

## MEMORANDUM

To: Torts Section  
From: Professor James Hackney  
Date: September 1, 2010  
Re: Torts

Welcome to torts and NU law! I trust that we will have a productive and interesting class. This memorandum sets forth some ground rules and logistics for the course.

Class discussion will consist of a combination of volunteer participation and “Socratic” dialogue. Don’t worry—the form of Socratic method employed won’t resemble scenes from the *Paper Chase* with students fearing for their lives and future careers because of a misstep in class. On the contrary, it should be viewed as a means of assuring that everyone gets an opportunity to engage in the on-going discussion that will help frame the course. If for some reason you will be unprepared for class, please let me know in advance. An important aspect of this discussion and one that I will vigilantly require that you adhere to is that you respect your peers. It’s my job to act as mediator when discussions over *res ipsa loquitur* get heated, assuring that the dialogue is conducted productively.

With regard to volunteering, I shall do my best to assure that there is a broad range of participation. This means that I will purposefully look for participation from those who have not contributed previously. However, this is a large class and it’s quite possible that I might not have you in my view. If you’ve been eagerly raising your hand repeatedly to no avail, please let me know outside of class and I’ll be sure to be more vigilant. Generally, if you have any questions or thoughts regarding classroom discussion, please discuss them with me. We’re going to be spending a lot of time in class together, and I want it to be as productive as possible.

At this point we have one class that has been rescheduled. We will not have class on Thursday, October 7. The makeup class is scheduled for Friday, December 3 (3:30-5:00).

My initial office (41 Cargill) hours will be on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 and by appointment. I will expand office hours as the year goes on and demand increases. You should also feel free to call me at 617-373-4260 or e-mail ([j.hackney@neu.edu](mailto:j.hackney@neu.edu)). (My secretary is Elsie Chan - 42 Cargill – and she can be reached at 617-373-3346 or [e.chan@neu.edu](mailto:e.chan@neu.edu).)