

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY LGL 215 – TORTS (3 CR.)

Course Description

Studies fundamental principles of the law of torts and may include preparation and use of pleadings and other documents involved in the trial of a civil action. Emphasizes intentional torts, negligence, personal injury, products liability, and malpractice cases. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the law governing marriage, annulment, separation and divorce and with the legal rights and duties of spouses, children and other family members.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Although there are no prerequisites for this course, proficiency (at the high school level) in spoken and written English is recommended for its successful completion.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Distinguish tort liability from criminal and contractual liability
- b) Understand the elements of various intentional, negligence, strict liability, and hybrid or statutory torts; and of available affirmative defenses
- c) Analyze fact patterns to identify tort causes of action or affirmative defenses
- d) Recognize the procedural steps and documents used in various stages of a tort case, and assist a lawyer in handling each stage of such a case

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Purposes and functions of tort law
- b) tort liability v. criminal
- c) Intentional torts and their affirmative defenses
- d) Negligence torts and their affirmative defenses
- e) Strict liability torts and their affirmative defenses
- f) Modern "hybrid" tort actions: defamation, invasion of privacy, and products liability
- g) Vicarious liability
- h) Tort immunities
- i) Stages of a tort case and the legal assistant's role therein