



Oxford
Scholastica
ACADEMY



EXPERIENCE LAW ACADEMY



READING LIST

WELCOME

to the Oxford Scholastica

Experience Law Academy!

We're all looking forward to meeting you and delving into the world of law together!

Preparing for your classes

Many of our students ask us how they can make the most out of their courses by doing some pre-course preparation, so we've given you some ideas here. Don't worry though – we don't expect you to do all this! We know how busy you are, and the preparation is optional. But if you'd like to make a head start, here are our suggestions...



Activities to do

We'd like you to find a legal case (in any area) of law that you find particularly interesting. You might have heard about a case in the news recently that sounded interesting, or if you haven't, you could have a look through a newspaper or on the internet (e.g.: www.theguardian.com/law).

Once you've located a case, try and find out a bit more about it, and make some notes. You'll get the opportunity to discuss the case in our first class.

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

If you would like to get to grips with some of the topics we will be covering during the Academy, the following links will be of interest. Feel free to just pick out the ones that interest you!

1. The UK Human Rights Blog is written by practicing barristers and legal academics. We recommend reading the introduction to human rights first, which will give you an overview of what exactly a human right is and how the law protects them in the UK.

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/%20introduction>

2. You can then have a look at this article. The article is about a lawsuit that was brought against a fashion shop 'Topshop' by popstar Rihanna. Ask yourself: should Rihanna have a right to her image? What kind of 'loss' could she really be said to suffer? We'd like you to think about how and why human rights have important impacts on commercial and business interests.

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2013/08/02/rihanna-wins-against-topshop-but-does-she-have-a-right-to-her-image-emily-goodhand/>

3. Next, here is a short article about what is probably the most famous case in British legal history. A poor woman fell ill after she drank from a bottle of ginger beer which had, unknown to her, a decaying snail at the bottom of it. She successfully sued the manufacturers of the ginger beer for compensation, and her case established the 'duty of care' in negligence law. This provided the foundation for modern personal injury law.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8367223.stm>

4. This article is longer and explains what exactly 'freedom of expression' is and why we need it. Don't worry too much about getting to grips with the abstract philosophical arguments, but we'd like you to start thinking about why exactly we protect an individual's right to free speech. What shouldn't we allow an individual to say?

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/freedom-speech/>

5. My final suggestion is not an article but rather an actual judgement! If you'd like, take some time and read through the case and see if you can work out what the key issues are in the case. See if you can understand how the judges have come to that reasoning. Don't worry if you find it a little dense or confusing - it's just interesting to see how the law actually comes about.

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Crim/1975/3.html>

BOOKS TO READ

We suggest you get hold of a copy of **Tom Bingham's The Rule of Law (2010)**. It was written by one of the greatest British Judges and legal minds of the last century. Lord Bingham explores what it means to have a legal system that claims to provide for a fair and just society, and what a legal system needs to be to ensure that it provides justice for those subjected to the strong force of the law. It should help you to start thinking a bit more deeply about what a legal system is, and what the relationship between law and justice should be.

The Rule of Law is a relatively short book, but if you are pressed for time I recommend you read through:

- Chapter 1 (The Importance of the Rule of Law)
- Chapter 3 (The Accessibility of the Law)
- Chapter 7 (Human Rights)
- Chapter 9 (A Fair Trial)
- Chapter 11 (Terrorism and the Rule of Law)

These chapters aren't too long, and so it shouldn't take you any longer than 2 hours.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Rule-Law-Tom-Bingham/dp/014103453X>



MOVIES TO WATCH

We are firm believers in the educational and cultivating effects of good cinema. The following cinematic pieces explore some fascinating aspects of law and the courts.

12 Angry Men (1957)

In order to convict someone of, for example, murder, the judge/jury does not have to be absolutely sure of the guilt of the accused. It is sufficient that they be 'certain beyond reasonable doubt'. The 'beyond reasonable doubt' doctrine is one of the most important standards in criminal law. '12 Angry Men' is a must-see for every aspiring law student, studying the depths of human doubt and the burden of responsibility to dispose of someone else's life in a court's trial. It will certainly make you question certainty, or, at least, send shivers down your spine!

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

This is a wonderful adaptation of Harper Lee's novel. Lawyers often face difficult social dilemmas and defend unpopular opinions. What does it take to stand against the beliefs of a deeply divided racist society? The protagonist, Atticus Finch, has inspired many generations of lawyers. He defends not only equality, but also his family and his ideals of justice.

Judgment at Nuremberg (1961)

This is a film about judges judging other judges. Were judges in Nazi Germany guilty of applying the evil laws of the Third Reich? Or should they be excused for 'merely' following the written laws, regardless of the cruel nature of those laws? After all, the primary function of a judge is to obey and implement the law...This film presents the ever-topical relationship between law and morality, against the backdrop of one of the most significant international criminal law cases in the world.

Kramer vs. Kramer (1979)

The influence of the law on people's lives reaches far beyond the courtroom. This drama follows a divorce lawsuit and is a painstaking depiction of how law is used by individuals in their emotional wars of hurtfulness and revenge. The movie shows that law can't fix human relationships, and a victory before court does not necessarily mean a victory in real life. It also catapulted Meryl Streep into stardom. Yet another reason not to miss it!

If you'd like any more resources, please feel free to ask us!

To explore a full course outline of what you will be studying, please see here.

<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-summer-courses/law-summer-school/experience/#outline>

We hope you're as excited as we are to start the course and join us in Oxford!

