

SYLLABUS

Instructors: David DeWolf and Mark DeForrest

Class time: Thursdays 2:00 pm to 3:50 pm

Textbook: Christie & Martin, *Jurisprudence* (3d edition), ISBN 978-0-314-17073-6.

Evaluation: Students will be responsible for three assignments during the course of the semester. Those assignments are as follows:

- 1) One research paper (10-15 pages in length) examining a jurisprudential topic related to the course. The student's paper topic must be approved by the instructors (50 points).
- 2) Presentation on paper topic (10 points).
- 3) An exam at the end of the course that assures that the student has been diligent with respect to the reading assignments and class discussion (40 points)

Total points possible in the course: 100 points.

Themes

We will be looking for the answers to four questions as we work our way through the reading assignments and as we explore the topics raised in the student papers. These four questions are as follows:

- 1) Is a transcendent authority necessary in order for law to serve its function in society?
- 2) What is the proper relationship between the loyalty that an individual should feel toward the legal system and the claims of other authorities (religious, individual conscience, etc.)?
- 3) Is it preferable that law be enforced through a unified system that has a hierarchical assignment of authority, or should law be enforced through a polycentric system of overlapping (and competing) authorities?

- 4) Is law better understood as a response to negative features of human nature (avarice, anger, etc.) or is it better understood as a means by which the positive features of human nature (cooperation, altruism, etc.) can manifest themselves?

Reading assignments:

Our readings are from the classics of legal philosophy. We will all be assigned approximately 500 pages of the text. In addition to the assigned readings, we will parcel out the remaining readings from the textbook so that each student will be expected to read that section and report to the class (5-10 minutes) a summary of the material.

In addition to the textbook, we are assigning three movies for students to watch (if they haven't already seen them): *A Man for All Seasons*; *The Ox-Bow Incident*; and *Judgment at Nuremburg*. These will be discussed in conjunction with readings that help illuminate the issues that arise in the storyline of the movie.

Week & Date	Pages Assigned
1 Jan. 14	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i> (movie)
2 Jan. 21	1-62
3 Jan. 28	62-120
4 Feb. 4	120-160
5 Feb. 11	161-218
6 Feb. 18	218-280
7 Feb. 25	389-397, 479-496
Spring Break	No class during Spring Break
8 Mar. 18	496-574; <i>The Ox-Bow Incident</i> (movie)
9 Mar. 25	696-717; 795-808 <i>Judgment at Nuremburg</i>
10 Apr. 1	832-855
11 Apr. 8	906-947; 994-1013
12 Apr. 15	Student presentations
13 Apr. 22	Student presentations
14 Apr. 29	Student presentations