

Instructor Report - Torts (Klick) - Sec 2A - Jonathan Klick - 2018C

Course response summary

Raters	Students FFO
Responded	31
Invited	42
Response Ratio	73.81%

Response distribution by question

1. Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 2A

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

1. Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 2A				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	30
2	4	13.33%	Mean	3.80
3	7	23.33%		
4	10	33.33%		
5	9	30.00%		

2. Workload:

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

1. Workload:				
Options	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
1	0	0.00%	Response Count	31
2	4	12.90%	Mean	2.97
3	25	80.65%		
4	1	3.23%		
5	1	3.23%		

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	1	3.23%	Response Count	31
2	5	16.13%	Mean	3.61
3	7	22.58%		
4	10	32.26%		
5	8	25.81%		

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	0	0.00%	Response Count	31
2	5	16.13%	Mean	3.48
3	14	45.16%		
4	4	12.90%		
5	8	25.81%		

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	31
2	0	0.00%	Mean	4.48
3	5	16.13%		
4	6	19.35%		
5	20	64.52%		

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	4	12.90%	Response Count	31
2	2	6.45%	Mean	3.52
3	10	32.26%		
4	4	12.90%		
5	11	35.48%		

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	31
2	3	9.68%	Mean	3.84
3	7	22.58%		
4	13	41.94%		
5	8	25.81%		

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	31
2	6	19.35%	Mean	3.71
3	6	19.35%		
4	10	32.26%		
5	9	29.03%		

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

Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
94.90	98.50	8.23

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

Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
59.24	50.31	34.55

Comment responses

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

Comments
None
yes, you need to understand economics! if you don't that makes the class hard to follow
Definitely not, but a basic understanding in economics would be useful
No.
Background knowledge in economics would help.
No, but an economic background is helpful
It would help to have an economics background.
A background in economics would be helpful but not necessary
Economics
No
Nope.
None. Some coursework in economics wouldn't hurt.
No
healthcare, sports
A background in microeconomics is certainly useful.
An economics background would have been incredibly helpful. I chose not to take economics in undergrad and that hampered my understanding of the formulae he chose to teach.
Basic understanding of economics principles would be very helpful. I sometimes have trouble following his economic points.
No.
No
No. Professor Klick emphasizes econ topics but he does a good job explaining these concepts.
No, but econ understanding helps.
Economics
No
A general framework of economics would be very helpful
Although not required, a rudimentary understanding of economics is helpful . Also, it would be helpful for students to take some time to read about different policies and regulatory schemes that are employed by federal, state and local governments today that have a nexus with tort law.
No

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

Comments
I personally found Prof Klick's instruction to be very interesting, and I found it helpful that he presented all of the material within a law & econ framework, because it helped me place all of the case knowledge within a certain perspective, as opposed to presenting the material in a vacuum without any context.
Professor Klick is clearly very knowledgeable about his field and in advancing his particular view of the field of torts. He is so interested in this that he sometimes forgets to teach us torts.
He doesn't teach much about torts but he takes all of the issues and makes you think about them in an economical way. It's actually a super cool way of learning about the law and how the law ought to be.
Professor Klick did an excellent job of stimulating interest in the material and fostering an environment where multiple sides of an

Comments
<p>issue were presented. He often brought in personal stories and interesting law and economic papers that stimulated classroom discussion. He's a very entertaining lecturer and has an excellent sense of humor. He is not afraid to expose students to alternative perspectives on sensitive topics, which is very important for students to hear in gaining an appreciation of the complexities of reality. He also utilized audio-visual materials at times, which further helped in stimulating student interest.</p>
<p>He really knows his stuff and makes his thoughts very explicit.</p>
<p>I think his approach is fantastic. I absolutely love(d) the class. It was such a welcome break from the very heavily doctrinal nature of the other two courses.</p>
<p>I think Prof. Klick is great at pointing to all the relevant policy questions around torts and getting us to think really about why we think a particular policy is great or not.</p>
<p>Professor Klick is very interested in this subject matter and I think that his research in the area and knowledge of other studies made for a very enlightening course and discussion.</p>
<p>Love it. We need more professors like Klick. Always makes you question you normative assumptions and is entertaining in class.</p>
<p>Professor Klick's presentations were easily the most engaging of any teacher I had. Rather than repeating what we read to ensure clarity and understanding, he walked us through various economic analyses of what we read. In other words, we worked with the ideas we'd just (presumably) learned. Pedagogically, that's by far the most effective means of teaching, and it made it so that my learning will last long, too.</p>
<p>Prof. Klick has an amazing fund of knowledge in this area. He knows the research behind topics really well.</p>
<p>Klick did a great job stimulating interest in economics. However, this was not an economics class. I wish he would have focused a bit more on the torts side of the equation. His classes also felt like he didn't really have a lesson plan and was just showing up to talk about whatever he felt like. Klick is a really funny interesting professor, but I would have appreciated there to be more structure in his classes with more focus on covering the actual material.</p>
<p>You definitely get a framework in this class that other classes do not yet. But the lectures can get boring. This doesn't all have to do with the professor's teaching style, since some of the course material is also dry. I actually thought the most interesting material was when the professor would talk about studies unrelated to the cases.</p>
<p>Professor Klick is certainly enthusiastic about the subject matter, but does not actually teach the black letter law (his logic is that nobody at Penn will become personal injury lawyers- fair). He expects a high level of engagement on the policy debates he brings up, but does not stimulate much interest in actual torts.</p>
<p>Prof. Klick is not interested in teaching torts in a standard manner. He's way more interested in Econ and I got consistent C's in my Econ classes in undergrad, so this really does not resonate with me at all. He clearly knows his stuff and is an independent thinker, and does encourage students to voice their opinions, whether they agree with him or not.</p>
<p>Very interested and clearly his own ideas about law and economics are prevalent throughout the course. This torts section is unlike all others, which is probably a better option.</p>
<p>Class wasn't that interesting but I think that might just be subject matter. Prof. Klick respects independent thought and will have you either question or substantively back up your normative values; it makes for good conversations.</p>
<p>Of all my courses, Professor Klick was the greatest encourager of independent thought and free exchange of ideas among students. He stimulated interest in the subject not so far as it relates to tort law itself, but broader ideas of how we want the law to look at fairness, compensation, etc.</p>
<p>He definitely wanted the class to participate and argue varying opinions and positions on many matters brought up in class.</p>
<p>Cared more about economics than torts</p>
<p>Very independent thought – not a traditional torts course, but I feel like I learned a ton</p>
<p>Professor highly knowledgeable and has an excellent mastery of the topics. He taught giving real world practical examples to explain tort law. One of the most interesting classes this semester.</p>
<p>Professor Klick is incredibly knowledgeable about law and economics and the way the two intertwine. His interest in the topic was intimidating at first, but it definitely expanded the way many of us think about the law and added another lens through which to view it. I think Professor Klick is a very valuable voice on the Penn Law faculty.</p>
<p>Professor Klick's class instruction allowed students to respectfully express their opinion and views while also taking into account differing views of other students. Students also had a chance to reflect on their views on torts litigation, regulation, and policy and reconcile those views against empirical research. The exposure to research and differing perspectives generated a lot of stimulation during class discussions and post-class research into the torts issues that were covered each day in class.</p>
<p>He teaches more economics than torts which at times was confusing</p>

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

Comments
Prof Klick was respectful of student viewpoints, and I went to some of his office hours and made an independent appointment with him, and he made himself available to meet with me.
Professor Klick is very approachable, friendly, and always receptive to student comments and questions both in and outside of class.
He's super nice to his students and very accessible
Professor Klick is a more laid back instructor than other first year professors (he doesn't cold call, for example, because he believes the data does not support it) but is very accessible to students. He stayed late after each class to answer student questions and was always available for office hours. He's very down-to-earth, as well, which makes him more accessible to students. He was always respectful when students voiced opinions in class, even if he clearly did not agree with the opinion.
Klick has a tendency to act disrespectfully to students. He didn't make an effort to learn anyone's name and seemed to view us as numbers.
He's hilarious. I could see some people being offended by some of his jokes or comments but he is nothing but respectful to the students in the class and their respective comments.
I think that Professor Klick does make himself accessible outside of class and to answer questions. I think he does push student's views but I do appreciate that he will make sure to push on almost every person's point to offer a counter but mainly to show that there is no clear right answer on policy decisions. I also appreciate that if a student presses on a claim he makes on policy he does accept it.
He was very accessible outside of class, and very helpful when asked about the subject matter.
He respected all students' attitudes and was accessible outside of class.
He is fairly accessible during office hours
He addressed all ideas we raised empirically and objectively. I never had to see him outside of class.
Prof. Klick's attitude was fine. He allowed people to explore their views through questions.
Klick was accessible outside of class. He was respectful to students, but I always kind of felt like he didn't really care.
Professor Klick is accessible outside classroom and friendly in person.
Professor Klick isn't overly engaged with the students but the rules and expectations for the class are clear. I always looked forward the relaxed atmosphere of the class.
Professor Klick is accessible and always willing to answer questions.
Respectful towards students, funny, consistently had office hours/was available to students outside class. Fun guy and I like him personally, has an unaffected way of speaking/explaining things that is refreshing.
Long office hours and respectful to varying views.
Receptive to questions after class. N/A for accessibility outside of class.
Professor Klick was very respectful to students and was freely accessible outside of class.
He was open to any and all ideas present in class.
Friendly
Very accessible Professor, willing to share with students and available to speak outside of class.
Professor Klick is amazingly receptive to students and very much accessible. His door is always open for any questions that arise and there are almost always students who stay after class for quite some time to ask him questions. He is also one of the few professors who will answer substantive questions over email. I really appreciated his laid back nature to both teaching (very humorous) and in addressing students.
Professor Klick treated his students respectfully and is accessible for in-person meetings or available to answer questions over email.
He makes himself available to any and all questions

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

Comments

Comments
<p>The main weakness of this course is that it has a reputation among students for being less of a "real" torts class because Professor Klick talks so much about econ, but I did not find that to be true — to me, this was one of the course's main strengths, and his law & econ perspective was one of the only reasons I enjoyed the course. Perhaps the course could benefit from some supplemental readings specifically on economic theory, because some students struggled to apply the material in the casebook to Klick's overall worldview.</p>
<p>It would be nice to have more structure to the course and to have learned more formal doctrine upfront instead of as an aside/afterthought in presenting it through the framework lens.</p>
<p>Learning some more about the actual laws of torts might be nice but I actually really like that the class is thought-provoking and not just black letter law.</p>
<p>The course is unique among first year law school courses because it focuses more on law and economic theory as opposed to other courses which focus more purely on the minutiae of the law. Professor Klick's class was my most interesting and enjoyable first semester course because he delved into the theoretical aspects of torts, often raised fascinating questions of law at the intersection of law, economics, and data science, and did not cold call. Since he doesn't cold call, I felt the least stress in his class and could focus more in class on thinking deeply about the issues he was raising.</p>
<p>Perhaps the class would benefit from a textbook focused on law and economics instead of the standard torts textbook. There appeared to be a disconnect between the textbook and the information being taught in class.</p>
<p>It was often entertaining, but I don't feel like I know anything about torts. Klick likes to go on tangents and clearly isn't interested in teaching the law. It was nice that he didn't cold call, but I think I would have learned A LOT more if there was more of an incentive for me to.</p>
<p>Maybe it's not a traditional law class, and I can see a lot of other students complaining that it wasn't "useful" or "really about law." But, we need more professors like Klick. I feel like this class was far more useful than a traditional torts class would have been and pushed me to think about things I did not think I would encounter in law school. I got so much out of his style and thoroughly enjoyed the class.</p>
<p>The strength is that we do a lot of thinking on policy considerations that I do not get as much in other classes. I think the course could improve by being a little more clear on black letter law for which I am relying on supplements.</p>
<p>Essentially students had to learn about tort law outside of the class, which was a major failing. On the other hand, the law&econ perspective that the class took was an interesting lens to view the subject through.</p>
<p>I think individual classes could be started with the bottom line of what the courts do and then we can move to the more interesting discussions of what the studies say and what our laws should be. When the discussion was combined of what courts do and what the laws say, I think it left students confused and unable to fully participate in the discussions.</p>
<p>I found the economic approach was a refreshing change. Weakness may be spend a little more time explaining the nuances of the various laws</p>
<p>The usual gripe I hear about the class is that Klick doesn't teach us torts. I've never heard that gripe from anyone who actually read all the material throughout the class. This class does require you to do more work outside of class; that's the best way to ensure that you'll be able to work with the ideas Klick raises. However, that also helps to ensure that you learn better if you're willing to do that work, so it's a pro and a con.</p>
<p>Strengths; it's a super-fascinating course. Weaknesses; I feel like I will have to study a lot of torts again later on before the bar exam.</p>
<p>I would appreciate this class to have had more structure and more emphasis on actually teaching torts. While I enjoyed the class discussions, I come away feeling like I don't know much about torts.</p>
<p>I think there is a lot of value in the law and economics framework. It teaches you to think about torts in a different way, and if you invest some time outside of class spending time with the more plainly legal material (elements of a tort, etc.), you leave the class with a pretty robust understanding of the material. Because the class moves at a slower pace than the others it is important to remain engaged as a student.</p>
<p>This was a great class on law and economics. It was not a torts course. It is clear that Professor Klick is not interested in teaching torts. It would be improved by assigning a different professor, who is more interested in actually teaching torts.</p>
<p>Classes are discussion-based, don't really talk about cases or learn torts per se, it's significantly more focused on policy/efficiency/trade-offs. I wanted to learn torts. Also, class discussion is completely freewheeling and it's hard to figure out what's relevant vs. not.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Strengths—if you can figure out how to "speak Klick" you'll probably be alright. Weakness—I don't actually think we're learning substantive torts, rather some law and economics version of it.</p>
<p>Professor Klick will freely admit that he does not teach torts in the way that other professors do. In some ways I view this as a strength and in others a weakness. In terms of comparison to my peers, it is clear that they have a more in-depth knowledge of the law itself. However, I feel like I have a more broad, general understanding of tort laws broader implications.</p>

Comments

I think a lot of people were thrown off by the lack of emphasis on cases and the econ approach to tort law. However, I found it very helpful. I learned more about econ and also it was interesting to learn about a different way to think about the law and implications of the law.

Have more traditional torts lectures

Strengths: Professor Klick gives all of us a lot of personal autonomy in what we receive from his class. I appreciate this, because we all have different ways of learning. I learned a lot of torts outside of class (through supplements and casebook reading) and then learned about how to view that in a different framework in class. I found that a very interesting way to learn, and I valued this more and more over the course of the semester.

Weaknesses: It may be a little too strong on the economics side, especially for students who do not have such a background prior.

The only light suggestion I have for improving the course is to provide a little more structure with the reading schedule that is included in the course curriculum. The predictability that a structured reading schedule provides allows students to better organize their

He could focus more on standard tort law

13. Other comments.

Comments
None.
Professor Klick's nonchalant attitude and perspective was refreshing and took the pressure off that was more prevalent in the other doctrinal classes. However, it had the consequence of encouraging laxity on the part of the students and the professor and I'm not sure it was helpful in the long run.
Professor Klick is a super cool guy with a unique way of teaching. If you want to become a personal injury lawyer this course won't be super helpful but otherwise it's a really interesting and helpful course to take.
Professor Klick is a brilliant scholar who does quantitative research at the intersection of law and economics. His "look at the data" perspective is extremely important for students to hear. He is down-to-earth, accessible, funny, and cares about his students. I would highly recommend students take courses with him.
I think Klick is a great and entertaining person, but I don't feel that he was a great educator for 1L torts. His approach to the subject is interesting, but he goes way too in depth and assumes that students already have a background knowledge in statistical analysis, economics, and dense mathematical concepts. He also made it explicit that reading was not necessary, which I think hindered my (and my classmates') abilities to really grasp the material.
Thank you for pushing me to think about policy from more views than my own.
I think that Professor Klick's class was very valuable as he provided a very different perspective and framework than the other professors. I think that my 1L fall semester was significantly better for having taken his class.
This was a great economics course.
Klick is pretty obviously a libertarian. The vast majority of law students are pretty strongly to the left. I'm convinced that the main reason folks dislike Klick is that it's rare to have a law professor who's to the right of most students. If students could get over that and stop complaining, they'd enjoy the class more.
Klick is a fascinating professor, and I personally really appreciated the class – but I feel like a lot of my peers won't. I appreciate all of the discussion over policy, and I think that seeing the research behind certain topics is very helpful. Also, good on Prof. Klick for teaching us some basic maths as it applies to the law; I think that it's incredibly important that we receive this material somewhere in law school.
It seemed to be a running joke (from both students and faculty) that Klick doesn't teach torts or the law. While this was amusing and I very much appreciated the low stress nature of Klick's classes, there seems to me something wrong with knowing that you aren't learning what your classmates are learning.
Maybe less exam questions about students' risky sex?
I enjoyed this class. Even if it wasn't the most organized, I appreciated the interesting subject matter. Professor Klick is clearly an expert in his field and could answer any question. I would take another class with him.
Professor Klick seems like a great person to talk to, but was not an effective educator in the realm of torts. Beyond the lack of interest in teaching torts, he also presented a relatively one-sided political philosophy, sometimes misrepresenting additional cases or cherry picking studies to support his philosophy. He does try to present different views on occasion, but it is hard to differentiate between these times, which makes it hard to form your own opinion on the issues he presents often in class.
I feel prepared for the policy question but deeply unprepared for the issue spotter.
Please do not make Prof. Klick teach Torts anymore. It is clear that he doesn't want to teach it and I think his style is more suited to an upper-level elective course (and where people elect to be subjected to his teaching style). I like him personally but I really do not feel like I have a good handle on the subject and would have preferred to take a traditional torts class like the rest of my classmates at Penn.
I came into the class thinking it was not at all for me, but Prof. Klick and his style grew on me.
Personally, I enjoyed the course. Klick was funny and entertaining and was knowledgeable of the content and liked to foster unusual and interesting conversations. Also was great that we did not have to read.
Is it a viable idea to invite a few guest speakers that are policy or regulatory experts to present on different topics that are covered in class? (i.e. economists, scientists, or doctors that have served as expert witnesses at trial, or local public officials to discuss the benefits and consequences of different regulations and ordinances or researchers to present on their empirical work on highly debated tort issues, etc.)

Mean responses by student's class/degree

Question	JD21	Overall
Organization of the course, Torts (Klick) - Sec 2A	3.80	3.80
Workload	2.97	2.97
Satisfaction with course materials	3.61	3.61
Clarity and effectiveness of presentations	3.48	3.48
Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues	4.48	4.48
Would you recommend that other students take this course?	3.52	3.52
Overall effectiveness of instructor – Jonathan Klick	3.84	3.84
Overall effectiveness of the course	3.71	3.71