

Torts - Sec. 2B (LAW504-002-09C): Course Evaluation Report

Course LAW504-002-09C
Title Torts - Sec. 2B
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	6% 2	29% 10	38% 13	26% 9	100% 34 81%
2. Workload: 1 - too light 3 - appropriate 5 - too heavy	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	9% 3	0% 0	82% 28	9% 3	0% 0	100% 34 81%
3. Satisfaction with course materials	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	3% 1	50% 17	32% 11	15% 5	100% 34 81%
4. Clarity and effectiveness of presentation	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	9% 3	21% 7	52% 17	18% 6	100% 33 79%
5. Instructor's knowledge of the subject matter and identification of underlying principles and issues	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	0% 0	6% 2	12% 4	82% 28	100% 34 81%
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	3% 1	13% 4	42% 13	39% 12	100% 31 74%
7. Overall effectiveness of instructor - JONATHAN KLINK	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	3% 1	18% 6	41% 14	38% 13	100% 34 81%
8. Overall effectiveness of course	Percent Responses Total Response (% of Enrollment)	0% 0	0% 0	32% 11	41% 14	26% 9	100% 34 81%

Essay Questions

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

- No
- economics
- Most of the concepts that the professor teaches are very economics based. While the professor tries to explain them, I think that he might take for granted that some people do not even have the vocabulary in economics to help understand them.
- no.
- n/a
- Some basic knowledge of economics would be helpful.
- No Answer
- No Answer

- Maybe econ or finance
- No.
- No Answer
- An economics background would be helpful, but is not necessary.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- no
- No.
- No
- Might be good to know something about economics and finance.
- No Answer
- No.
- No
- No
- No Answer
- No.
- No Answer
- some knowledge of economics
- Econ would be helpful, but not required
- No Answer
- No
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Economics might help, but not necessary
- No Answer

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

- Encouraged independent thought, challenged court decisions and black letter law in some cases.
- the damages stuff was interesting. otherwise ok.
- Professor is extremely knowledgeable in the subject matter. And his flexibility in the lecture allows us to explore certain interesting issues more in depth and gloss over things that are less interesting.
- He is very interested and tries to make us think about how the principles apply to society.
- Professor Klick is a great professor with slightly unorthodox presentation methods. But he knows what he's doing and he is able to challenge our previous modes of thinking and analysis. He was a great professor and in many ways his class embodies the way law school should be: challenging, thought-provoking, and collegial.
- Professor Klick brings in a lot of empirical data to add color to discussions and I find these pieces of information about the 'real world' very instructive and interesting.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I think Klick is a great guy/teacher. He's willing to have intellectual discussions, but he's firmly grounded in the economic model, which is a bit tough for us fairness-minded folks. That said, he's still willing to fight with us and not just shut us down completely, and he convinced me on a lot of points over the course of the semester because he's so darn smart.
- Professor Klick challenges the class to think about the motivating policies underlying tort law, which makes the material even more interesting. We look at tort law through an economic/efficiency perspective most of the time. I find this course to be one of the most interesting among my first year courses.
- No Answer
- Professor Klick is very knowledgeable about the material and presents it in an engaging way. I find his explanations of the cases and concepts very clear and I appreciate the way he clearly presents the main points of each concept.
- No Answer
- Prof. Klick was not overwhelmingly interested in torts, but brought an interesting perspective to the subject from his law & economics background
- very enthusiastic. great class!
- No Answer
- Klick really is interested in torts and inspires us to be also. He really influences independent thought and analysis on the subject material through his open teaching style
- Good discussions.
- No Answer
- Professor Klick is very sweet and very smart. My only complaint about him is that he lectures in a little bit of a sleepy fashion and paces in kind of a mesmerizing way. I felt kind of sleepy in the class then... It might have just been me, though. I liked that he kept everything theoretical and not fact-based. He was our only professor who did a really job with that.
- I enjoyed the conversations we had in class and think that Klick definitely stimulated our interest in tort law

(at least mine!).

- Too much independent thought and discussion in the classroom, not enough instruction. A balance needs to be struck, and this course was weighted far too heavily towards discussion than instruction.
- Professor Klick engages students in stimulating discussions almost every class - less lecturing than other courses.
- Often posed questions for discussion, receptive to students' ideas on the issues.
- Kept it interesting by discussing interesting topics and sharing his personal research/knowledge.
- Instructor strongly encouraged student discussion & made older cases/issues relevant to current events and times.
- Dr. Klick had an interesting approach that developed his own themes, but as far as I can it helped the class sustain an interest in torts. Certainly helped with independent thought - his approach to the purpose of law has given me a lot to chew on, and is what I was looking for in choosing to go to Penn over other universities.
- No Answer
- Very into economics, makes the tort material more interesting than a philosophical approach in my opinion
- Interesting presentation of material.
- No Answer
- Prof. Klick kept class discussions extremely interesting and added much of the economist's view to torts. However, often discussed matters not exactly pertaining to the subject.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Some classes were very interesting and stimulating, and others weren't
- No Answer

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

- Very approachable and accessible.
- nice guy. very funny. pleasant nature. very accomodating of students who ask questions outside of class. i would have liked to hang out more.
- Professor was very amenable to questions inside and outside of class, and was very patient and willing to explain difficult concepts.
- Very willing to answer questions after class. Spent a lot of time giving feedback on practice exams
- I believe Professor Klick was generally available.
- Professor Klick is very approachable and a pleasure to interact with outside of class.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Very nice, friendly. Really a fantastic person.
- Professor Klick is very approachable and always happy to meet with students.
- No Answer
- Professor Klick is receptive to questions and is patient about explaining economic concepts to students who do not have a background in it.
- No Answer
- Prof. was very open to students
- he's great.
- It seemed that he didn't really care that much about how well we learned things.
- He is very respectful and funny. He always answers questions even if he has already covered the material and a student is behind
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Professor Klick was as kind and polite to us as a really nice undergraduate professor of English literature. He never talked down to us or lectured from a boring fact-based perspective.
- Very accessible. Easy to approach. Engaging.
- Simply not a lot of effort put forth in terms of actually teaching tort law. More interested in discussing the economic/social implications. I understand that this is necessary, but at the same time I am not paying \$45K a year in tuition to be told that I am smart enough to figure tort law out on my own.
- No Answer
- More of a relaxed attitude, but also respectful.
- Extremely respectful. Wish more profs were like him.
- Professor regularly answer student questions in and out of class.
- Certainly an interesting attitude towards the class - no need to describe it, as Klick is self aware. It worked for me, and it seems to have worked for the rest of the class, too.
- No Answer
- Was available the only time I tried to find him?
- Always kind and respectful towards the students.
- No Answer
- Great attitude towards students and very accessible.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Really nice guy

- No Answer

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

- I would have enjoyed more structured reading assignments and maybe some theoretical readings to supplement cases rather than sweeping through the entire case book, which seemed inefficient.
- I like how it was an open format and he didn't call on people. People always had a chance to raise their hands and comment and he would always take people's comments and questions and answer them/talk about them.
- I think the strength is the laid back nature of the course. It is nice to come into a class where you can participate at will and not have to be anxious about getting called on. The weakness would be the loose syllabus. It is sometimes difficult to know what you should be reading or what the overall roadmap of the course is, which helps greatly to see the big picture.
- It was very low key and low pressure, which was good given our other professors.
- The first few weeks were a bit slow-going. I don't know how that could be improved.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I guess the exam does not feel like it correlates with what we do in class. But then again, that's law school.
- I think one of the course's biggest strengths is the way it invites analyzing the policy animating the doctrine.
- No Answer
- I felt the class was comprehensive and I left with a good understanding of torts.
- No Answer
- It was hard to know how to navigate materials at the beginning of the course, and the classes were kind of all over the place. But by the middle/end of the semester the ideas really came together. I think the course would be strengthened with more attention to genuinely balancing rights/values and efficiency concerns
- No Answer
- I think the laid back style of teaching was a nice change from other classes, but it also gave a lot less incentive to really engage in discussions.
- Strengths- knowledge, interest in subject, open structure of the class
weaknesses- maybe do a more overall review of the course so we can get the big picture? otherwise I really liked the class
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Maybe a little more structure somehow...
- Strengths: Klick did a great job of raising interesting questions involving tort law. He did a great job of taking what was presented in the casebook and illuminating it for us.
I was really impressed with the extensive feedback he provided on our mid-terms. That took a considerable amount of time I am sure and as a student I really appreciated that.
Areas for improvement: Would like to have had some supplementary materials to support / challenge what was presented in the casebook.
- More structure. Also, would be best to select only relevant readings from the coursebook.
- No Answer
- The strength is that the readings and types of cases were fairly variable and interesting. Also, the instructor tried to bring in background information such as studies on economics, psychology, etc. I also liked having one class that wasn't Socratic style. The negative is that the reading wasn't tied together so clearly; it would be better to have more doctrine. Also, the professor sometimes got too caught up in economics technicalities. Finally, there was too much discussion and it was often hard to hear other students.
- Strengths - very open to questions during class which helped clarify material and learning. Very nice that he doesn't have a strict agenda of what must be covered each day that he blasts through.
- Strengths: Lots of student discussion. Multiple viewpoints allowed and encouraged.
Weakness: Sometimes the course lacks structure
- Dr. Klick reinforces the themes that he finds interesting throughout the class - economic efficiency, etc. It may be helpful if he reinforced the themes that the book draws a little more throughout the class. But hey, it's his class, and his stuff is more interesting anyway.
- No Answer
- The course could make the black letter law a little clearer other than that it was ok
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Great structure, great open forum where everyone felt welcome to talk, and no one felt "scared" to raise hand. Could be improved by sticking more to the dynamics of pure tort law.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- It's a little boring at some times
- No Answer

13. **Other comments:**

- No Answer
- sometimes the discussions were hard to follow and I didn't know what the point of them was and how they

related to tort law.

- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- This was my favorite class this semester. I learned a lot and genuinely enjoyed each class. I would recommend Klick to anybody. What a great teacher.
- Great class!
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I totally disagree with Professors belief that economic theory can explain all behavior and should dictate how the legal system functions, but nevertheless enjoyed the course and the perspective.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I would have preferred more structure. I think it would be helpful for the syllabus to be fleshed out more with the overall goals for the course presented, the guiding questions for the course, the main issues raised in each chapter of torts, etc. While Klick more or less did this orally in class, students learn through different modalities and having it reinforced via writing in the syllabus just enhances one's teaching effectiveness / student learning.
- Very bright and knowledgeable professor, and very thought provoking class, but I would have rather had more structure and instruction in this class. On the other hand, were I interested in taking law and economics, I couldn't think of a better professor - but this expertise should be relegated mostly to that course, rather than intro torts.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- I like Klick - not your typical professor, but an interesting style and no less effective.
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- No Answer
- Great Professor. Would love to take another class with him down the road.
- No Answer
- Professor Klick is a great professor! He's not your average law school professor but I think that's why students enjoy his leadership.
- You don't have to do the reading, but then it's harder to pay attention in class.
- No Answer

Percentage Questions	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.
14. Please note the approximate percentage of classes that you attended.	98	100	3
15. Please note the approximate percentage of classes for which you had read the assigned materials in advance.	72	80	25

Category Relative Statistics

LAW504-002-09C				First-Year			First-Year Weighted By Course	
	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.		Mean	Median	Std. Dev.	
1.	3.9	4.0	0.9	1.	4.0	4.0	1.1	Mean
2.	2.9	3.0	0.7	2.	3.4	3.0	0.8	Std. Dev.
3.	3.6	3.0	0.8	3.	3.7	4.0	1.0	1.
4.	3.8	4.0	0.9	4.	3.8	4.0	1.1	2.
5.	4.8	5.0	0.6	5.	4.4	5.0	0.9	3.
6.	4.1	4.0	1.0	6.	3.8	4.0	1.2	4.
7.	4.1	4.0	0.8	7.	4.0	4.0	1.1	5.
8.	3.9	4.0	0.8	8.	3.8	4.0	1.1	6.
								7.

14.	97.9	100.0	3.3
15.	72.3	80.0	25.4

Results are calculated using the evaluation responses for LAW504-002-09C only.

14.	98.5	100.0	5.3
15.	91.9	100.0	15.7

Results are calculated using the evaluation responses for all First-Year courses. Each response has equal weight, so courses with more enrolled students have a greater effect on the results than courses with fewer students.

8.	3.9	0.9
14.	98.7	3.3
15.	91.8	13.8

Results are calculated by first calculating a result for each First-Year course and then equally weighting each of those results together to form the final result. This means that each course has equal weight in the results.