



## Course Syllabus

<b>Course Code</b> LAW-158	<b>Course Title</b> Jurisprudence	<b>ECTS Credits</b> 6
<b>Prerequisites</b> None	<b>Department</b> Law	<b>Semester</b> Fall
<b>Type of Course</b> Required	<b>Field</b> Law	<b>Language of Instruction</b> English
<b>Level of Course</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	<b>Lecturer(s)</b> Dr Odysseas Christou	<b>Year of Study</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Mode of Delivery</b> Conventional	<b>Work Placement</b> N/A	<b>Co-requisites</b> None

### Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Present the development, analysis and interpretation of legal theories and philosophical schools of thought.
- Provide a historical overview of the evolution in legal thought.
- Survey seminal figures and works in this evolution and juxtapose the different – and sometimes opposing – concepts and frameworks that are presented in their works.
- Apply the theoretical and philosophical foundations of the various schools of thought to real world issues and debates such as human nature and its relations to the law, justice, obedience and punishment, and the rights of individuals in society as well as the international system.

### Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate their comprehension of the basic concepts and theoretical frameworks of legal theory and philosophy.
2. Analyse critically and comparatively the primary exponents of the various schools of legal thought.
3. Assess theoretical as well as practical debates within the scope of legal thought and its applications.
4. Identify real world applications of the various theoretical and philosophical

concepts presented.

5. Develop arguments and propositions for the practical impact of these concepts on actual legal problems.

### **Course Contents:**

1. Introduction and key concepts
  - a. The nature of jurisprudence, legal thought
  - b. Meaning of the law and justice
  - c. Law and morality
2. Natural Law
  - a. Greek philosophical thought on nature and the law
  - b. The Christian foundations and tradition of natural law
  - c. Contemporary approaches to natural law
3. Legal Positivism
  - a. Classical approaches: Bentham and Austin
  - b. Contemporary approaches: Hart and Kelsen
4. Dworkin's interpretivist approach
5. Legal Realism
  - a. American and Scandinavian schools
6. Social theories of law
  - a. Sociological, historical and anthropological approaches
7. Theories of Justice
8. Theories of Natural and Civil Rights
9. Conceptualisation of Obedience and Punishment

### **Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Lectures and discussions, Sessions with visiting speakers, Self-study

### **Assessment Methods:**

Participation, Mid-term Exam, Final Exam

**Required Textbooks / Reading:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
<i>Understanding Jurisprudence: An Introduction to Legal Theory</i>	Wacks, Raymond	Oxford: Oxford University Press	2020	9780191666117 (E-book)*

\* The e- version of the book is available full-text on the university's library. Go to [library.unic.ac.cy](http://library.unic.ac.cy) and search for the title. Click on the e-book and you can read it online or download it in pdf (100-page limit at a time).

**Recommended Textbooks / Reading:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>ISBN</b>
<i>Jurisprudence: Theory and Context</i>	Bix, Brian	Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press	2012	9781611633115