

**Tort Law and Damage Compensation**  
**2009-10**  
**Professor Vaughan Black**

**Room 419      vaughan.black@dal.ca      494-1011**

**Materials:**    *Tort Law: Cases and Materials*, by Ernest Weinrib, 3rd edition (2009).  
In addition there will be some handouts.

**Meetings:**    Fall term: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:30 in Room 429  
Winter term: Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:30; Thursdays 3:00 – 4:30 in Room 429

**Office Hours (fall term):** I am usually (but not invariably) free right after class on Thursdays, so that's a good time to meet. In the fall term I will have an office hour on Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00, so feel free to drop by then. If neither of those is convenient then contact me to arrange an appointment.

**Evaluation:** Your final mark will comprise an examination portion worth 60% and an in-class portion worth 40%.

The exam portion is made up of a closed-book mid-term examination to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 2:00 until 3:30 and a final examination, also closed book, to be held on Wednesday, April 7 from 2:00 until 5:00. The mid-term examination is a practice exam. If you do better on your final exam then the mid-term does not count. If you do better on the mid-term, then your grade for the examination portion is made up of 30% of your mid-term mark and 70% of your mark on the final.

The other 40% of your final mark is derived from three in-class components. The first, worth 10% of your final grade, is a class participation mark based on your oral contributions to class discussions throughout the year. The other two are associated with an advocacy exercise to be held in the winter term: 15% of your final grade will be based on the written argument you will submit in that exercise, the final 15% will be based on the oral argument you will deliver. More information on the advocacy exercise will be given in the winter term. Take note of the university's policy on academic honesty and plagiarism, available online in the law school's regulations.

Professor Dianne Pothier is the faculty advisor to students with disabilities. Students wishing to discuss in-class accommodation or in-class study assistance needs should see her. Students seeking special accommodation with regard to any aspect of evaluation (including exam deferrals and extensions to deadlines) must make an application to the Studies Committee. Academic regulations require such requests to be made as soon possible and in any event no later than the date on which the exam is to be written or the paper or other assignment is to be submitted. Students should contact Associate Dean Michael Deturbide or Assistant Dean Elizabeth Hughes for more information about requests for accommodation and about the Studies Committee process.

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff. Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on students' academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations. Changes may include but are not limited to adjustments to course assignments, changes to the dates of exams, arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1 influenza virus, modification of marks awarded for participation and adjustments to attendance policies. Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

#### READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept. 15	Reading cases	pp. iii and 18-25
17	Torts: the international context	Bouzari (handout)
22	Nuisance	1-7
24	“ “	7-16
29	“ “	16-31
Oct. 1	“ “	31-42 + handout