

HUM 3541: Philosophy of Law

Andrew Aberdein

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12.30–2 pm & 6.15–7 pm

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Class Time

Tuesday & Thursday, 11 am–12.15 pm, QAD118.

Course Description

The course will analyse contemporary philosophical debates concerning the fundamental nature of law. Topics discussed include the concept of law, the source of legal authority, and the relation of laws to morals.

Required Texts

Andrei Marmor *Philosophy of Law*, Princeton University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780691163963. 184 pp. \$19.95.

Dennis Patterson (Editor) *Philosophy of Law and Legal Theory: An Anthology*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2003. ISBN: 9780631202882. 436 pp. \$61.95.

Class Presentations

Each student will make presentations on some of the reading assignments. Presentations should answer at least the following questions:

- A. What does it say? A (brief) recap of the text's central argument(s);
- B. What doesn't make sense? What questions do you have after a first reading?

Contribution to the Class

The **participation quotient** is proportional to the number of weeks in which you make a contribution to the class. Contributions include, but are not limited to:

- delivering a class presentation;
- participation in discussion;
- asking questions;
- work on the class wiki, aberdein.pbworks.com.

Grading

As usual, 90%+ = A; 80–89% = B; 70–79% = C; 60–69% = D; 0–59% = F.

1. Contribution to the class: (Short assignment grade(s) + Presentation grade) × **Participation quotient**;
2. Midterm Exam (Take Home, Eighth Week);
3. 3000 Word Essay (Due Fourteenth Week);
4. Final Exam (Take Home, but scheduled for **Monday 11th December, 3.30–5.30 pm**);

will each contribute one quarter to the overall grade.

Course Regulations

- Students are expected to attend **all** classes.
- All personal electronic devices to be muted in class and **switched off completely** during exams.
- Essays to be word processed, with a full bibliography, and to be submitted in paper **and** electronic form. Late essay submissions will be penalized by one letter grade. Essays late by more than one class session will receive a grade of 0.
- Essay submission is final: whatever you submit as your essay is your essay.
- Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a **grade of 0 for the course**. You are responsible for knowing all Florida Tech policies on academic dishonesty (see www.fit.edu/current/documents/plagiarism.pdf).
- 'Florida Tech has contracted with a private company, TurnItIn.com, to help identify plagiarized papers. Essays written for this course will be submitted electronically to the TurnItIn.com web site for screening prior to being graded. Essays that are not submitted to TurnItIn.com will not be graded. Your instructor will show you how to use this service.'

Title IX?

Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972 is the federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex under any education program and/or activity operated by an institution receiving and/or benefiting from federal financial assistance. Behaviors that can be considered “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. You are encouraged to report these behaviors. **Reporting:** Florida Tech can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one complainant reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

Florida Tech is committed to providing a safe and positive learning experience. To report a violation of sexual misconduct or gender discrimination, please contact Security at 321-674-8111. * **Please note that as your professor, I am required to report any incidences to Security or to the Title IX Coordinator (321-674-8700).** *Confidential support for students is available by contacting the Student Counseling Center at 321-674-8050.*

Academic Accommodations: Florida Tech is committed to equal opportunity for persons w/disabilities in the participation of activities operated/sponsored by the university. Therefore, students w/documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable educational accommodations. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) supports students by assisting w/accommodations, providing recommended interventions, and engaging in case management services. It is the student’s responsibility to make a request to ODS before any accommodations can be approved/implemented. Also, students w/approved accommodations are encouraged to speak w/the course instructor to discuss any arrangements and/or concerns relating to their accommodations for the class. Office of Disability Services (ODS): Telephone: 321-674-8285 / Email: disabilityservices@fit.edu / Website: www.fit.edu/disability.