

**PSCI 4396-502: Legal Reasoning  
Fall 2010**

**Instructor Contact Information:**

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

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

Although permission of the instructor is not required, this course is designed for students who are taking the LSAT in December, 2010.

**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. 2007. *The Next 10 Actual, Official LSAT Pretests*. ISBN: 0979305055. (Note: Please purchase a new copy rather than a used copy).

--All other readings will be made available through the McDermott Library's electronic reserve system.

**Assignments and Academic Calendar:**

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|---------|---|
| Aug. 24 | Introduction (No homework). In-class LSAT.  |
| Aug. 31 | LSAT 1  |
| Sep. 07 | Levi, Edward. <i>An Introduction to Legal Reasoning</i> [excerpts].<br>Carter, Lief. <i>Reason in Law</i> [excerpts].   |
| Sep. 14 | LSAT 2<br>Preliminary draft of personal statement due.  |
| Sep. 21 | Bobbitt, Philip. <i>Constitutional Fate</i> [excerpts].<br>Tullock, Gordon. <i>The Logic of the Law</i> [excerpts].<br>MacKinnon, Catherine. <i>Women's Lives, Men's Laws</i> [excerpts]. |

Sep. 28	LSAT 3 Final draft of personal statement due.
Oct. 05	Midterm Exam.
Oct. 12	LSAT 4
Oct. 19	Breyer, Stephen. <i>Active Liberty</i> [excerpts]. Scalia, Antonin. <i>A Matter of Interpretation</i> [excerpts].
Oct. 26	LSAT 5 Proposal for statutory analysis paper due.
Nov. 02	Lewis, Anthony. <i>Make No Law</i> [excerpts]. Bork, Robert. <i>The Antitrust Paradox</i> [excerpts].
Nov. 09	LSAT 6
Nov. 16	Faulk, John Henry. <i>Fear on Trial</i> [excerpts]. Jaworski, Leon. <i>The Right and the Power</i> [excerpts].
Nov. 23	LSAT 7 Statutory analysis paper due.
Nov. 30	In-class LSAT.
Dec. 14	Final Exam

### Grading Policy:

Final Exam – 25%

Midterm Exam – 25%

LSAT Analyses – 25%

Statutory Analysis – 15%

Personal Statement – 10%

### 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.