



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code LAW-141	Course Title Legal System & Method I	ECTS Credits 6
Department Law	Semester Fall	Prerequisites NONE
Type of Course Major Requirement	Field Law	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 1 st	Lecturer(s) Peter Pafitis
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

To introduce students to the salient aspects of legal method and the practical workings of the legal system; to provide students with an understanding of the legal profession; to critically assess the system; and, to lay a foundation for students which will serve as a preliminary step towards the study of “substantive” law courses.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify and describe the sources of English law and assess the impact and influence thereon of the Human Rights Act and EU law
2. Discuss the operation of the doctrine of judicial precedent
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the rules of statutory interpretation
4. Assess the difficulties encountered by those responsible for drafting legislation
5. Discuss the process through which Parliament delegates legislative functions to inferior bodies
6. Assess the importance and implications of adopting alternative dispute mechanisms
7. Demonstrate knowledge of the courts structure, the judiciary and the jury system
8. State how to take initiative, to undertake independent learning and developing powers of enquiry and critical analysis

Course Content:

Introduction: Nature, classification of the Law

- Sources of the Law
- Custom, Common Law and Equity
- Legislation
- European Law

The Doctrine of Judicial Present

- Stare Decisis
- The Hierarchy of the Courts

Interpretation of Statues

- Canons of Interpretation
- Aids to Interpretation

The Court structures

- Civil Courts
- Criminal Courts

Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Tribunals
- Arbitration
- Mediation
- Ombudsman

The Judiciary and the Magistracy

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

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive lectures, tutorials, written examinations and assignments

Assessment Methods:

One written assignment or oral presentation, mid-term exam and final exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year/Edition
Carl. F Stychil & Linda Mulcahy	<i>Legal Methods & Systems</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	2010
G. Slapper & D. Kelly	<i>English Legal System</i>	Routledge Cavendish	2011-12

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year/Edition
Michael Zander	<i>Cases & Materials on English Legal System</i>	Cambridge Press	10 th Edition
Allisdair Gillespie	<i>The English Legal System</i>	Oxford Press	2009
Jacqueline Martin	<i>The English Legal System</i>	Hodder Education	2007
Tim Vollaris & Glenn Asquith	English Legal System Concentrate	Oxford Press	2009
Fiona Cownie, Anthony Bradney & Mandy Burton	<i>English Legal System in Context</i>	Oxford Press	2007
Catherine Elliot & Francess Quinn	<i>English Legal System</i>	Pearson Longmann	2010

Terence Ingman	<i>English Legal Process</i>	Oxford Press	13 th Edition
Martin Partington	<i>Introduction to English Legal System</i>	Oxford Press	2010-11
Kate Malleon, Richard Moules	<i>The Legal System</i>	Oxford Pres	4 th Edition
	<i>English Legal System – The Fundamentals</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	1 st Edition
Carl F Stychin Linda Mulcahy	<i>Legal Methods & Systems</i>	Sweet & Maxwell	4 th Edition