sexist, ignorant views to circulate openly in the classroom. Klick does the latter.
N/a
Thanks Professor Klick for a great semester!

Mean responses by student's class/degree

Question	JD22	Overall
Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 1A	3.41	3.41
Workload	2.88	2.88
Satisfaction with course materials	3.66	3.66
Clarity and effectiveness of presentations	3.75	3.75
Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues	4.69	4.69
Would you recommend that other students take this course?	3.94	3.94
Overall effectiveness of instructor – Jonathan Klick	4.09	4.09
Overall effectiveness of the course	3.81	3.81

Category Relative Statistics - First-Year

Question	Scores for this course			Category scores (weighted by students) (2019C)			Category scores (weighted by course) (2019C)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation	Median	Mean	Median
Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 1A	3.41	1.24	4.00	4.27	0.96	5.00	4.34	4.49
Workload	2.88	0.87	3.00	3.40	0.71	3.00	3.42	3.31
Satisfaction with course materials	3.66	1.00	3.00	4.14	0.98	4.00	4.24	4.35
Clarity and effectiveness of presentations	3.75	1.02	4.00	4.15	1.01	4.00	4.23	4.38
Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues	4.69	0.59	5.00	4.79	0.55	5.00	4.79	4.90
Would you recommend that other students take this course?	3.94	1.13	4.00	4.25	1.04	5.00	4.31	4.51
Overall effectiveness of instructor – Jonathan Klick	4.09	1.00	4.00	4.42	0.87	5.00	4.49	4.64
Overall effectiveness of the course	3.81	0.97	4.00	4.30	0.90	5.00	4.41	4.58