

PSCI 3355-001: Legal Reasoning Spring 2013

Instructor Contact Information:

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm or by appointment.

Course Prerequisites, Co-requisites and/or Other Restrictions:

The permission of the instructor is required. This course is designed for students who are taking the LSAT in June, 2013.

Course description:

The course examines various theories of the philosophy of law and various case studies of the interaction between law and society. Students will develop the critical thinking and methodological skills necessary for success on the LSAT, success in law school and success in the legal profession.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- (1) To gain an understanding of theories of the philosophy of law and of the interactions between law and society.
- (2) To develop critical thinking and reading comprehension skills necessary for success on the LSAT, success in law school and success in the legal profession.
- (3) To develop statutory analysis and legal writing skills.

Required Textbook and Materials:

- Law School Admissions Council. 2012. *10 New Actual, Official LSAT Pretests*. ISBN: 0984636005. (Note: Please purchase a new copy rather than a used copy).
- Philip Bobbitt. *Constitutional Fate*. ISBN 0195034228.
- All other readings will be made available through the McDermott Library's electronic reserve system.

Assignments and Academic Calendar:

Jan. 15	No homework.
Jan. 17	Lief Carter. <i>Reason in Law</i> [excerpts].
Jan. 22	No homework.
Jan. 24	Antonin Scalia. <i>A Matter of Interpretation</i> [excerpts].
Jan. 29	Stephen Breyer. <i>Active Liberty</i> [excerpts].
Jan. 31	Bobbitt: Chapters 1-3
Feb. 5	LSAT 1
Feb. 7	No homework.
Feb. 12	LSAT 2
Feb. 14	No homework.
Feb. 19	LSAT 3
Feb. 21	Bobbitt: Chapters 4-5

Feb. 26	LSAT 4
Feb. 28	Bobbitt: Chapters 6-7
Mar. 5	EXAM ONE.
Mar. 7	No homework.
Mar. 12	SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS.
Mar. 14	SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS.
Mar. 19	LSAT 5
Mar. 21	Bobbitt: Chapters 8-12
Mar. 26	LSAT 6
Mar. 28	Catharine MacKinnon. <i>Women's Lives, Men's Laws</i> [excerpts].
Apr. 2	LSAT 7
Apr. 4	Gordon Tullock. <i>The Logic of the Law</i> [excerpts].
Apr. 9	LSAT 8
Apr. 11	John Henry Faulk. <i>Fear on Trial</i> [excerpts].
Apr. 16	LSAT 9
Apr. 18	Anthony Lewis. <i>Make No Law</i> [excerpts].
Apr. 23	LSAT 10
Apr. 25	Maurice Stans. <i>The Terrors of Justice</i> [excerpts].
Apr. 30	Leon Jaworski. <i>The Right and the Power</i> [excerpts].
May 2	EXAM TWO.

Grading Policy:

Final Exam – 25%

Midterm Exam – 25%

LSAT Analyses – 25%

Statutory Analysis – 20%

Quizzes / participation – 5%

Each unexcused absence will result in a 1-point deduction from the student's final grade.

Late work will be penalized by 1 point per day late. Since assignments are graded on a scale equivalent to their percentage of the final grade, this means that the deduction results in a 1-point (per day late) deduction from the student's final grade.

LSAT analyses are due by email to the instructor, 24 hours before the class meeting.

Absences and late work will be excused only as required by law, university policy or extreme circumstances.

There are no opportunities for extra credit in the course.

Grades:

A+	97-100	C+	77-79	F	59 and below
A	93-96	C	73-76		
A-	90-92	C-	70-72		
B+	87-89	D+	67-69		
B	83-86	D	63-66		
B-	80-82	D-	60-62		

Other:

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for other information from the University pertaining to this course. The instructor reserves the right to change the descriptions and timelines listed herein.