



Course Syllabus

Course Code LAW-141	Course Title Legal System and Method I	ECTS Credits 6
Prerequisites None	Department Law	Semester Fall
Type of Course Required	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer Bill Gallagher	Year of Study 1 st
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Corequisites None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the first semester of this two-semester course are to:

- Provide an integrated introduction to the English legal system and method
- Have students engage with legal method, including case analysis and legal interpretation
- Provide students with an understanding of the legal profession and its institutions and actors
- Have students critically assess the key features of English and other Common Law systems
- Provide a broad context against which students can place their study of “substantive” legal courses

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Identify and describe the sources of English law and assess the impact and influence thereon of the Human Rights Act and post-Brexit retained EU law
- Understand the operation of the doctrine of judicial precedent
- Demonstrate working knowledge of the “rules” of statutory interpretation
- Appreciate the challenges in drafting legislation
- Discuss Parliamentary delegation of legislative functions to inferior bodies
- Demonstrate knowledge of court structure, the judiciary and the jury system, as well as the work, training and supervision of legal professionals
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the work, qualifications, training and regulation of

barristers
and solicitors

- Assess efforts made towards fusion of the legal professions
- State how to take initiative, to undertake independent learning and developing powers of enquiry and critical analysis

Course Content:

Introduction

- Nature and Function of Law
- Common Law v Civil Law traditions

Sources of Law

- Custom, Common Law and Equity
- Parliamentary and Secondary Legislation
- European Human Rights Law and Retained European Union Law

The Doctrine of Judicial Precedent

- Stare Decisis and Ratio Decidendi
- Hierarchy of Courts

Statutory Interpretation

- Canons of Interpretation
- Aids to Interpretation

The Court Structure

- Civil Courts
- Criminal Courts

The Judiciary and Magistrates

- Independence, Impartiality, Immunity
- Functions, Appointment and Training

The Legal Profession: their Work and Training

- Solicitors
- Barristers

Juries

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, team research and writing, in-class case discussion and student participation

Assessment Methods:

You will be assessed on the following:

- Class participation
- In-class quizzes

- Mid-term examination
- Written assignments and presentations
- Final examination

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
English Legal System (5 th ed.)	Rutherford, Kotecha & Macfarlane	Oxford	2022	9780192858856
English Legal System: The Fundamentals (5 th ed.)	Bromby	Sweet & Maxwell	2022	9780414089723

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Legal Systems & Skills (4 th ed.)	Slorach, Embley, Goodchild & Shephard	Oxford	2020	9780198834328
Legal Skills (8 th ed.)	Finch & Fafinski	Oxford	2021	9780192893642
Learning Legal Rules - A Students' Guide to Legal Method and Reasoning (11 th ed.)	Holland & Webb	Oxford	2022	9780192849090