This course in jurisprudence (aka philosophy of law) explores central aspects of the role of law in modern society. Particular attention will be given to such issues as the law's authority to compel obedience; the relationship of law and morality; and the concept of justice.

Texts
Most readings will be from the required texts for the course:

- Lloyd’s *Introduction to Jurisprudence*, 8th ed. or later (Sweet & Maxwell)
  [hereinafter: *LIJ*]
- Feinberg & Coleman, *Philosophy of Law*, 8th ed. or later (Thomson - Wadsworth)
  [hereinafter: *F&C*]

Other readings will be distributed from time to time. You may also find it helpful to consult these recommended but not required sources:

  (Thomson - Wadsworth)
- Dickson, Julie, *Evaluation and Legal Theory* (Hart)

Email Discussion List
There is an online discussion group for this class. You will be enrolled automatically, and you can post by replying to the group to continue a discussion thread, or you may introduce a new topic by emailing: law7295gae.201208@gsulaw.gsu.edu

The Grading System Explained
There will not be a final examination. Your grade will be based on a final paper of 12-15 (typed,
Your class participation will also be a factor. I encourage you to begin thinking right away about your paper topic. Ask yourself right now whether in ten weeks time you’re likely to be more interested in

(A) the nature of law (legal positivism, natural law, etc.), legal interpretation (originalism, textualism, constructive interpretation, etc.), and the moral duty to obey the law (philosophical anarchism, fair-play duty, associative obligation, etc.);

or in

(B) moral responsibility (free will, moral luck, desert) as it bears upon criminal law and tort doctrines (mens rea, insanity, duress, attempt, etc.), and the nature and justification of punishment (retributivism, deterrence, rehabilitation, etc.).

There is some overlap between (A) and (B) but not as much as one might assume. Once you’re able to predict, “I’ll like (A) better,” or “I’m for (B),” you’ll be able to narrow your search considerably. There are other topics outside (A) and (B), but they get little class time. A list of suggested topics can be found at: [http://law.gsu.edu/wedmundson/Syllabi/Jurisptopix.pdf](http://law.gsu.edu/wedmundson/Syllabi/Jurisptopix.pdf).

A first draft of your paper will be due on or before the last class meeting before the Thanksgiving break; and the final paper will be due by 5pm of the last day of the examination period. All drafts including the final draft must be in .pdf format and submitted as an e-mail attachment to wedmundson@gsu.edu. Those wishing to satisfy the upper level writing requirement should read and comply with the additional conditions set out in the following section.

**Upper Level Writing Requirement**

If you want your paper to satisfy the upper level writing requirement, you should be aware of this, from the CoL website ([http://law.gsu.edu/resources/ComprehensiveGuide_3L.pdf](http://law.gsu.edu/resources/ComprehensiveGuide_3L.pdf)):

The following guidelines reflect general norms for papers that satisfy the upper level writing requirement. Variations from these norms rest within the discretion of individual faculty members and may be made in accordance with the pedagogical judgment of such faculty members.

1. The minimum maximum page length should be 25 pages, double spaced, excluding footnotes or endnotes....
2. At least One draft should be submitted to the instructor prior to the submission of the final paper.
3. An acceptable paper should reflect thorough research of primary and secondary
Let me add this: to avoid misunderstanding and possible disappointment, those who wish to satisfy the upper level writing requirement in conjunction with this course must declare their intention of doing so on the cover page of their first draft (due no later than TBA) and turn in a final paper complying with the above guidelines. Those who do not so intend may turn in a final paper of 12-15 pages that emphasizes analysis rather than research, or vice versa. Those who seek to satisfy the upper level writing requirement will be expected to exhibit proficiency in both dimensions: research and analysis. Organization, clarity, and appropriate and consistent citation—it should go without saying—are expected of all papers.

Style and length are far less important than substance and intelligibility. The length-obsessed should note that one double-spaced typed page in 12-point Times New Roman runs to approximately 250 words. Thus, a 12-15 page paper comes to about 3000-3750 words. If your word-count is within this range or slightly on either side, do not worry about page length. Above all, please do not “pad” to add length. Those who are seeking to satisfy the writing requirement are encouraged to consider beginning their papers with something like a roadmap or “executive summary.” Please note that I will not read or credit language running beyond 25 pages in any paper, whether or not it is intended to satisfy the writing requirement.

In years past, I have agreed to look at serial preliminary drafts of papers. But this policy tends to encourage procrastination. Therefore, I will read only two drafts: the rough draft due just before Thanksgiving and the final paper due at the end of the exam period. Feel free to speak to me in person or by email as many times as you like before you begin your first draft. Also, feel free to submit your first and your final draft as early as you like if you feel you have reached a resting point before the deadline.

Attendance policy
You are specifically asked not to come to class when you feel sick or someone with whom you are in close contact seems sick. You are also reminded of the following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control:
Because absences due to illness or conflicting family, legal, military or business duties are routinely excused, you are urged NOT to telephone or e-mail me to ask that such an absence be excused.

**University Policies**
The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course: deviations may be necessary. You should be aware of the University Policy on Academic Honesty and the College of Law Honor Code.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities must work directly with the Office of Disability Services (“ODS”) to receive any necessary accommodation pertaining to course requirements. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to coordinate with the ODS, and to do so at the outset of the semester. If you need accommodations in class (note-taking, for example), you may speak with me about that.

**Office Hours**
My office hours are individualized to fit your needs. All e-mail pertaining to the course’s subject matter and procedures should be addressed to: law7295wae.201208@gsulaw.gsu.edu, the discussion list.
**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>Is there a duty to obey the law? <em>F&amp;C</em> 206-40; <em>LIJ</em> 405-08; 574-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>What may the law legitimately require? I. <em>LIJ</em> 409-14; <em>F&amp;C</em> 251-63, 281-91</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>What are rights? <em>LIJ</em> 393-405, 603-12; <em>F&amp;C</em> 347-57; 368-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Torture. <em>F&amp;C</em> 497-529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>What may the law legitimately require? II. <em>F&amp;C</em> 377-408; <em>LIJ</em> 1293-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>What is law? Natural law theories I. <em>LIJ</em> 137-43; 154-58; 192-225</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>What is law? Legal Positivism I. <em>LIJ</em> 291-303; 326-57</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>What is Law? Legal Positivism II. <em>F&amp;C</em> 68-84; <em>LIJ</em> 357-68</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>What is Law? Natural law theories II. <em>LIJ</em> 426-43; 498-509</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Settling what the law is: Legal realism. <em>LIJ</em> 985-1007; <em>F&amp;C</em> 117-33</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Settling what the law is: Interpretation. <em>F&amp;C</em> 151-69; <em>LIJ</em> 760-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Moral and Legal Responsibility. <em>F&amp;C</em> 624-29; Greene and Cohen handout*</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>The Nature of Punishment. <em>F&amp;C</em> 629-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>The Death Penalty. Edmundson handout**</td>
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Deviations from this schedule are bound to occur.