

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

X Transfer course X A.A. degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: PLS 261 Torts and Personal Injury

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: LS 121/PLS 121 Introduction to Law

COREQUISITE: None.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: PLS 160 Computer Assisted Legal Research

SCOPE OF COURSE:

An overview of substantive tort law with an emphasis on procedure. An examination of negligence, and an overview of insurance law, to include forms, and the preparation of an actual case for arbitration and trial.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES: Successful students will

1. demonstrate knowledge of tort law in the areas of intentional torts, unintentional torts, and strict liability.
2. become familiar with practice guides and treatises on tort law.
3. be able to conduct interviews and facilitate investigations.
4. prepare appropriate forms and pleadings.
5. establish trial book for litigation to include arbitration.
6. demonstrate knowledge of various insurance forms as used in personal injury cases.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- A. Overviews of substantive tort law
 1. Intentional torts
 2. Unintentional torts, i.e., negligence
 3. Strict liability
 4. Defenses

- B. Damages
 - 1. Special damages
 - 2. General damages
- C. Client interviews and investigations
 - 1. Interview clients and witnesses
 - 2. Investigate and photograph accident scenes
 - 3. Review and summarize medical records
- D. Pretrial preparation
 - 1. Obtain medical bills
 - 2. Assist in the discovery phase of litigation
 - 3. Summarize depositions
- E. Trial preparation and arbitration
 - 1. Draft court documents
 - 2. Assist in trial preparation
 - 3. Assist at trial
 - 4. Prepare for arbitration

REQUIRED READING:

Statsky, William P. Torts Personal Injury Litigation. 3rd edition. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1999.

SUGGESTED READING:

Various handouts from an instructor.

REQUIRED WRITING: Case briefs and legal research memo.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Students will prepare for and participate in an arbitration.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply:

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)

- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Midterm	=	100 pts.
Final	=	200 pts.
Torts Writing Assignment	=	<u>200 pts.</u>
		500 pts.

A = 450; B = 400; C = 350; D = 300; F = 250

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Angelo Corpora #2501

SIGNATURES ON FILE: