

Introduction to Tort Law –From an English and an American Perspective

Elizabeth O 'Leary LL.M.,J.D.,BCL, University of Augsburg, Germany Lecturer Foreign Law Program

Course Description

This intensive course introduces fundamental principles of common law tort, examining the development of tort law and its role in society, basic classification of common law torts, the elements of various torts, defences to liability in tort and remedies available under tort law. Students will extract principles of tort from case law and legislation and will apply these principles to fact situations. As tort law is largely case law based, it provides an excellent example of how the common law system develops and works in practice and students in this course will be required to use different methods of legal reasoning. Students will also be introduced to differences between English and US tort law.

Teaching Method

This course will be a mixture of lecture, discussion and experiential learning. Students will participate very actively in class.

Grading Criteria

There will be a closed-book final exam, which will take place after the intensive course. The exam will be based on material done in class or set as homework.

Course Outline (Tentative)

27/10/2025 – Development of tort law – its overlap with other areas of law and its role in society. Classification of torts.

28/10/2025 – Introduction to Negligence – Elements of negligence – Analysis of recent cases

29/10/2025 – Defences to negligence

30/10/2025 – Intentional torts

31/10/2025–Recent review of UK Supreme Court cases on vicarious liability

Contact

Email: elizabeth.oleary@jura.uni-augsburg.de