

Introduction

The Reach Cambridge Law course provides a unique opportunity for high school students to experience university-level teaching in the UK. The course will introduce them both to English Law and international law, focusing on criminal law, human rights and the law relating to migration. Students will be equipped with both knowledge and skills, as they learn how to analyse cases, apply legal tests and participate in legal debate. They will then have the chance to see the law in action with a trip to the Crown court. The end of the course will give the students the opportunity to take part in a mock trial, to consolidate their knowledge of the law and of legal procedure, which they will have acquired through this course.

Reading list

NB. It is hoped that students will have read some of the following in advance, as this reading will enhance discussion in the classroom.

- Catherine Barnard et al., *What About Law?* (2nd Edition) Hart Publishing
- Robert Cryer, Hakån Friman, Darryl Robinson and Elizabeth Wilmshurst, *An Introduction to International Criminal law and Procedure* (either the 2nd or 3rd edition), Chapter 1
- Glanville Williams, *Learning the Law* (fifteenth edition) Sweet & Maxwell
- AP Simester and GR Sullivan, *Criminal Law: Theory and Doctrine* (5th ed.) Chapters 4, 5 and 10
- Hare “Crosses, Crescents and Sacred Cows” [2006] Public Law 521, at 529-531

British History of Human Rights: <http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/history-human-rights>

Human Rights: What have they ever done for you?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5PRBsZhr8E>



Reach Cambridge 2016 July Law Course Outline

MONDAY 27 JUNE

Day 1: Introduction to English Legal System

The English legal system is one of the country's biggest exports, but what are its main features? This first class will examine the nature of the English law, its sources, and the court system. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Cambridge Crown Court.

TUESDAY 28 JUNE

Day 2: Preparation for Mock Trial

18 year old Hermione Barker has died as a result of a 26-foot fall from the clock tower located in the student centre of Cambridge University: did she fall or was she pushed? In this lesson, students will examine the law of murder before learning the fundamentals of criminal procedural law – witness handling, rules of evidence and chief/cross-examination – in preparation for the trial of R v Christopher Archer.

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE

Day 3: Mock Trial

The trial of R v Christopher Archer will be performed in front of other students and staff. Students will perform to the best of their ability, hoping to sway the jury with their advocacy skills!

FRIDAY 1 JULY

Day 4: Introduction to the Nature and History of International Law: The Law of Armed Conflict (A Case Study)

This class will introduce students to the nature and history of public international law (PIL) using the law of armed conflict as a case study. The aim here is to introduce students to the sources of PIL, to highlight international law's evolutionary nature and to cause students to consider whether PIL is able to respond to contemporary issues. To those ends, students will be introduced to the rule against the use of force and to the exceptions to that rule. They will also be invited to consider contested exceptions to the rule, namely, 'Rescue of Nationals', 'Unilateral Humanitarian Intervention' and 'Responsibility to Protect'.



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MONDAY 4 JULY

Day 5: The UK and European law

This class will look at both European Union law and the European Convention on Human Rights. It will consider the arguments for and against the possible UK exit from the European Union. It will consider the arguments for drafting a British Bill of Rights and repealing the Human Rights Act. There will be a focus on immigration and/or freedom of movement.

TUESDAY 5 JULY

Day 6: Introduction to Refugee Law

This class will focus on the Refugee Convention and the protection of refugees and asylum seekers under international law. Building on what the students were taught in the session on economic, social and cultural rights, students will consider the difference between economic migrants and refugees under international law.

Wednesday 6 JULY

Day 7: Debate on Migration

This class will introduce students to the fundamentals of debate. Students will then be given a number of easy to read articles on the Mediterranean migration crisis before being asked to consider whether European states have an obligation to assist migrants crossing the Mediterranean or whether they should be trying to stop them from crossing in the first place.

Thursday 7 JULY

Day 8: Introduction to the Law of Treaties

This class seeks to introduce students to treaties as a source of international law. It will focus on, among other things: types of treaties; the rules of interpretation; the relationship between treaties and customary international law; the rules regarding the formulation, acceptance and effect of reservations and the rules for termination of treaty obligations. On the matter of reservations, students will be invited to consider the merits and demerits of permitting states to enter reservations to treaties. Students will be invited to apply the law of a given treaty to a given scenario.



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FRIDAY 8 JULY

Day 9: Human Rights Law: Limiting Rights on the Basis of Public Morals/Morality

A number of treaties and constitutions provide for the limitation of rights on the basis of public morals/morality. This class aims to introduce students to that limitation through reference to treaties/constitutions which provide for the limitation as well as cases which consider it. Students will be invited to evaluate the limitation itself and to debate the merits and demerits of limiting rights on that basis.

MONDAY 11 JULY

Day 10: Human Rights Law and the ‘War on Terror’

This class will focus on Human Rights Law in the context of the so-called ‘War on Terror’. Students will be introduced to the prohibitions on torture and cruel and inhumane treatment/punishment and the approaches which different tribunals take to enforcing those rights. Students will also be introduced to the right of states to limit certain rights in situations of public emergency. In light of the threat posed by terrorists, students will be asked to consider whether (and in what ways) rights protection should be limited in order to combat the threat.

TUESDAY 12 JULY

Day 11: The Crime of Genocide

This class seeks to help students develop an understanding of some of the major human rights atrocities of recent time, with a specific focus on the crime of genocide in international law. Students will approach this learning from a historical and political perspective, and will consider the Rwanda genocide and the conflict in Darfur as case studies. Students will learn the history of these atrocities and the response of the international community to these tragedies. Students will be asked to consider the various political considerations implicated by such situations, and will thereby gain a preliminary understanding of the politics of international law.



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WEDNESDAY 13 JULY

Day 12: Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect

This class asks students to consider the means of deterring some of the major atrocities of our time. It requires students to understand and appreciate the prevalence of mass human rights violations in society, and to assess the international community's response to such violations. Students will consider the concept of humanitarian intervention and the development of the Responsibility to Protect, and will consider how this evolving concept in international law should be applied to humanitarian crises. Finally, students will look ahead to consider the possible role of social networks and social media in ending mass atrocities, and will consider the pursuit of justice and reconciliation in the aftermath of mass atrocities as well as the possibilities and limits of forgiveness.

THURSDAY 14 JULY

Day 13: Introduction to International Human Rights Law

This class seeks to help students develop an introductory understanding of the fundamentals of international human rights law, and to examine the notion of the 'universality' of rights. It introduces students to the world of human rights generally, and provides students with a foundation upon which to understand and analyse some of the pressing human rights concerns of our time. It will provide a broad survey of the principles of human rights and the spectrum of international standards. It will examine the growth of international humanitarian concern, philosophical issues related to human rights, and mechanisms for the implementation of human rights.

FRIDAY 15 JULY

Day 14: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

This class provides a more detailed look at the International Bill of Human Rights and explores the apparent divide between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights in international human rights law. The class will focus on economic, social and cultural rights and will challenge students to think through the significance of these rights with reference to their own experiences in their home countries. The course will also consider the importance of these rights in the context of development.



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