University of Tübingen - Faculty of Law

Courses taught in English, Winter Semester 2016/17

Legal Studies/ Law – Staatsexamen – Bachelor

Course title: American Criminal Law & Contemporary Debates
Link: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142196](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142196)
Course type: Lecture
Contact hours: 2
Course coordinator: Matthew James Farr
Target audience
ab 3. Semester

Course description
Groups In America, law school classes are traditionally taught using something called the case method. This is where students read cases, mostly written by appellate courts, to learn the law. Cases are useful because you see how courts interpret the Constitution, statutes, or past precedent with a unique set of facts to apply the rules to. In our common law system judges have a tremendous amount of power to make and interpret the law. As such, what “the holding” in a case is matters a great deal to practicing lawyers who may be faced with a similar factual scenario in a later case. It’s common for law students to read 20-30 pages a night for a particular law school class. The next day in class the student will be asked—at random—by the professor to answer questions about the case. Often students are given hypotheticals by the professor to try and apply the holding in that case to a new fictional scenario. At first this can be somewhat uncomfortable for students to speak in front of the class and be questioned by the professor. It’s certainly more uncomfortable if they have not read the assigned materials. First year law students often do read all of the material and come in very well prepared to speak on it. Students in the later years often pretend to have read it but in reality just read case briefs or something they find on Google. In our class we will prevent this charade by keeping the reading minimal, and the conversation friendly and informal. We’ll accomplish that goal by dividing the class into groups of 4-5 students each. I will assign students that are responsible for a case the reading in advance. The entire class will be responsible for the reading but only the group I have chosen will have to speak about it in class. Reading I’ll be maintaining a tumblr account [http://americancriminallaw.tumblr.com](http://americancriminallaw.tumblr.com) for the course as a way to disseminate readings, links, videos etc. I’ll post something for each class that will very closely parallel the things I say in class. Additionally, I will distribute any assigned reading via email. Full United States Supreme Court opinions often run over 50 pages, we will not read anything close to full opinions (and American law students do not either.) Instead, the cases are shortened just to include the important points. Sometimes we will read law review articles as well. American law journals, often called "law reviews," are the scholarly publications produced by law schools. They feature articles written by professors and other luminaries in the legal profession, sometimes we will read excerpts of law review articles pertinent to subjects we discuss in class. Occasionally we will also read articles from popular media. Attendance and Class Participation Attendance and class participation are mandatory. I don’t intend to lecture for two hours at a time. I want to have a discussion with each of you and encourage discussion with each other. Ideally, we can respectfully debate the issues that cases and doctrine present. As such, what I would request is that if you are going to need to miss a class you email me in advance. I understand that life happens and emergencies can occur. I promise that I will be reasonable; if you do need to miss class come speak with me and we will work something out. Class Schedule 

Additional information
[http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/cz/listen](http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/cz/listen)
Course title: Introduction to US American Law  
Link: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e143780](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e143780)  
Course type: Lecture  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Marla Weston  
Target audience  
ab 3. Semester  
Course description  
This course focuses on US-American legal processes, US state and federal statements of law (including court-made and statutory law), learning how to discover and interpret US law and understanding how US lawyers think about and work with the law. The course is conducted using a Socratic (question & answer) teaching style. This course meets the requirements of § 9 Abs. 1 Nr. 3 JAPrO 2002 ("fremdsprachige rechtswissenschaftliche Veranstaltung"): [http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/studium/flv](http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/studium/flv)  
Please refer to [https://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/professoren_und_dozenten/weston/lehrveranstaltungen/intro-to-us-law-ws-2016-17/index_html](https://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/professoren_und_dozenten/weston/lehrveranstaltungen/intro-to-us-law-ws-2016-17/index_html) for further details.  
Additional information  
[http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/cz/listen](http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/cz/listen)

Course title: The American Presidency  
Link: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e143779](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e143779)  
Course type: Lecture  
Contact hours:  
Course coordinator: M.A. Lucas Ogden  
Target audience  
ab 3. Semester  
Course description  
On November 8, Americans will vote for the next president. In this exciting compact lecture we will complete an overview of the Constitution of the United States with a special focus on the office of president. How is the president elected and why do Americans have such a complicated system? What possibilities are there for reform? How has the American presidency changed and developed from George Washington to Barack Obama? How can a president be removed from office? Just how much power does the president really have and how can this power be abused? These and other questions will be addressed. After the election, we will also discuss its significance and the tactics used to win, as well as the likely challenges and concerns in trans-Atlantic relations to be faced over the next four years. This course fulfills the requirement for a foreign language law course in Tübingen.

Course title: The ‘unwritten’ British constitution  
Link: [http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142197](http://campus.uni-tuebingen.de/20162e142197)  
Course type: Lecture  
Contact hours: 2  
Course coordinator: Fabian Düssel  
Target audience  
geeignet ab 3. Semester  
Course description  
This course aims to give a general introduction to UK public law, focusing especially on the concept of the UK’s un-codified constitution, which is a rarity in this day and age. Students will thus also be introduced to the basics of the English legal system. Due to the UK’s imperial past, English common law forms, to different degrees, the basis of various national legal systems around the world, including the Commonwealth countries and important global economic centres such as the USA, Hong Kong and Singapore. This course meets the requirements of § 9 Abs. 1 Nr. 3 JAPrO 2002 ("fremdsprachige rechtswissenschaftliche Veranstaltung"): [http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/studium/flv](http://www.jura.uni-tuebingen.de/studium/flv)