

Memo

To: Animal Law – Fall 2015
From: Professor James F. Gesualdi
Date: August 2015
Subject: Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides an overview of Animal Law. The course will focus on animal protection. Numerous substantive areas of law will be covered with an emphasis on Property Law, Criminal Law, Torts, Contracts, and Wills and Trusts.

The casebook for this seminar is Sonia S. Waisman, Pamela D. Frasch & Bruce A. Wagman, *ANIMAL LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (5th ed. 2014). **It is critical that you obtain this edition, and not the prior one, because the book has been revised substantially.** Assignments will be subject to changes, depending on the rate at which we cover them in class and, on occasion to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers. Because of time constraints, all of the issues covered in the casebook cannot be addressed. Those topics selected are of broad application and current interest. Indeed the practice of Animal Law, and courses like this, are works in progress. There should be some flexibility to turn to coverage of newly emerging issues when appropriate, even though they may not be listed in the syllabus.

It is strongly recommended that you read the Prefaces to the First and Fifth Editions of the casebook. They will be useful in suggesting the scope of the casebook, what the editors had in mind in their selection of materials, and the like.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This seminar requires good and regular attendance. If a student misses two classes, the Dean's office shall be notified so that whatever action is appropriate may be taken. Also, discretion is retained to require withdrawal from the course for excessive absences.

We shall examine the materials in the following order:

Chapter 1 – What Is an Animal?	Pages 3 - 15 Pages 16 – 34 (Appendices A and B)
Chapter 2 – Property and Beyond: The Evolution of Rights	Pages 35 – 44 (Pages 56 – 63)
Chapter 3 – Criminal Law	Pages 65 – 80 (Pages 90 – 96) Pages 100, 103 - 110 Pages 118 – 146
Chapter 4 – Torts	Pages 165 – 176 Pages 176 – 182 Pages 185 – 189 Pages 196 - 200 Pages 200 - 210 Pages 210 - 254 Pages 262 - 284
Chapter 7 – Contracts	Pages 513 – 527 Pages 539 – 559 (Pages 559 – 562)
Chapter 8 – Wills and Trusts	Pages 563 - 593
(Chapter 6 – Commercial Uses of Animals	TBD)

N.B. There will be guest teachers from time to time, depending on availability. Accordingly, the class may not discuss all of the assigned material and may consider some of them as background reading. These readings may also be supplemented with additional materials.

EVALUATION

Student grading will be based on a scholarly quality research paper including a "Good Draft" of the paper, a presentation of your findings, and class participation. Class participation is an important part of this seminar and students should come to class well prepared to actively engage in thoughtful, respectful discussion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor James F. Gesualdi
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Office Hours – By Appointment

(Except when precluded by my travel schedule I am available before and after every class, by appointment, via telephone, email or Skype.)