
THE HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LAW in Spring 2021 (LW2020)

Course Code	LW2020	Professor(s)	Michelle Kuo
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Grenelle
Class Schedule	F: 15:20-16:40 in C-102 T: 10:35-11:55 in C-102	Office Hours	Friday 4-6
Credits	4	Email	mkuo@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical foundations of legal thought and to cultivate literacy in legal reasoning. The course provides an essential resource for our future global citizens by exploring key legal texts, histories and cases and familiarizing students with the historical origins of key contemporary legal issues.

Course Learning Outcomes

Understand connections between law and history, grounding and framing the theory of cases with historical detail and context.

Develop an interdisciplinary understanding of law and its social impact, explaining clear stakes of cases and their social impact.

Integrate law into the liberal arts curriculum, in particular demonstrating an ability to tell a persuasive and coherent story using a combination of oral presentation and writing skills

General Education

N/A

Course Outline

See below for scaffolded schedule for the final research paper. Additionally, there will be three mock trial re-enactments in this course.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

You are required to come to class.

Grading Policy

Participation (Attendance, Quizzes, Participation in Discussions, Debates) 20%

Annotations 30%

Due by midnight before each class period. (E.g. Monday and Thursday 11:59 PM.)

To encourage you to keep on top of your reading, we ask you to submit 3 annotations for each reading. The assignments will be set up on Perusall.

This will be a collective exercise, as your fellow classmates will see your annotations. We will also use the annotations as a springboard for our class discussions.

Annotation is a personal act, and your engagement with the text will vary. But here are a couple of ideas of how you can annotate a text. You could focus on some or all of the following:

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- Definitions of confusing words. Look up and find the definitions of words that seem unfamiliar or confusing to you.
 - Concepts. Underline what you think are the most foreign, novel, or challenging difficult concepts.
 - Tone or Rhetorical Strategies. What are the rhetorical strategies of the text? Does the writer use tone to make a point? What is the tone of the text—sarcastic, sincere, funny, etc.
 - Biases. What are the writer's biases? What assumptions does the writer employ that are stated or unstated? What are your own assumptions when you come to the text?
 - Responses. Is there something troubling in the text that you are grappling with? What are some questions that the text generated? Note your own immediate reactions to certain claims in the text.
 - Connections. Put the text in dialogue with other readings from the semester. How are the texts similar? How are they different?

I recommend 5-10 annotations. 3 need to be **substantial**. **A collective discussion is great, so feel free to respond to other classmates.**

And here is a useful link to a post on annotation as a creative act:

<https://web.hypothes.is/blog/back-to-school-with-annotation-10-ways-to-annotate-withstudents/>

Short Quizzes: I reserve the right to give quizzes if I get the sense that you are not staying on top of the reading. Expect 3-4 quizzes over the span of the semester. Quizzes will count into the annotation grade.

Short Source Analysis – 10%

You will be expected to write one or two short source analysis drawing on a source from the assigned readings.

Final Exam 10% -- Take home exam due May 11.

Final research paper and presentation 20%

You will pick a topic related to contemporary world history and investigate it. The result of this research will be an 8-10 page paper. We will ask you to submit successive assignments to build up to the final paper.

- Research topic and research question, due March 12 before class; we will discuss in class. Please include 2 academic sources and your summary of these sources.

- Annotated bibliography of 8 academic sources. (Basically, your notes on these sources.) Friday, March 22, 11:59 PM. *Please explain how these sources relate to your research question. Post on Slack. There are no classes this week but I encourage you to come to extended office hours that are exclusively for your class.*

- Outline – April 9
- 3-5 pages of paper - due April 23
- Peer review of paper – due April 30
- Final Paper -- May 13.

Other
