Course Description

An introduction to law and philosophy of law, including categories of law, some legal terminology, justice, liberty, crime and punishment.

Requisites

GOVT 200

Rationale

A basic philosophical understanding of law and its relationships to society is essential for a proper application of legal principles in politics, the legal profession, and criminal justice.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify the sources of law (Reason, Bible, State, People, etc.).
B. Identify the basic schools of legal philosophy.
C. Formulate arguments for and against each jurisprudential school of thought.
D. Evaluate each school in accordance to the biblical worldview.
E. Analyze the use of jurisprudential biases in judicial rulings.

Course Resources

Required Resources

The resource below is provided in the course at no cost to the student.


The following textbook/material will be mailed to you free of charge.


*A PDF version of this resource will be provided within the course free of charge as this text is not available for purchase at this time.

Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with the latest research regarding the subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.
Course Assignments

Textbook readings and lecture presentations

Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmate’s thread. The reply must be at least 150 words. Both the thread and the reply must have at least 2 sources (with 1 being the textbook) in current Turabian format.

Papers (4)

The student will write three 2–3-page papers and one 4–5-page paper in current Turabian format. These papers will be written on the following topics:

Paper 1: An evaluation of *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat

Paper 2: An evaluation of *The Path of the Law* by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Paper 3: A scriptural argument for the existence of the natural right to life, liberty, and property as well as a definition of justice in light of that existence utilizing concept distinctions between various types of rights

Final Paper: The Future of American Jurisprudence

Quizzes (8)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material as well as the presentations for the assigned module/week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 true/false questions, and have a 45-minute time limit.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 80 pts ea)</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers (3 at 125 pts ea, 1 at 145 pts)</td>
<td>520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (8 at 20 pts ea)</td>
<td>160</td>
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</table>
Policies

Late Assignment Policy

Course Assignments, including discussion boards, exams, and other graded assignments, should be submitted on time.

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week after the due date will receive up to a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week and less than 2 weeks late will receive up to a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.
4. Group projects, including group discussion board threads and/or replies, and assignments will not be accepted after the due date outside of special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant personal health issues), which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the instructor.

Disability Assistance

Students with a disability and those with medical conditions associated with pregnancy may contact Liberty University’s Online Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu for accommodations. Such accommodations require appropriate documentation of your condition. For more information about ODAS and the accommodations process, including how to request an accommodation, please visit https://www.liberty.edu/online/online-disability-accommodation-support/. Requests for accommodations not related to disabilities or pregnancy must be directed to the Registrar’s Office, which generally handles medical needs support.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy (https://www.liberty.edu/media/1226/Liberty_University_Discrimination_Harassment_and_Sexual_Misconduct_Policy.pdf) or the Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures (http://www.liberty.edu/media/8021/Disability_Grievance_Procedures.pdf).

Course Attendance

In an effort to comply with U.S. Department of Education policies, attendance is measured by physical class attendance or any submission of a required assignment within the enrollment dates of the course (such as examinations, written papers or projects, any discussion board posts, etc.) or initiating any communication with one’s professor regarding an academic subject. More information regarding the attendance policy can be found in the Academic Course Catalogs (https://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=791). Regular attendance in online courses is expected throughout the length of the term. Students who do not attend within the first week of a sub-term by submitting a required academic assignment (such as the Course Requirements Checklist, an examination, written paper or project, discussion board post, or other academic activity) will be dropped from the course.

Students who wish to re-engage in the course are encouraged to contact Academic Advising to discuss their enrollment options. Students who begin an online course, but at some point in the semester cease attending, and do not provide official notification to withdraw, will be assigned a grade of "FN" (Failure for Non-Attendance (https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Online+Attendance+and+Non-Attendance)). Students wishing to withdraw from courses after the official start date should familiarize themselves with the withdrawal policy.

Grading Scale

| A | B | C | D | F |
For courses with a Pass/NP final grade, please refer to the Course Grading section of this syllabus for the assignment requirements and/or point value required to earn a Passing final grade.

Add/Drop Policy

The full policy statement and procedures are published in the Policy Directory (https://wiki.os.liberty.edu/display/IE/Dropping+and+Adding+Online+Classes).

Honor Code

Liberty University comprises a network of students, Alumni, faculty, staff and supporters that together form a Christian community based upon the truth of the Bible. This truth defines our foundational principles, from our Doctrinal Statement to the Code of Honor. These principles irrevocably align Liberty University’s operational procedures with the long tradition of university culture, which remains distinctively Christian, designed to preserve and advance truth. Our desire is to create a safe, comfortable environment within our community of learning, and we extend our academic and spiritual resources to all of our students with the goal of fostering academic maturity, spiritual growth and character development.

Communities are predicated on shared values and goals. The Code of Honor, an expression of the values from which our Doctrinal Statement was born, defines the fundamental principles by which our community exists. At the core of this code lie two essential concepts: a belief in the significance of all individuals, and a reliance on the existence of objective truth.

While we acknowledge that some may disagree with various elements of the Code of Honor, we maintain the expectation that our students will commit to respect and uphold the Code while enrolled at Liberty University.

Adherence to the principles and concepts established within facilitates the success of our students and strengthens the Liberty community.


Schedule

GOVT 345

Textbooks: Bahnsen, By This Standard: The Authority of God’s Law Today (2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bahnsen: Part I</td>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
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<td>Wacks: ch. 1</td>
<td>Class Introductions</td>
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<td>DB Forum 1</td>
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<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<td>Bahnsen: Part II</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<td>Wacks: ch. 2</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<td>6 presentations</td>
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<td>Course</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Due Dates</td>
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<td>2 presentations, 1 website</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Wacks: ch. 8</td>
<td>DB Forum 3, Quiz 5</td>
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<td>2 presentations</td>
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<td>Bahnsen: Conclusion, Wacks: chs. 13–14</td>
<td>Final Paper, Quiz 8</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.