

Torts (LAW504-002-08C): Course Evaluation Report

Course LAW504-002-08C
Title Torts
Instructors Klick
Evaluations 36/42

Standard Questions Report

Students rated the Instructor and Course on the following questions. "5" is the highest ranking and "1" is the lowest ranking. Note: Totals that do not equal 100% are due to rounding.

Choice Questions	Statistic	1	2	3	4	5	Totals
1. Organization of the course	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	3% 1	39% 14	44% 16	14% 5	100% 36 86%
2. Workload: 1 - too light 3 - appropriate 5 - too heavy	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	11% 4	81% 29	6% 2	3% 1	100% 36 86%
3. Satisfaction with course materials	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	22% 8	36% 13	25% 9	17% 6	100% 36 86%
4. Clarity and effectiveness of presentation	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	14% 5	39% 14	19% 7	28% 10	100% 36 86%
5. Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	3% 1	8% 3	28% 10	61% 22	100% 36 86%
6. Would you recommend that other students take this course? 1 - Would not recommend 3 - Would recommend 5 - Highly recommend	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	3% 1	13% 4	23% 7	35% 11	26% 8	100% 31 74%
7. Overall effectiveness of instructor	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	6% 2	31% 11	37% 13	26% 9	100% 35 83%
8. Overall effectiveness of course	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	9% 3	51% 18	23% 8	17% 6	100% 35 83%

Essay Questions

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

- No Answer
- No Answer
- No.
- Economics would be good to take before taking Torts with Prof. Klick.
- No Answer
- No.
- No Answer
- Econ.
- No Answer
- No.

- No.
- No Answer
- no
- No - although a little econ would be helpful due to Klick's background and interests
- No
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No
- No
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- no
- Some knowledge of economics/insurance would have been helpful.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No
- A background in Econ would help very much.
- no
- no
- No.
- No

10. **Comment on the instructor's stimulation of interest in the subject matter and independent thought.**

- Klick definitely tries to encourage independent thought. I think his generally laid back nature makes it difficult to really energize the class, especially after the more relatively "high-pressure" classes in our schedule.
- No Answer
- Klick is very knowledgeable and has an interesting take on things, usually from an economic perspective.
- Prof. Klick challenged us to think about what the law was trying to do with torts and what the economic incentives and disincentives were with respect to each decision.
- No Answer
- He seems to see things in black and white a lot.
- No Answer
- Did not stimulate interest. Though we did discuss topics from a lot of different points of view, so did encourage independent thought.
- No Answer
- The professor brought a lot of law and economics material into the course, which I liked.
- Klick is clearly interested in the subject and very knowledgeable .
- No Answer
- good
- Klick stimulated interesting discussions and raised issues I would never have considered. He did a great job on the policy side of the class. I wish we had had a more detailed syllabus, though, as I didn't have a sense throughout the class of the broader umbrella organization - where we had been and where we were going.
- Could do more hypotheticals or provide examples outside of the cases to make the class more interesting and get more participation
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- He is very knowledgeable on the material and is interesting to listen to
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- took volunteers and was very receptive to student comments and questions
- No Answer
- Instructor caused me to think about issues in lots of different lights.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Professor Klick provided great outside knowledge of economics to our torts class.
- This was the entire emphasis of the course, and he did an excellent job.
- the professor has an unorthodox teaching style but the perspective is fascinating. there's a lot of econ but this

is what makes Penn Law great--the diversity of perspectives and the interdisciplinary approach

- tries to stimulate interest by presenting hypotheticals during class
- Klick is great. Engaging and encourages discussion and thought.
- Interesting use of econ

11. **Comment on the instructor with respect to attitude toward students and accessibility outside of class.**

- I think it's pretty clear that Torts is not his first love. He'll definitely discuss the underlying issues to help unpack the concepts, but he's only going to give back what he gets. If the class doesn't press an issue, he'll generally move on to the next concept. He is one of the more approachable professors, however.
- No Answer
- Klick is very open to talking to students.
- Prof. Klick was always available, He also created a very good rapport with students.
- He is very familiar with students, but I never got the sense that he was much interested in office hours or anything like that. I emailed him once, a long email with my thoughts about a major topic of the course, and never got a response.
- Accessible.
- No Answer
- Seems accessible.
- No Answer
- The professor had a very respectful attitude towards students and was accessible outside of class.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- very accessible
- Very accessible
- Accessible and understanding
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Easily accessible and very helpful
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- very accessible
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- He held a class with a great and more relaxed atmosphere and was funny.
- He was extremely accessible.
- the professor was also nice and helpful
- very respectful, accessible, and friendly; the informal class setting really makes students feel comfortable
- Wonderful.
- Accessible

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

- A little more structure might be helpful. We generally were assigned the next 30-40 pages each day, but sometimes we jump through note cases and cover 40+, sometimes we would barely get through 20. A lot of the discussion came down "What happened? What does P say? What does D say? How's the court come out?" repeat.
- No Answer
- Klick is very different than your typical law school professor. He doesn't cold call. He dresses down. He doesn't try to use intimidation to his advantage. But he doesn't exactly try to make the class very interesting, either.
- One of the weaknesses of the course was the course materials and Prof. Klick's use of the materials. While many prof's will pick and chose specific cases to illustrate a point and thus be able to move through certain subjects quickly, Prof. Klick worked through the book page by page and let the book run the pace and content of the course.
- Too rambling! I wish this course was more organized.
I also think the professor would benefit from a BETTER CLASSROOM. Those silverman classrooms are atrocious acoustically. YOU CAN'T HEAR ANYONE and it is difficult to follow the professor.
- If material is not going to be covered and you don't think it's important, please don't assign it to read. Help us to focus our reading to make the most of class period. Putting stuff in a larger framework like these are the

things we look for in such situations would be helpful. Also, with hypotheticals, it's great that you're into sports but some of us have no knowledge of it and it's frustrating to feel like we're missing major points because we don't understand the relationships between announcers, baseball teams, and the city. Try to broaden them.

- No Answer
- More organization and focus on actual elements of tort claims/defenses. Less unfocused discussions that span an entire class period.
- No Answer
- One of the main problems that I had with the course, and perhaps this is a problem with the subject matter of torts itself, is that all of the cases seemed to go in different directions. Also, I think that some supplemental readings concerning different theories of torts, such as readings by Posner and Coase, could have been helpful.
- I really appreciated the theoretical discussions that we had in class. We sometimes veered of course a little too far. Also, it would have been nice to, at the end of each chapter, do a review of the key black letter concepts.
- No Answer
- strengths: i do not think torts is particularly interesting but he did a good job of bringing up interesting economic questions in what would otherwise be a boring topic.
- suggestions: I was confused about the organization at the beginning of the course, maybe lay out the elements of tort at the beginning. I like classes where the professor calls on people better, certain people that like to hear themselves talk talked a lot in this class.
- A more detailed syllabus and more black letter would be helpful
- Good at providing reasoning and economic rationale, but should do more than going through the cases
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- We didn't have a chance to cover all of the topics we originally planned to cover. I would have been interested to learn about products liability, but I know I will have the opportunity to learn it later in law school
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- strengths: open forum for discussion
- improvements: more concrete reading assignments so all students were prepared for class
- No Answer
- I really had a hard time figuring out expectations (especially for the exam), which was an unsettling feeling.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- We could have been more organized and focused more on tort law than economics.
- I'm sure that many students will criticize this course by saying that it was incoherent, too focused on Econ, or hard to follow. In many ways, I thought those were some of its greatest strengths. The course really taught us the underlying principles behind the tort system, and it taught us how to reason our way through the vague and sometimes incoherent doctrines. I thought the course was extremely practical in that way.
- the class was taught differently than the other ones but that is probably good--the format enabled the facilitation of great discussion that was free and broad based--all essentials for the subject matter
- any weaknesses in the course really stems from the material and not the professor - there's only so much one can do with torts
- Had a very loose structure, which was both bad and good. Good - stirred a lot of conversation and required thought. Bad- could seem unstructured so that it wasn't always clear what we were learning. Though that may just be the nature of torts.
- Too much time spent on empirical research and not enough focus on black letter law

13. **Other comments:**

- I'd be very interested to see Klick in the context of one of his higher level classes.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- He's a very smart and interesting professor, but I wish he would put together a more detailed outline and be more organized in the way he approaches the material. Compared to Morse or Struve, he seems unprepared to teach.
- The classroom we're in really stinks with the acoustics.
- No Answer
- Doesn't use the socratic method and doesn't care if you know the cases or come to class. Though he seems to know a lot about torts and economics in general, his teaching style is not that effective.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer

- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- It was nice to have a more relaxed class atmosphere, and to have the opportunity to speak and answer questions when we had something to say.
- Klick is a funny and wonderful professor.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I loved this class. It was extremely low in stress, which was very helpful for 1Ls. In particular, however, I'm not sure that it worked for every one, given how it was taught. A lot of people didn't seem to get much out of the class, but they were the students who never did the reading. If you put in the work that he asked us to put in, you found the course stimulating and useful. Highly recommended.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer

Percentage Questions	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.
14. Please note the approximate percentage of classes that you attended.	94	95	7
15. Please note the approximate percentage of classes for which you had read the assigned materials in advance.	77	80	20

Category Relative Statistics

LAW504-002-08C				First-Year				First-Year Weighted By Course		
	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.		Mean	Median	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	
1.	3.7	4.0	0.7	1.	4.0	4.0	1.0	1.	4.2	0.8
2.	3.0	3.0	0.5	2.	3.4	3.0	0.7	2.	3.4	0.7
3.	3.4	3.0	1.0	3.	3.7	4.0	1.1	3.	3.8	0.9
4.	3.6	3.0	1.0	4.	3.8	4.0	1.1	4.	4.1	0.9
5.	4.5	5.0	0.8	5.	4.5	5.0	0.8	5.	4.6	0.6
6.	3.7	4.0	1.1	6.	3.8	4.0	1.3	6.	4.1	0.9
7.	3.8	4.0	0.9	7.	4.0	4.0	1.1	7.	4.3	0.7
8.	3.5	3.0	0.9	8.	3.9	4.0	1.1	8.	4.1	0.8
14.	93.6	95.0	7.3	14.	97.3	100.0	7.8	14.	98.4	3.2
15.	77.0	80.0	19.5	15.	92.1	100.0	15.2	15.	93.0	12.4