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## Introduction and general administration

This Handbook is a guide for students for the BCL and MJur. There are separate Handbooks for students of the Faculty's other postgraduate courses (MLF, DPhil, MSt Legal Research, DPhil and MSt, Socio-legal Research). Please bear the following in mind in using this Handbook:

- The Handbook provides a guide to the rules for each degree programme, but in case of any conflict, the *University of Oxford Examinations Regulations* (published in the "Grey Book") prevail. Amendments to the Regulations are published in the *University of Oxford Gazette* and updated in the online version of the Examination Regulations, so the online version is therefore the most up to date. The online regulations for BCL/MJur can be found at [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/29-64\\_Special\\_Regulations.shtml#subtitle\\_0](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/29-64_Special_Regulations.shtml#subtitle_0)
- You can find a great deal of further information (in particular, information about members of the Faculty and their work) on the Law Faculty website:
- The Law Faculty Office communicates with students by way of messages to the Law Postgrads e-mail list, and we expect you to be reading those messages more-or-less daily.
- You are a member of a college as well as a student of the University. Your college will provide much of the support and many of the facilities you will need as a student, and will be able to provide you with information.
- There is a glossary of Oxford terminology at the end of the Handbook.

Mindy Chen-Wishart

Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses

## The role of the Faculty, College, and University

Students taking law programmes at Oxford are members of their college, of Oxford University generally, and of the University's Law Faculty.

At graduate level, it is the Faculty which plays the principal role in organising student's teaching and supervision, and monitoring their academic progress. It consists of all college and University staff who are involved in the teaching of law. Its members meet regularly to discuss its affairs. There are also subject groups within the Faculty consisting of members with a particular interest in the various subjects. The Faculty is led by the Dean, who also serves as the Chair of the Faculty Board. The Faculty holds annual elections of its members to the Faculty Board, which takes an executive role on behalf of the Faculty. The Board has a number of committees. Students are also represented on it and on some of its committees, such as the Graduate Studies Committee (see the section on Student Representation in the 'Feedback' section elsewhere in this handbook for further details). The Faculty Board has a Chair and a Vice-Chair, and includes a Director of Undergraduate Studies, a Director of Graduate Studies (research degrees) and a Director of Graduate Studies (taught degrees). Further information about the precise roles of students, course convenors and supervisors are provided in the teaching and learning section further into this handbook.

Colleges provide support of a more pastoral nature, through the college advisor, as well as accommodation and meals, sports, social, and welfare facilities. They normally have IT facilities, and a college library, with a collection of law books sufficient for most undergraduate needs. The colleges describe their arrangements and facilities in their entries in the Oxford University prospectus (many also have their own prospectus), and, in much more detail, in the material which they supply to their own students.

The University contributes the overall academic structure within which the various programmes run (it is responsible for defining syllabuses, for example, and running official examinations). It also provides sports, welfare, careers, language teaching and IT facilities. It describes its arrangements and facilities on the University website (and in particular the information under the 'Oxford students' link on the homepage), and, in more detail, in the literature which students receive upon or after entry, such as the Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum.

## Key Contacts

For the most part, your key contacts will be your college tutors and administrators. However, on occasion you may have a need to contact the Faculty, in which case the principal contacts are

Mindy Chen-Wishart	Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses	<a href="mailto:mindy.chen-wishart@law.ox.ac.uk">mindy.chen-wishart@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	276358
Caroline Norris Marianne Biese	Administration Officers	<a href="mailto:graduate.enquiries@law.ox.ac.uk">graduate.enquiries@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	271491
Paul Burns	Academic Administrator	<a href="mailto:paul.burns@law.ox.ac.uk">paul.burns@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	271495
Geraldine Malloy	Graduate Studies Administrator	<a href="mailto:geraldine.malloy@law.ox.ac.uk">geraldine.malloy@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	271496

Mindy is based in Merton College, where she also serves as Senior Law Tutor, while Paul, Marianne and Caroline have offices in the St Cross Building. As a general rule, you should in the first instance direct queries to Paul or Marianne. They can then relay them to Rebecca if the matter in question requires her involvement. Geraldine is primarily involved with matters relating to graduate research

students but you may have cause to contact her, particularly if you are seeking to progress to MPhil or DPhil after the BCL/MJur.

There are various other members of the Faculty and of its administrative staff whom you might have cause to contact at one point or another:

Timothy Endicott	Dean of the Faculty	<a href="mailto:Timothy.Endicott@law.ox.ac.uk">Timothy.Endicott@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	277754
Alan Bogg	Director of Graduate Studies for Research students	<a href="mailto:Alan.Bogg@law.ox.ac.uk">Alan.Bogg@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	279448
Charlotte Vinnicombe	Head of Administration	<a href="mailto:Charlotte.Vinnicombe@law.ox.ac.uk">Charlotte.Vinnicombe@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	271560
Maureen O'Neill	Director of Development	<a href="mailto:Maureen.ONeill@law.ox.ac.uk">Maureen.ONeill@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	281198
Emma Gascoigne	Personnel Officer	<a href="mailto:Emma.Gascoigne@law.ox.ac.uk">Emma.Gascoigne@law.ox.ac.uk</a>	281622

### The Administrative Structure of the Faculty

From a Graduate student perspective, the elements of the administrative structure which it is useful for you to be familiar with are the following:

#### Graduate Studies Committee

The principal body responsible for making decisions on graduate matters is the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), which meets in Weeks One and Six each term. Its membership is made up of Faculty members with particular interests in graduate studies, and student representatives for each graduate law course and for the MSc in Criminology (see Student Representation under the Feedback section below for more information about how student representatives are appointed and on what bodies they serve). GSC is chaired by the two Directors of Graduate Studies (taught and research) to whom the Committee delegates certain responsibilities.

#### Law Faculty Board

On certain matters, GSC has the power to act autonomously; on others, it makes recommendations to the Law Faculty Board which is the governing body of the Law Faculty. The Law Board includes the Directors of Graduate Studies; most other members are elected from the Faculty, and student representatives attend its meetings. The Law Board is responsible for administering and overseeing all teaching and examining in the Faculty, and for facilitating legal research. It meets twice a term in second and seventh weeks, and in the fifth week of the Summer vacation.

#### Social Sciences Division/University Education Committee

Whilst the Law Board has authority to make decisions about most student-related matters, or delegate those decisions to GSC, there are certain occasions on which it is required to seek approval from one of the Committees of the Social Sciences Division which itself may then need to refer the matter to the University Education Committee (a typical example would be the introduction of a new BCL/MJur option).

#### Other Committees

The MLF has its own management committee which meets twice a term and reports to GSC, and there is a Committee for Library Provision which deals with matters relating to the functioning of the Bodleian Law Library. There are also a number of Faculty committees which deal with matters less directly associated with graduate student concerns (Planning and Resource Committee, Development Committee, Appointments Committee).

## Administrative Officers

The Faculty's Head of Administration (Charlotte Vinnicombe) is responsible for day-to-day administration of faculty activities and the Law Faculty Office and there are five individuals with responsibilities for different aspects of graduate student administration: the Academic Administrator (Paul Burns) is responsible for day-to-day administration of academic affairs for graduate (and undergraduate) students; the Graduate Studies Administrator (Geraldine Malloy) is responsible for administration of student status and progression through the degree programmes; the MLF Course Administrator (Kate Blanshard) is responsible for all matters pertaining to MLF students; and the Student Administration Officers (Caroline Norris and Marianne Biese) are responsible for student-related events and general course administration. Paul Burns and Geraldine Malloy can offer general advice to graduate students across all courses.

## The Law Faculty and the St Cross Building

The Faculty's physical location is the St Cross Building, on the corner of St Cross Road and Manor Road (see <http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/about/location.php> for further directions).

It houses the Faculty's administrative offices, including the Faculty Office in which Caroline and Marianne are based and from where you can pick up lecture lists and other documentation. To find the Faculty Office, follow the flight of steps up the outside of the building to the second landing and go through the sliding door on your right (the Faculty Office is the first office on the right).

It also houses the Faculty's principal lecture and seminar rooms – the Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, the White and Case lecture theatre, the Cube, and Seminar Rooms C-G. You will see these venues mentioned on the lecture list (see below for further details).

At the top of the building is the Bodleian Law Library. As well as holding the library's collection of legal texts, it also houses the Freshfields IT Room and the Baker & McKenzie room – an additional seminar room. Further information about the Library is provided in the section of this handbook entitled 'Support'.

## Induction events

Registration for BCL and MJur students with the Faculty begins on Monday 29 September. Induction events then run through the remainder of that week and Week 0 of Michaelmas Term (beginning Monday 6 October). The timetable for these events at the time of going to press is as follows: however please refer to the Weblearn page at <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/law/subjects/induction> for the latest version of this timetable.

Tuesday 30 September

09.30 – 10.30	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
09.30 – 11.00	Lexis Library Training	Library IT Room	
10.00 – 14.00	Registration	Senior Common Room	
10.00 – 12.00	Getting started for BCL/MJur	Freshfields Room	
10.00 – 11.30	Common Law Sources	Law Board Room	
11.00 – 12.00	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
11.00 – 12.30	Westlaw Training	Library IT Room	
13.45 – 15.15	Lexis Library Training	Library IT Room	



14.00 – 15.30	How to succeed in the MJur 1	Gulbenkian	Professor J Gardner
14.00 – 15.00	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
14.00 – 16.00	Getting started for BCL/MJur (laptop)	The Cube	
14.00 – 15.30	EU Legal Sources	Law Board Room	
15.30 – 16.30	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
15.30 – 17.00	Westlaw Training	Library IT Room	

Wednesday 1 October

09.30 – 10.30	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
09.30 – 11.00	Lexis Library Training	Library IT Room	
10.00 – 14.00	Registration	Senior Common Room	
10.00 – 12.00	Getting started for BCL/MJur	Freshfields Room	
10.00-11.00	A Primer in EU Law 1	Gulbenkian	Dr A Goldbeck-Stier
10.00 – 11.30	Common Law Sources	Law Board Room	
11.00 – 12.00	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
11.00 – 12.30	Westlaw Training	Library IT Room	
13.45 – 15.15	Lexis Library Training	Library IT Room	
14.00 – 15.30	How to succeed in the MJur 2	Gulbenkian	Professor J Gardner
14.00 – 15.00	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
14.00 – 16.00	Getting started for BCL/MJur (laptop)	The Cube	
14.00 – 15.30	EU Legal Sources	Law Board Room	
15.30 – 16.30	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
15.30 – 17.00	Westlaw Training	Library IT Room	

Thursday 2 October

9.00-10.00*	A Primer in EU Law 2*	Gulbenkian	Dr A Goldbeck-Stier
10.00 – 14.00	Registration	Senior Common Room	
14.00 – 15.30	How to succeed in the MJur 3	Gulbenkian	Professor J Gardner

Friday 3 October

09.30 – 10.30	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
10.00 – 14.00	Registration	Senior Common Room	
10.00 – 12.00	Getting started for BCL/MJur (Laptop)	The Cube	
11.00 – 12.00	Bod Law Library Tour	Library Foyer	
14.00-15.30	Official welcome for BCL, MJur and new research students	Gulbenkian	
15.30-17.00	Drinks for all new postgrad students	University Club	

\*To be confirmed (if the time of this lecture changes, students will be informed by email)

## Monday 6 October

10.00 – 12.00	Getting started for research students	Freshfields Room	
10.00-11.00	A Primer in EU Law 3	Gulbenkian	Dr A Goldbeck-Stier
11.00-12.30	Common Law for Civil Lawyers	Gulbenkian	Professor S Vogenauer
14.00-15.30	EU Legal Sources	Law Board Room	
12.00-13.00	Research Students Lunch	Senior Common Room	
13.00-17.30	Research Students Orientation	The Cube	
17.30-18.30	Research Students Drinks	Senior Common Room	

## Tuesday 7 October

09.00-5.00	Taster Lectures	Gulbenkian	
12.20-14.00	Lunch for BCL&MJur students	The University Club	

## Friday 10 October

09.00-1	Divisional Graduate induction events (Research students 9-10.30, taught course students 11-12.30)	Gulbenkian	
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## The lecture list

The lecture list is published at the beginning of each term. It may be accessed at [www.law.ox.ac.uk/lecture\\_lists](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/lecture_lists). Corrections and changes to the timetable are also provided on that web page, and notified to students by e-mail as and when they occur. Please **please check this link regularly** – inevitably there are occasions when lectures are cancelled or rescheduled and information about such changes is put on this page as soon as it is available.

You are entitled to attend any lectures, classes and seminars except those where it is otherwise indicated on the lecture list. The list includes lectures and seminars designed for the undergraduate, BCL, MJur, and MSc syllabuses, and also for the Course in Legal Research Method. Lectures on the undergraduate (“Final Honours School”) sections of the lecture list may be useful to graduate students; it is best to consult your supervisor or college advisor for advice.

All the faculties publish lecture lists and you may attend lectures in other faculties. There is also a “Special Lecture List”, listing lectures by visiting speakers. The law lectures may take place anywhere in Oxford, but most are held in the St. Cross Building.

## Student Self-Service

Student self-service provides web access to important information that you will need throughout your academic career. You are able to register, view and update your personal and academic information throughout your studies at Oxford. For further information, see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/studentselfservice/>

## Academic Dress

The full regulations concerning academic dress can be found at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/48-012.shtml> However, we would suggest you refer to information which will be provided by your college as this is likely to be more accessible.

## Residence Requirements

The full regulations concerning residence can be found at

[http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/05-00\\_REGULATIONS\\_FOR\\_RESIDENCE\\_IN\\_THE\\_UNIVERSITY.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/05-00_REGULATIONS_FOR_RESIDENCE_IN_THE_UNIVERSITY.shtml)

The basic requirement you need to be aware of is that you are expected to be in residence for the eight weeks of each academic term.

## Dates of Term

Information about term dates can be found at:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/facts-and-figures/dates-of-term>

## Key dates and deadlines

6 October: taster lectures

10 October: deadline for sign-up for BCL/MJur options

7 November 2014: deadline for submission of exam entry form (see entry on entering for examinations in section entitled 'Assessment' later in this handbook).

24 April 2015: deadline for submission of essays for those taking the Jurisprudence and Political Theory option

29 May 2015 deadline for submission of dissertations

Saturday 20 June 2015 (provisional date, to be confirmed): start of BCL/MJur examinations

## Oxford Students website

For general information about all aspects of student life- academic matters, fees, social activities, health and welfare, please refer to the University's webpage 'Oxford Students' at

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students>

This is a very useful resource, covering information from all sorts of areas of the University's activities and is a good starting point if you have queries on almost any subject which doesn't pertain specifically to the Law Faculty itself. For more information about other useful University resources, please refer to the sections on Facilities and Support that appear later in this handbook.

## Visa Information

For information about all matters relating to visas, please refer in the first instance to the webpage at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa>

## Working whilst studying

The BCL and MJur are very intensive courses which make great demands on students' time. Consequently, the Faculty regards it as inadvisable for BCL and MJur students do undertake any paid work for the duration of those courses and will not employ such students as research assistants. The University's guidelines permit PGT students to work for up to eight hours per week; graduate students from beyond the EU undertaking paid work should be aware of the regulations regarding work-permits (see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/ps/managers/appoint/permits/index.shtml> . for further details - there is a link on the right of the page entitled Employing Overseas Students which is the most directly relevant).

## Funding opportunities

General information about funding – including details of fees and potential sources of funding, can be found on the University webpages at [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/fees\\_and\\_funding/index.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/fees_and_funding/index.html)

The Law Faculty also has its own scholarships and has awarded over £190,000 to postgraduate students for 2014-15. Details of these scholarships and of college scholarships for which law students are eligible can be found at:

<http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/postgraduate/scholarships.php> . The Graduate Studies Administrator or Academic Administrator can also advise.

## Graduate Prizes

There are a number of named prizes available for BCL and MJur students; the list reads as follows:

Vinerian Scholarship – for best performance in the BCL

Clifford Chance Prize for best performance in the MJur

Allen and Overy Prize in Corporate Finance Law

Allen and Overy Prize in Corporate Insolvency Law

Clifford Chance Civil Procedure prize

Gray's Inn Chambers Prize Personal Taxation

Herbert Hart Prize in Jurisprudence and Political Theory

John Morris Prize in Conflict of Laws

KMPG Prize in Corporate Tax Law and Policy

Monckton Prize in Competition Law

Peter Birks Prize in Restitution of Unjust Enrichment

Ralph Chiles CBE Award in Human Rights

Rupert Cross Prize in Evidence

Winter Williams Prize in European Business Regulation

Winter Williams Prize in International Economic Law

There is also a Law Faculty prize for the best performance in each option not covered by one of the named prizes listed above.

## The Course

### The aims of the BCL and MJur

The BCL and MJur degree programmes aim to:

- bring students into advanced intellectual engagement with some of the most difficult issues in law and legal theory, an engagement distinguished by rigour, depth and conceptual sophistication, and requiring immersion in law as an academic discipline as well as informed openness to neighbouring disciplines;
- raise students to the highest level of professionalism in analysis and argument, equipping them intellectually for legal practice or work as a legal academic at the highest level, as well as for a wide range of other intellectually demanding roles;
- constitute an intense learning experience characterised by a demanding schedule of independent study, highly participative round-table seminars, and a complementary diet of close individual or small-group contact with tutors.
- (MJur only) give students from non-common-law backgrounds an opportunity to explore some of the distinctive methods, practices and doctrines of the common law.

**Note:** Details of how these aims are pursued are in the programme specifications available at: [denning.law.ox.ac.uk/published/documents.shtml](http://denning.law.ox.ac.uk/published/documents.shtml)

### Teaching arrangements

Teaching for each BCL and MJur course option is provided by the following means:

**Seminars:** Seminars are organised at Faculty level and are open to all students taking the BCL/MJur courses and (in general) to any other interested postgraduate student from the law faculty or beyond. Many seminars are convened jointly by two or three members of the relevant subject group. Some seminars have a tradition of attracting senior academic visitors and research students in addition to BCL and MJur students. Some attract postgraduate students from other faculties (e.g. politics, philosophy). Such intellectual and international cross-pollinations are welcomed and encouraged by many subject groups. In some courses there is one core seminar series closely corresponding to the syllabus; in others the syllabus is covered by a selection of different seminar series from which the students take their pick according to interest and intended intellectual emphasis. BCL/MJur students taking some interdisciplinary courses are encouraged to attend seminars in other relevant faculties. Every BCL/MJur seminar series is accompanied by published reading lists that are used by students in preparing for the seminars and in organising their study. Many students use the seminar reading lists as starting points for their own self-prescribed research and reading, rather than regarding the listed materials as sufficient for real mastery of the subject. However the listed materials in each course do represent the level and range of materials which the examiners are entitled to expect the students to have mastered.

At a seminar – typically one-and-a-half to two hours long - the topic will be introduced by one of the conveners, or one of the students, or sometimes an invited speaker. There will then ensue detailed and intense questioning and argument involving, so far as possible, the whole group. Depending on the course, seminars range in size from a handful to upwards of 40 participants. Conveners allow seminars to develop in a more orchestrated or spontaneous way depending on the size of the group and the nature of the material or ideas under discussion.

**Tutorials:** In Oxford, a tutorial is a meeting lasting at least one hour and often 90 minutes, at which a single member of the subject group meets with between one and five students. The tutorial system is the second major teaching/learning component of the BCL/MJur programme. In view of the

extensive diet of seminars, BCL/MJur tutorials do not generally provide full coverage of the course: instead, the two methods of course delivery complement one another – the tutorial demanding in-depth scrutiny of a particular aspect or aspects of a field of law that have been covered in more general terms through a seminar.

Students are usually invited to nominate around four topics for tutorial discussion, typically using the seminar reading lists as the basis of preparation. Each selected tutorial topic is also typically associated with an essay question or a legal problem question (or a choice of such questions) suggested by the tutor, which might be drawn from a past examination paper or specially devised. Students will normally write an essay or problem answer for each tutorial, which is then used as the basis for tutorial discussion.

Often, although not always, tutorials are provided at or near the end of the seminar provision for the year so as to allow for consolidation and revision. **Please note that tutorials are an absolutely crucial part of the course and you are expected both to ensure that you are free to attend them at the times agreed with your tutors and to submit written work for the tutorials as required by your tutors.**

**Lectures:** Lectures are typically less central to the learning experience of BCL/MJur students than that of their undergraduate counterparts. However lectures are more often provided in those BCL/MJur courses in which there is a great deal of new legal information to master.

MJur students who have chosen to take an option from the undergraduate course will typically attend lectures relating to that option, but more generally, all BCL and MJur students are welcome to, and often do, attend undergraduate lectures to update and refresh their basic knowledge in subject areas in which they are now working at a more advanced level. Some BCL/MJur students also attend lectures in other faculties to assist with their grasp of neighbouring academic disciplines.

The number and mix of seminars, tutorials, and lectures varies from option to option, but in most cases, students can expect that any given option will involve something in the region of eight to sixteen seminars and/or lectures and four to six tutorials. There are one or two exceptions but in these cases, a balance will be struck between seminars and tutorials (i.e. an option involving more tutorials will involve less seminars).

Details of the various lectures and seminars (but not tutorials) offered by the Faculty can be found in the termly lecture list, available through your college or on the Faculty website (please note that timings may occasionally vary from term to term – for example a seminar series that runs on Thursdays in Michaelmas Term may run on Tuesdays in Hilary Term, though this is relatively unusual).

Information about the subjects available in the BCL and MJur (and the permissible combinations of subjects) is given at a later point in this section.

## Timetable

Because the BCL and MJur comprise approximately 35 options, from which students can take any combination of four, it is not possible to present a single timetable applicable to all students, but it is possible to give some general guidelines about the timing of seminars and tutorials. The standard model employed by most options is as follows:

- A programme of seminars (typically two-hour sessions every week of term) during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms
- One tutorial in Michaelmas Term and further tutorials in Hilary and Trinity terms
- A revision class or classes during Trinity term

Some options will supplement the seminars with lectures as noted in the section on teaching above.

## How to register/change your BCL/MJur option preferences

You register for your choice of courses using the Faculty's online registration system (further details of the exact process will be emailed to you during Week 0g). Registration takes place from 5 pm on Tuesday of Week 1 (at the end of the taster lectures) through to noon on Friday of Week 1. It is possible to change courses later (any time up to the end of week 4, when you submit your examination entry form through your college) but changing your course choice after week 1 will incur the risk of additional timetable clashes in Hilary Term or Trinity Term, as well as the risk of a less satisfactory examination timetable. Changes will also only be possible providing there is space for additional students in the option you wish to join.

In exceptional circumstances, it is possible to change your options after week 4 of Michaelmas Term. If you need to do this, you should contact the Academic Administrator ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)) who will explain the relevant procedures. Please note that changes of course after the Friday of the First Week of Hilary Term are prohibited.

## Course requirements and permitted combinations of courses

If you are a BCL student, you must take any four options from List 1, or three options from List 1 and a dissertation (subject to the rules below):

If you are an MJur student, you may take either

- (i) Any four options from list 1
- (ii) Three options from List 1 and one option from list 2
- (iii) Three options from List 1 and a dissertation (subject to the rules below)
- (iv) Two options from list 1, one option from list 2, and a dissertation

The timetable for BCL/MJur teaching is crowded and some combinations of courses are impossible. The impossible combinations have been chosen to minimise the number of students typically affected. You can find the latest list of incompatible courses at

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/law/subjects>

(then click on 'List of Lecture and Seminar clashes')

## List 1 – options available to both BCL and MJur students

The following options are available to both BCL and MJur students. The symbol \* next to the course title indicates courses for which a prior knowledge of the relevant aspects of common law is



necessary/desirable – MJur students are advised that they should familiarise themselves with those aspects of Common law underpinning the subjects in question if they do wish to take these options.

### **Advanced Property and Trusts**

The course explores the foundations of the institutions of property and trusts. It combines conceptual and functional analysis of doctrine with more abstract theoretical enquiry. Ideas and perspectives are drawn from moral and political philosophy, history, and economics, as well as more formally legal, comparative and jurisprudential analyses. Some knowledge of the legal details of property in one or other legal system will be essential for students taking the course. A common-law background is not a prerequisite; much use will be made of English law and other common law systems, but we will also draw upon civilian legal systems in our explorations. The course gives students an opportunity to study fundamental institutions of private law with wide ramifications in the social sciences and humanities. Students will be exposed to the widest possible range of research and teaching in property law and trusts drawing on visiting scholars as well as Oxford faculty. The topics discussed are all ripe for exploration as areas of future research.

The course will divide into three areas: A. Boundaries of Property (conceptual and functional analysis of property) B. Justifying Property (mainstream and novel defences and critiques of property) C. The Trust (the distinctive contribution of trust and fiduciary institutions in blurring the lines between proprietary and personal claims; trust systems in common law and civilian jurisdictions)

The course will be taught by means of seminars supplemented by lectures and tutorials, led by Joshua Getzler, Simon Douglas, The Hon J Dyson Heydon, and Alexandra Braun. The core seminars are spread over Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Students will be provided with course materials accessible through the internet and the intranet, together with material in university and college libraries. Students will explore the reading materials and address a set of thematic questions, on which they will be asked to prepare brief notes. In approximately the fourth and eighth weeks of Michaelmas and Hilary terms seminars and lectures will be augmented with tutorials; in those four weeks students will be asked to prepare essays on given topics and meet in small groups with the teachers for debate and discussion. Each student will thus have the opportunity to take a set of up to four tutorials in the midst of their seminar learning across the first two terms. In Trinity Term students will be given the opportunity to consolidate their learning in occasional seminars where they will take the lead in discussion and in presenting topics, with extra readings supplied to help with deeper exploration of issues. The tutorials and third-term seminars will assist students in preparing for assessment.

Assessment will take the form of a three hour written examination at the end of the course. Candidates will be required to answer three essay questions from a wide choice of topics, which may cut across themes covered in the course. Candidates will be expected to show a detailed knowledge of relevant theoretical debates and also applicable legal materials, including judgments in cases, and statutory and constitutional provisions. They will also need to display an ability to synthesise complex materials and to present their own analysis of the arguments.

The course is taught mainly by: Joshua Getzler, Professor of Law and Legal History, Fellow of St Hugh's College; Simon Douglas, Associate Professor of Law, Fellow of Jesus College; Alexandra Braun, Associate Professor of Law, Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall; and The Hon J Dyson Heydon, Visiting Professor of Law, Honorary Fellow of Keble College.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the theoretical and practical dimensions of the law of property and trusts including philosophical and historical perspectives as well as doctrinal legal analysis.

### **Commercial Remedies\***

This course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of remedies in a commercial context, interpreting that phrase in a wide sense. So it will cover remedies for civil wrongs (ie, breach of contract, tort and equitable wrongs) but will exclude any direct consideration of damages for personal injury and death. The course will build on knowledge which all law undergraduates ought to have and, in some areas, will enable students to look in greater depth at matters dealt with at undergraduate level. The approach will be avowedly traditional in that the focus will be on case analysis and doctrine. As with the Restitution of Unjust Enrichment course, with which this will dovetail, the anticipation is that developments at the cutting edge of the law will be constantly debated. An important and novel aspect of the course will be to discuss alongside remedies for the common law wrongs of breach of contract and torts, remedies for the equitable wrongs, such as breach of fiduciary duty.

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive understanding of remedies for civil wrongs in a commercial context.

### **Comparative Corporate Law**

The course consists of a comparative study of major areas of the company laws of the UK, continental Europe (in particular, Germany) and the United States as well as an assessment of the work done by the European Union in the field of company law.

The three areas or jurisdictions selected for comparative study have, collectively, had a very significant impact on the development of company law throughout the world. An understanding of these thus assists students in understanding both the content of, and influences upon, many others. The approach taken is both functional and comparative, looking at a series of core problems with which any system of corporate law must deal, and analysing, from a functional perspective, the solutions adopted by the systems in question. The course seeks to situate these solutions in the underlying concepts and assumptions of the chosen systems, as these often provide an explanation for divergences. To this end, the course begins with a contextual overview of 'systems' of corporate governance, which material is then applied in the following seminars on more substantive topics. Such a comparative study is intended to enable students to see their own system of company law in a new and more meaningful light, and to be able to form new views about its future development. Finally, a study of the ways in which the European Union is developing company law within its boundaries is also important, not only as illustrating, by a review of the harmonisation programme, the benefits to be derived from a comparative study in practice, but also because it shows new ways in which corporate vehicles can be developed to meet particular policy objectives.

The course assumes students have knowledge of the basic structure of corporate laws, such as would be gained from an undergraduate course (regardless of jurisdiction). MJur students who have previously studied company law in another jurisdiction may find it helpful to take Company Law at the same time.

The teaching group comprises Professor J Armour, Dr WG Ringe and Ms J Payne. Teaching consists of a combination of lectures, seminars, and tutorials. Guest lectures by visiting academics may also be given at various points.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the operation of corporate law in the UK, US, and EU, and a capacity to apply that knowledge to other jurisdictions.

### **Comparative Equality Law**

The right to equality is ubiquitous in human rights instruments in jurisdictions throughout the world. Yet the meaning of equality and non-discrimination are contested. Is equality formal or substantive, and if the latter, what does substantive equality entail? Which groups should be protected from discrimination and how do we decide? How do we capture conceptualisations of equality in legal terms and when should equality give way to other priorities, such as conflicting freedoms or cost? The aim of this course is examine these and other key issues through the prism of comparative law. Given the growing exchange of ideas across different jurisdictions, the comparative technique is a valuable analytic tool to illuminate this field. At the same time, the course pays attention to the importance of social, legal and historical context to the development of legal concepts and their impact.

The first half of the course approaches the subject thematically, while the second half of the course addresses individual grounds, ending with a consideration of remedial structures. Theory is integrated throughout the course, and the relationship between grounds of discrimination and other human rights is explored. The course will be predominantly based on materials from the US, Canada, South Africa, India, the UK, EU, and ECHR, although some materials from other Commonwealth countries or individual European countries will be included. International human rights instruments are also examined. Employment related discrimination is generally dealt with in the International and European Employment Law course. The course does not require previous knowledge of equality or discrimination law.

The course is taught by a series of 14 seminars, in MT and HT. There will be a tutorial at the end of each term and two further tutorials in TT. A series of guest seminars will be arranged throughout the year, but particularly in TT. The course is taught by Professor Sandra Fredman, Dr Tarunabh Khaitan, and Dr Barbara Havelkova. Justice Kate O'Regan (one of the first justices on the South African Constitutional Court) will give a series of seminars in TT.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of theoretical concepts of equality, and of practical applications in different jurisdictions and comparative elements??

### **Comparative Human Rights**

The course involves a study of human rights drawing on legal materials primarily (though not exclusively) from the United Kingdom, the United States, the Commonwealth and Europe. The course considers the meaning of particular human rights and their significance in theory and in practice, and the approaches taken by the legal institutions designed to protect them at the national and European regional levels, including those of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Union. A number of specific substantive issues (most notably, freedom of speech and protection from discrimination) are studied in depth to illustrate the complex interplay between theory, legal concepts and procedure, and between legal and non-legal sources of protection.

Teaching for this subject comprises of seminars and tutorials. In general the seminars aim to encourage extensive class participation and extended high-level discussion of particular topics of importance. Tutorials provide the opportunity to write essays and discuss essay and examination technique. The course as a whole aims to contribute to the legal education of the student by providing the opportunity for comparative study, during which the appropriateness and utility of comparative legal techniques will be considered.

Teaching is in the form of a two-hour seminar which runs each week during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of theoretical concepts of human rights and of how those concepts relate to legal concepts and are applied in different jurisdictions.

### **Comparative Public Law**

Judicial protection against unlawful (and sometimes lawful) legislative and administrative acts or rules is of concern to individuals and companies in a variety of contexts. This course covers the central aspects of procedural and substantive judicial review under the public law of England, France and the European Union. The course will consider these issues against the constitutional framework which exists in the three systems. Throughout the course the emphasis will be on making comparisons between the different systems. To facilitate this each of the topics studied will be analysed within the same week's work.

The principal course objective is to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law in this area, and to be able to discuss at an advanced level elements of public law as they are evolving in England, France, and in the EU.

It is possible to undertake the course exclusively on the basis of English language materials, but the ability to read French is an advantage, since some of the secondary sources on French law are only available in the French language. There are, however, translations of the French case law used in the course.

Advice on this and other aspects of the course is available from the course convenor, Professor P Craig (St. Johns College). The course is taught by Professor P Craig and Dr A Young.

Teaching is primarily through lectures and seminars in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Tutorials will be available in Trinity Term. The structure of the course is as follows. In Michaelmas Term there will be lectures which deal with the central aspects of procedural and substantive review in the three systems. The lectures are designed to lay the foundations for seminar discussion that will take place in Hilary Term, and the first half of Trinity Term. The lectures and seminars will cover the following topics: the constitutional foundations of the three systems; procedural review; review for jurisdictional error; improper purposes; irrationality; proportionality; legitimate expectations; equality; and fundamental rights; damages actions, including damages for losses caused by lawful governmental action.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of public law of England, France, and the EU within the context of their respective constitutions and a capacity to make comparisons between aspects of/developments in the law within each of these entities.

### **Competition Law**

The objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of this area of law, together with the ability to subject it to critical legal and economic analysis. The course aims to cover the main substantive laws relating to competition within the EC, including the control of monopoly and oligopoly; merger control; anti-competitive agreements; and other anti-competitive practices.

The emphasis is placed predominantly on EU competition law to reflect the importance it assumes in practice. UK competition law is also taught in detail, both because of its value in providing a comparative study of two systems of competition law and because of its importance to the UK

practitioner. The antitrust laws of the USA and competition laws of other jurisdictions are also referred to by way of comparison.

Lectures and Seminars: Competition law is taught in lectures seminars by Dr Ariel Ezrachi, Slaughter and May Professor of Competition Law, and Mr Aidan Robertson, QC, visiting lecturer and barrister, Brick Court Chambers.

Tutorials: In addition to the lectures and seminars, a course of four tutorials will be given in the Hilary and Trinity terms. Tutorial arrangements will be made in due course. All students taking tutorials will be asked to submit written work before they attend tutorials.

Visiting speakers: There is a programme of visiting speakers details of which are found on the CCLP website.

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive understanding of UK and EU Competition Law – law that promotes or seeks to maintain market competition by regulating anti-competitive conduct by companies – and a capacity to reflect on comparative elements of the two regimes and also to make comparisons with US competition law.

### **Conflict of Laws**

The Conflict of Laws, or Private International Law, is concerned with private (mainly commercial) law cases, where the facts which give rise to litigation contain one or more foreign elements. A court may be asked to give relief for breach of a commercial contract made abroad, or to be performed abroad, or to which one or both of the parties is not English. It may be asked to grant relief in respect of an alleged tort occurring abroad, or allow a claimant to trace and recover funds which were fraudulently removed, and so on. In fact this component of the course, in which a court chooses which law or laws to apply when adjudicating a civil claim, represents its middle third. Prior to this comes the issue of jurisdiction; that is, when an English court will find that it has, and will exercise, jurisdiction over a defendant who is not English, or over a dispute which may have little to do with England or with English law. Closely allied to this is the question of what, if anything, may be done to impede proceedings which are underway in a foreign court but which really should not be there at all. The remaining third of the course is concerned with the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, to determine what effect, if any, these have in the English legal order.

In England the subject has an increasingly European dimension, not only in relation to the jurisdiction of courts and the recognition and enforcement of judgements but also for choice of law as it applies to contractual and non-contractual obligations. The purpose of the course is to examine the areas studied by reference to case law and statute, and to aim at acquiring an understanding of the rules, their operation and inter-relationship, as would be necessary to deal with a problem arising in international commercial litigation.

The teaching is principally in the hands of Adrian Briggs, Edwin Peel and Andrew Dickinson. In principle the course is introduced by a set of lectures, covered by a set of seminars which take the form of problem classes; and supplemented by a diet of tutorials.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the concepts and practical applications of Private International Law.

### **Constitutional Theory**

The course is concerned with the theory of the nature, authority and legitimacy of constitutions. Topics include the historical origins and development of constitutional concepts; methods of separating the powers of governmental agencies; the ideal of the rule of law; institutional

consequences of theories of democracy; the structure and function of legislatures and techniques for limiting their powers; the role of courts in review of legislation and executive action; the structure and operation of executive agencies; the framing and interpretation of written constitutions; the role of citizens and institutions in times of constitutional emergency; the nature and appropriate constitutional protection of basic rights; federalism and the constitutional implications of multiculturalism.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the theory of the nature, authority and legitimacy of constitutions.

### **Corporate Finance**

The limited company is a hugely popular business vehicle, and the primary reason for this is its ability to act as a successful vehicle for raising business finance and diversifying financial risk. All companies need to raise money in order to function successfully. It is these "money matters" which are at the heart of corporate law, and an understanding of the ways in which companies can raise money, and the manner in which their money-raising activities are regulated, is central to an understanding of how companies function. The aims of the course are (a) to explain the complex statutory provisions governing the issue and marketing of corporate securities, against the background of business transactions; (b) to explore the fundamental legal propositions around which corporate finance transactions are usually organised and (c) to examine the means by which money is raised by borrowing and quasi-debt and different methods of securing debt obligations. Technical issues will therefore be placed in their economic and business context. There is a strong emphasis on the policy issues underlying the legal rules. The course focuses on the forms of corporate finance and on the structure and regulation of capital markets. The course also examines the attributes of the main types of securities issued by companies and the legal doctrines which are designed to resolve the conflicts of interests between shareholders and creditors. Consideration is given to the EU directives affecting the financial markets, especially the manner in which they have been implemented into English law. Many of the issues arising are of international importance and the course examines the harmonisation of these matters within the EU.

This course will be of interest to any student wishing to develop a knowledge of corporate law, as well as to those who are corporate finance specialists. No prior knowledge of the subject is required, nor is it necessary to have studied company law, though this will be of significant advantage. Those with no knowledge of company law will need to do some additional background reading prior to the start of seminars, and advice can be given on this issue. MJur students are welcome, especially if they have prior knowledge of corporate finance in their own jurisdictions, but they must be prepared to engage with the case law and with UK statutes where appropriate.

Learning outcomes: an understanding the means by which companies raise money and the laws which govern those activities.

### **Corporate Insolvency\***

Corporate insolvency gives rise to a number of fascinating and complex questions. Which assets can be claimed by the company's creditors? What should be done with them? How should the proceeds raised be distributed amongst the creditors? How should those responsible for the company's losses be dealt with? In addition, many interesting questions from other areas of law (particularly property law) come to be raised and explored in the context of insolvency. The course seeks to develop an understanding of the ways these issues are resolved by the current law. Students will also be

expected to analyse and evaluate the law, and consideration will be paid to the business context in which insolvency disputes arise.

The course begins with an overview of the functions of insolvency procedures. It then examines, in the context of winding-up, the relationship between insolvency law and the general law of property and obligation, and the extent to which insolvency law interferes with rights accrued under the general law, and examines the rationality of the legal principles underlying the rules relating to the treatment of claims and the distribution of assets in winding up. The course then turns to consider procedures that are capable of securing the continuation of viable businesses, often referred to as “corporate rescue”. The most significant of these is the administration procedure, but administrative receivership, which it is gradually replacing, is also still of some practical importance. They raise interesting and complex questions about the allocation of decision-making power, and the mechanisms for ensuring the accountability of decision-makers. More informal procedures, in particular schemes of arrangement, are also considered. Company law also has a role to play in relation to insolvent companies, raising in particular such questions as the liability of a parent for the debts of its subsidiary and the responsibilities of directors under general law and under insolvency legislation. Lastly, the issues discussed throughout the course are considered in a comparative context, and the problem of cross-border insolvency, particularly in the context of the EC Regulation on Insolvency Proceedings, is examined.

No prior knowledge of the subject is required, nor is it necessary to have studied company law, though this is of some advantage. MJur students are welcome, especially if they have prior knowledge of corporate insolvency in their own jurisdictions, but they must be prepared to engage with the case law and with UK statutes where appropriate.

The teaching group comprises Professor J Armour, Professor L Gullifer, Professor J Payne, Professor G Moss and Professor H Eidenmueller. The teaching consists of a combination of lectures and seminars. Guest lectures by visiting academics and practitioners may also be given at various points. Revision tutorials will be arranged in the seminars.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the various aspects of law which come into play when a company is declared insolvent.

### **Corporate Tax Law and Policy**

Are multi-national companies escaping taxation by tax planning and shifting profits? Where should they be paying tax and on what basis? Should we abolish corporation tax altogether and find some other way to tax business? Recent discussions in the media and by politicians and pressure groups have underlined that this is not just a technical area. It raises ethical, political, constitutional and economic questions at both the national and international level.

This course is unusual in the extent to which it integrates all these approaches with a rigorous examination of the legal issues, making it suitable for all with a wide interest in the area as well as those wishing to specialise in and become practitioners of taxation and/or corporate law.

Tax law is central to all businesses and of significance to many business transactions. It helps to shape business law and many commercial decisions. The Corporate Tax Law and Policy course is suitable not only for tax specialists but also for all students interested in business and commercial law at a practical or theoretical level. The course aims to introduce students to the issues surrounding taxation of domestic and multi-national corporations as well as that of unincorporated businesses. It uses UK tax law as a starting point for a broader study of tax principles, concepts and policy issues relevant to all tax systems at a national level. Using the same starting point, the course

also examines some of the problems surrounding cross-border taxation ('international taxation') and the significant impact of EU law on business taxation. Detailed legal issues are studied in depth, always placed in their theoretical, economic and business context. Critical analysis of the policy underlying the law and the way it is implemented is encouraged, as is the introduction of comparative material from other jurisdictions. The course is therefore appropriate for students from a variety of backgrounds, whether or not they have studied tax before. It is regularly taken successfully by BCL and MJur students and MLFs also find that the course fits well with their other studies.

The course is taught by Judith Freedman, Pinsent Masons Professor of Taxation Law, and Dr. Glen Loutzenhiser, University Lecturer in Tax Law, with lectures from leading researchers at the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation, and from other distinguished tax practitioners (including QCs and partners at leading law and accounting firms) and visiting academics. Dr Loutzenhiser is the joint author of the textbook used for the course. For further information please contact Professor Freedman at [judith.freedman@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:judith.freedman@law.ox.ac.uk)

No prior study of tax law, company law or economics is required, although those with no knowledge of company law may need to do a small amount of background reading, on which advice will be given. Students who have studied tax as undergraduates in Oxford or elsewhere will usually find the course builds on their previous studies well. There will be NO CALCULATIONS. Students must be prepared to read many types of material and consider how policy issues and technical law interact. UK tax law, which forms a key component of the course, is statute based, so legislation must be studied, but case law is also important. Readings from public finance and accounting literature will be recommended on some topics: these will be accessible without specialist knowledge. Many of the readings will be available electronically and detailed reading lists, materials and guidance are posted on Weblearn. The syllabus is wide and the subject fast moving, so that the precise focus may vary from year to year.

Central themes are

- The tax base- i.e. what should be taxed and when? If we are to tax profit, how should this be defined? What are the alternative bases for taxation?
- The unit of taxation i.e. who should be taxed? The individual? The single company? The corporate group as a whole? A multi-national group as a whole? The ultimate shareholders? Consumers?
- How are taxes at each level integrated with each other?
- What are the special problems of small business taxation?
- What distortions and problems are encountered in corporation tax, especially corporate financing, and how are these used in tax planning - e.g. the debt/equity differential; use of tax incentives; corporate residence; transfer pricing in multinational groups?
- Who should do the taxing and set the rules? How should taxation be allocated between jurisdictions in the light of increasing mobility of capital and technological developments? What is the role of national governments, international bodies such as the European Union, the EU Court of Justice and the OECD? What is the role of double taxation treaties? Is there a future for a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base in the EU?



- What is tax avoidance in a business context and how, and to what extent, should it be restricted? To what extent and how can this be done by national tax authorities and what forms of international co-operation are possible for controlling transfer pricing, the use of low tax areas and similar activities?

The examination format allows students to focus on areas and approaches that interest them, although the entire course must be studied to gain a complete overview and understanding. The teaching consists of lectures and seminars spread over Michaelmas and Hilary terms with two or three lectures in Trinity Term. Some of the lectures provide background structure for the seminars and some are given by very distinguished guest lecturers drawn from practice and academia. There are four tutorials given by the course lecturers - one in MT and three in TT. Written work is set and marked for each tutorial.

For an excellent book on the need for radical reform of tax law, see the [Mirrlees Review](#)

You could also visit the [Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation](#) site for more materials and information about past and future events. The Centre hosts many guest lectures from leading tax experts and students are normally welcome to attend.

For full reading guides see Weblearn resources. Full reading guides are provided for each topic.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the issues surrounding taxation of domestic and multi-national corporations as well as that of unincorporated businesses.

### **Criminal Justice, Security and Human Rights**

This course examines the development of human rights principles as they relate to criminal justice and security pursuits. The emphasis is not only on the formal stages of the criminal justice system, such as policing, pre-trial processes, trials and sentencing, but will also apply to other areas of law where they relate to the pursuit of national security (often located outside of the formal boundaries of the criminal justice system). Students are encouraged to think critically about the application of rights in all of these contexts. The option is largely based on human rights case law from a range of jurisdictions. The aim of the option is to encourage a critical assessment of some major aspects of the interface between criminal justice, security and human rights.

Organising a comparative course such as this leaves open many possibilities, but the course structure will flow both from the human rights themselves, as from the ways in which they relate to the criminal justice system as a whole.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of human rights issues in the context of the criminal justice system and the pursuit of national security.

### **European Business Regulation (the law of the EU's internal market)**

This course examines the legal basis of the "level playing field" of the internal market of the European Union, covering the law of free movement across borders (goods, establishment and services), as well as competence to regulate the internal market, with special reference to the function of harmonisation of laws. Some or all of selected topics in public procurement, consumer law, company law, intellectual property, state aids and energy law will be addressed.

Learning outcomes: to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the law in relation to the above subject matter, and to be able to discuss critically at an advanced level the legal and policy issues arising therefrom - including in particular the relationship between the judicial and the legislative contributions to the making of the EU's internal market.

## **European Private Law: Contract**

European Private Law is an emerging and dynamic subject. It concerns the gradual approximation and harmonisation of the national private laws of the European Union's Member States, one of the most fascinating contemporary developments in the law. The Europeanisation of private law has two dimensions. One is fairly imminent and extremely relevant to legal practice. It concerns the implications of existing legislation and case-law emanating from the organs of the EU for national private laws. The other is more forward-looking and rather of a scholarly nature. It relates to a number of academic proposals for common European rules and principles in the area of private law, based on thorough comparative research. Thus European Private Law combines issues from at least three branches of legal scholarship, ie European Law, (national) Private Law and Comparative Law.

The course attempts to combine these disciplines, constantly approaching particular problems from a European point of view as well as from the perspective of various national private laws, thus necessarily adopting a comparative approach. The course first considers fundamental questions relating to the desirability, the constitutional legitimacy and the feasibility of the harmonisation of Private Law in Europe. An overview of the existing state of European Private Law, the imminent developments and the long-term proposals by various groups of academics is provided. The main part of the course consists in the study of a limited number of specific substantive issues taken from one of the core areas of private law, the law of contract. These are studied, as far as possible, with reference to primary materials, ie legislation and case law, and are likely to include topics such as pre-contractual liability, formation of contract, third parties in contract, mistake, good faith, standard terms, supervening events, breach of contract and remedies. Examples from national legal systems will mainly be drawn from English, French and German law. If, however, another legal system offers an interesting and original solution this will also be taken into account.

This approach already indicates that the course does not aspire to cover the whole of contract law with all its, say, constitutional and procedural implications, in all or even the most important European legal systems, but is rather of a more topical nature. The search is for – common or diverging – solutions to legal problems arising in all legal systems (including EU law and recent proposals for further harmonisation). These are looked at both from a rather technical point of view and with respect to the underlying principles so that a balance between ‘black letter’ law and general policy issues is struck. Participants will thus be in a position to evaluate the status quo of European contract law(s), the potential for further harmonisation and the methodological implications of this process.

Learning outcomes: to enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding in the area of European Private Law and to discuss and assess critically at an advanced level the legal and policy issues arising therefrom. Participants may expect to gain a deeper understanding of the nature of contract law, basic knowledge of the major European traditions in this area of the law and the ability to master a wide range of strongly heterogeneous sources – all of which are competences and skills of increasing importance in a Europe growing together.

## **European Private Law: Tort**

European Private Law: Tort is concerned with the comparative study of tort/delict within a European framework. The so-called Europeanisation of private law has two dimensions. One concerns the implications of existing legislation and case-law emanating from the organs of the EU for national private laws (eg product liability (Dir 85/374), environmental liability (Dir 2004/35), liability of the Member States and the non-contractual liability of the European Union). The other is of a scholarly nature and relates to various academic proposals for common European rules and principles in the

area of private law based on comparative research: the European Group on Tort Law and the Study Group on a European Civil Code have both independently from another introduced proposals for restatements of European tort law.

Learning outcomes: an advanced understanding of the nature of tort/delict, with basic knowledge of the major European traditions in delict and with the ability to master a wide range of strongly heterogeneous sources.

### **Evidence\***

The Law of Evidence is essentially the same in all common law jurisdictions. Lawyers need to have a good command of this area of the law since problems tend to arise unexpectedly, especially in the course of trials, and because the subject engages important questions of due process and of fundamental rights.

The course stresses the principled theoretical foundations of common law Evidence doctrine governing criminal trials. Traditional topics within the Law of Evidence, such as the burden of proof, hearsay, privilege against self-incrimination and character evidence, will be elucidated in terms of their underlying rationales, taking account of legislative developments as well as precedent. Attention will also be given to the continuing human rights revolution in English criminal procedure.

Although the law of England and Wales provides the background against which the basic concepts of evidence law are explored, the discussion of policies and of foundational principles goes well beyond English law and is designed to illuminate criminal procedure across the common law world and to stimulate comparison with civilian systems. Notwithstanding the stress that the course places on principle, it will enable students to acquire a sound understanding of the operation of discrete rules, such as hearsay, self-incrimination, confessions and bad character. Students from non-common law jurisdictions would not only gain an insight into English criminal procedure but will also become better equipped to evaluate the arrangements of their own systems.

In all jurisdictions the subject is in constant ferment with new codes and various reforms under consideration or in the course of implementation. Since the subject throws into relief the tension between the efficient resolution of disputes, on the one hand, and on the other the imperatives of fairness, due process and respect for fundamental rights, it is never short of topicality or fierce controversy. The course will enable students to engage in these debates.

Whilst the law of evidence plays a much less important role than it once did in many types of civil trial, the course includes reference to some of the rules and principles that remain significant in civil proceedings. There are therefore areas of overlap between evidence in criminal and civil proceedings. The plan below includes lectures on secret evidence and on statistical evidence, which are also of interest to students taking the civil procedure course. Similarly, the civil procedure course includes some topics that are of relevance to evidence students, such as legal professional privilege, experts and the right to an independent and impartial tribunal. These are open to students taking the evidence course.

For the first time this year the evidence course will be delivered by an international team of leading scholars in the field of evidence, as well as by Oxford scholars. We are especially pleased by the participation of Professor Dyson Heydon, retired Justice of the Australian High Court and Visiting Professor at Oxford University, who will be offering tutorials as well as giving lectures.

## **Lecture Plan**

### *Michaelmas Term:*

Professor Paul Roberts: Principles of criminal evidence: presumption of innocence (4 lectures and one seminar)

Dr Katharine Grevling: Confessions and the right to silence (8 lectures)

### *Hilary Term:*

Dr Katharine Grevling: Illegally obtained evidence (8 lectures)

Professor Dyson Heydon: Hearsay (4 lectures)

Professor Roderick Bagshaw: Secret evidence (4 lectures)

Dr Amit Pundik: Statistical evidence (4 lectures)

### *Trinity Term:*

Professor John Spencer: Vulnerable witnesses, and complainants' character (2 seminars)

Professor Mike Redmayne: Accused's character (1 seminar)

Professor Andrew Choo: The right to confrontation and hearsay – a comparative perspective (1 seminar)

## **Tutorials:**

Tutorials will be offered by Professor Dyson Heydon in Hilary Term. Tutorials in Michaelmas Term, and possibly in Trinity Term, will be offered by Professor Andrew Choo and a Faculty graduate teaching assistant.

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations and practical applications of the law of evidence within common law legal systems with a focus, necessarily, on criminal law but including reference to some of the rules and principles that remain significant in civil proceedings.

## **Intellectual Property Law**

The course in Intellectual Property Law covers all the main forms of intellectual property (principally, copyright, trade mark and unfair competition, and patent, but we also touch on trade secrets). It explores the theoretical foundations of and justification for the different rights as well as their application in a number of settings. Intellectual property industries now make up a sizable proportion of the global economy. And the most contested issues in intellectual property law are closely connected to developments throughout the arts and technology, as well as to evolutions in marketing and popular culture. Thus the course will be of interest to students from a number of backgrounds and with a variety of interests. In the United Kingdom, intellectual property law is increasingly Europeanised, so we necessarily examine the European instruments and case law that shape UK law. And because the content of intellectual property law is increasingly framed by international obligations and evolves with some regard to developments in other countries, the course also has an international and comparative dimension. The course is suitable for students with or without undergraduate experience of IP law. It is taught by Professor Graeme Dinwoodie, Professor Ansgar Ohly, Dr Justine Pila, Dr Dev Gangjee, Dr. Emily Hudson and Ms. Daniela Simone in a series of lectures, seminars and tutorials over Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity Terms. Teaching is

through sixteen seminars. The seminars are supported by introductory lectures (one at the beginning of the course and the others are strategically situated throughout the course), and by the provision of six tutorials. Reading lists are posted using Weblearn. With prior permission, it may also be possible to accommodate a small number of auditors in the undergraduate Copyright, Trade Mark and Patents seminars of Dr. Pila, Dr. Gangjee, and Lord Hoffmann; for permission as regards Copyright and Patents, please write to Dr Pila, and as regards Trade Marks please write to Dr. Gangjee. (MJur students may enrol in an undergraduate IP option provided they are not taking this M Jur course in Intellectual Property Law.) Note that this course has sometimes previously been called International IP Law, or European IP Law.

The course will be taught by Professor Dinwoodie, Professor Ohly, Dr Gangjee, Dr Hudson, Dr Pila and Ms. Simone in a series of lectures, seminars and tutorials held in Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity Terms.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of theoretical foundations of property law, including copyright, patent, trade mark, unfair competition and trade secrets; and an understanding of the practical applications of intellectual property rights in various contexts.

### **International and European Employment Law**

This course has the aim of providing a general understanding of international labour or employment law. For this purpose, the course compares and contrasts international labour standards with those of the EU, particularly by examining the interaction between the international labour standards which have been developed and maintained by the International Labour Organisation and those of the EU's laws and policies.

Recent decades have witnessed a series of transformations of the aims of the European Union. The founding assumption in the Treaty of Rome that economic integration would naturally bring about social development has been abandoned. The Treaty of Amsterdam included a proper legal basis for EU employment law and strengthened and expanded EU equality law. The Treaty of Lisbon elevated the status of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, with its extensive social and labour rights content. Yet, the social dimension of the EU remains contested, and arguably subordinated, to policies designed to maximize the competitiveness and flexibility of the European labour market, in particular in order to create employment under the European Employment Strategy. Meanwhile, significant evolutions have also occurred in the policies and strategies of the ILO itself; and all these evolutions now have to respond to a growing sense of economic and social crisis which is both European and global.

This course aims to develop a critical perspective whereby students can assess these developments against the background of international labour rights and labour standards, including those of the International Labour Organisation and the Council of Europe (both ECHR and European Social Charter and Revised European Social Charter). It will begin with an examination of the development of the roles of the ILO and the EU in employment law from a historical, theoretical and institutional perspective, and proceed to focus on particular rights and issues, most notably, the right to collective bargaining and action and strike; the right to participate in enterprise governance; the right to job security and 'fair and just working conditions'; and the right to equality in employment across various grounds, in particular sex, race, age, disability, sexual orientation and religion. These rights will be studied in depth to illustrate the complex interplay between the EU and international norms, and between various forms and sources of protection.

The course does not presuppose that students should have taken an undergraduate labour law or EU law course. The course will be taught in a varied format, including six or more seminars in Michaelmas Term and six or more in Hilary Term. The teaching is coordinated by Dr Alan Bogg, and the course will this year be taught by him with Dr Cathryn Costello, Professor Anne Davies, Professor Mark Freedland and Professor Sandra Fredman. Other academics will also contribute from time to time in areas of their particular expertise. There will be tutorials to back up the seminars, each student receiving to up to four tutorials from a wide menu. These tutorials are offered throughout the academic year, in order to give practice in writing essays in this subject.

Any students who would like to discuss this course further are encouraged to contact one of the members of the teaching group.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of employment law as it has developed and is practised within the EU and internationally.

### International Commercial Arbitration

In a world of increasing global trade and commerce arbitration has become the preferred mechanism for resolving transnational commercial disputes. As global transactions have expanded they also have become more complex. Scholars, arbitrators and courts around the globe have developed highly sophisticated solutions to respond to these challenges making international commercial arbitration one of the most fascinating developments in the law. The course will study international commercial arbitration within its international and national legal frameworks from the substantive and procedural law point of view.

Starting with the study of international instruments such as the New York Convention the course will then examine how different national legal systems have treated international commercial arbitration. The course aims to focus on a comparison of the approaches taken by US courts and the national courts of Europe. International commercial arbitration often exposes marked differences between the common and the civil law yet the body of law being created in common and civil law jurisdictions forms an arbitral '*ius commune*' – a common body of a globally applicable international arbitration law. In order to explore the real or perceived advantages of international commercial arbitration over transnational litigation the course intends to examine the problems commonly associated with transnational litigation such as service of process, jurisdiction, *lis pendens* and recognition of judgments. Moreover, the course aspires to introduce the theoretical foundations of international commercial arbitration and discuss the repercussions international commercial arbitration may have for national legal orders. The course will cover every stage in an arbitral proceeding from the arbitration agreement, the arbitral proceeding to the arbitral award and its recognition and enforcement.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the way international commercial arbitration applies across both common and civil law jurisdictions and a knowledge of the theoretical foundations of this body of law and its potential advantages over transnational litigation.

### International Criminal Law

This course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of international criminal law from theoretical, institutional and substantive perspectives. The theoretical dimension assesses both the legitimacy of the development of international criminal institutions as well as the principles that underpin the details of the law. The institutional dimension examines the various mechanisms by which prosecutions for international crimes takes place. The focus in this part of the course will be on the jurisdiction of domestic and international courts with respect to international crimes. Finally, the

substantive perspective provides an in-depth exploration of the principles of international criminal law. In this part, we will examine the content and definition of international crimes, as well as the general principles of international criminal liability, including the defences that are available in international criminal law. The course will examine the extensive case of the law of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals, the developing case law of the International Criminal Court, and the application of international criminal law in domestic law.

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive understanding of the international criminal law from theoretical, institutional and substantive perspectives.

### **International Dispute Settlement**

The course on International Dispute Settlement is concerned with the peaceful settlement of international disputes, including inter-State disputes, and disputes between States and individuals or corporations.

The first part of the course is dedicated to the study of a range of institutions concerned with dispute settlement such as arbitral tribunals, the International Court of Justice, and more specialised bodies such as the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, the World Trade Organisation, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and other institutions. The institutions selected for study vary from year to year.

The second part of the course provides an outline of the principles of procedural law that operate in international tribunals, including international commercial arbitration tribunals. This part of the course involves the study of issues such as jurisdiction and admissibility, the determination of law governing procedure and the law governing the merits of a case, remedies, the recognition and enforcement of judgments and awards, and the review of judgments and awards.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the institutions concerned with the settlement of international disputes, and the procedural laws which govern their activities.

### **International Economic Law**

This course introduces students to the main principles and institutions of international economic law. It focuses primarily on the institutions and substantive law of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In addition to introducing participants to the major legal disciplines under the GATT/WTO and the basic principles and core concepts of the GATT/WTO (Base on in-depth study of the relevant GATT/WTO case law), the course considers the underlying philosophy of free trade and a number of the controversies concerning the future evolution of the WTO and its relationship to globalisation, regionalism, and the attempt by States to achieve other policy objectives (such as protection of the environment). No prior knowledge of international law or economics is necessary. Students without such knowledge will be directed to basic reading in these fields.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the philosophy of free trade, the institutions responsible for its governance, and future of those institutions.

### **International Law and Armed Conflict**

This course will examine the international law issues which arise in relation to armed conflicts. The course covers the law relating to whether States may use force, the law that applies during armed conflicts, as well as other legal problems that arise with regard to armed conflicts. One of the themes running through the course will be how international law regulates cross-border conflicts

involving non-State actors. The course will be divided, broadly speaking, into two parts. Part one will consider the international legal issues relating to whether and when States are entitled to use armed force. In this part of the course, we will examine the content of the prohibition of the use of force contained in the UN Charter as well as the exceptions to that prohibition. In particular, we will examine the scope of self-defence in international law, (especially as it applies to attacks by non-State groups). Questions to be considered include the criteria for a lawful response in self-defence and the legality of anticipatory/preemptive self defence. This part of the course will also consider other possible exceptions to the prohibition of the use of force - such as the doctrine of humanitarian intervention or responsibility to protect. The last section of the first part of the course will examine the powers of the United Nations to authorize the use of force for peacekeeping and peace enforcement.

The second part of the course examines the law that applies during an armed conflict. We will address the distinction between the law applicable to international armed conflicts and that applicable to non-international armed conflicts. We also consider the extent to which the so called "Global War on Terror" should be considered an armed conflict to which international humanitarian law applies. In this part, we will also gain an overview of the "Geneva law" relating to the humanitarian protection of victims of war and the "Hague law" relating to the means and methods of warfare. In particular, we will examine the distinction between combatants and non-combatants and the law that applies to the detention of lawful and unlawful combatants in time of armed conflict. We then turn to the law that applies to the conduct of hostilities, examining in particular the rules relating to targeting and weaponry. Finally, we consider the extent to which international human rights law applies in time of armed conflict.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the laws which determine whether and when States are entitled to use armed force, and which apply during an armed conflict (including international human rights law).

### **International Law of the Sea**

The Law of the Sea course is concerned with public international law and not with commercial shipping law.

The course provides a comprehensive grounding in the subject, combining the study of maritime zones (such as the territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, Continental Shelf and High Seas), with the study of the main bodies of law regulating users of the seas (such as navigation, fishing, pollution and military activities).

The teaching involves relating the problems of the law of the sea to underlying principles and policy factors and to other relevant areas of general international law, including sources, the law of treaties and principles of state responsibility.

The teaching consists of weekly classes in the Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, in some of which students will present short papers for discussion by the group as a whole.

Lectures/Seminars: each is one two-hour session.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the laws governing non-commercial maritime activities such as navigation, fishing, and military activities.



## Jurisprudence and Political Theory

Students taking Jurisprudence and Political Theory have the opportunity to participate in wide-ranging but analytically precise discussions of the presuppositions and methods of legal, political and therefore also, to some extent, moral philosophy, and of related social theories in their bearing on the institutions, norms and methods of legal systems. The syllabus covers the concepts of law, legal system, legal right and legal obligation; the nature of adjudication and judicial discretion; the range and limits of law as a means of social control; the individual's moral duty to obey the law; the individual's moral rights against his or her government; and the justification of political (including judicial) authority. Much of, for example, Dworkin's *Law's Empire*, Raz's *The Morality of Freedom*, and Finnis's *Aquinas* was earlier presented and discussed in this course's seminars, which provide a good context for critical testing of advanced work-in-progress. The seminars do not necessarily cover all of the topics mentioned in the syllabus, and of those covered some may be covered in much greater depth than others. Nevertheless the syllabus gives a good general indication of the field to which the seminars and the eventual list of examination essay topics relate.

The course is a philosophy course, and in that sense is a specialist rather than a generalist pursuit. Through it students may expect to develop some of the skills and dispositions of professional philosophers. An acquaintance with some undergraduate-level jurisprudence is presupposed; those who enter on this course without having formally studied jurisprudence should prepare themselves by a careful reading of at least some of the following (or comparable) works: Hart, *The Concept of Law*, Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously* or *Law's Empire*, Raz, *The Authority of Law*, or Finnis, *Natural Law and Natural Rights*. But this list should not lead anyone to think that, in the course itself, the topics to be discussed are narrowly 'jurisprudential' or that the authors to be read are narrowly 'Oxford'. Students with an Oxford Jurisprudence background, and others, could well prepare for the course by careful reading of (for example) Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* or *Political Liberalism*, Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, Raz, *The Morality of Freedom*, Nagel, *Equality and Partiality*, Cohen, *Rescuing Justice and Equality*, or Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*.

Seminars specifically designed for students on this course are convened by Dr J Dickson, Professor T A O Endicott, Dr P Eleftheriadis, Professor J M Finnis, Professor A M Honore, Professor J Gardner, Professor L Green, and Dr N Stavropoulos. However, those taking the paper are also encouraged to participate in seminars taking place elsewhere in the university, particularly in some of those advertised on the Philosophy Lecture List. The same holds for lectures. Those who are not conversant with the basics of political philosophy, in particular, should consider whether to attend lectures on the undergraduate courses in Ethics (see the Philosophy Lecture List) and the Theory of Politics (see the Politics Lecture List). Lectures from the undergraduate Jurisprudence course in the Law Faculty would also help those who need to be more familiar with the basics of legal philosophy.

This course is among those supported with detailed material on the Legal Philosophy in Oxford website

Four tutorials will be provided in HT, usually in groups of two or three. These are arranged by the teaching group and neither students nor college tutors need take any steps to organise them.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of fundamental conceptual questions concerning the nature of law and its application, and a capacity to approach legal issues from a philosophical perspective.

## Law and Society in Medieval England

This course offers an in-depth study of core areas of property and obligations law in later thirteenth and early fourteenth century England and their relationships - through legislative and judicial change and legal writing - to the medieval society of which they were part.

The topics covered are: law and the family; family settlements; lordship and ownership; property remedies; the enforcement of tenurial obligations; debts and securities; contracts, leases and property management; wrongs; problems of jurisdiction.

This course was formerly run as *Legal History: Legislative Reform of the Early Common Law*.

The materials studied are statutes, case reports, and treatises and instructional literature from the period, together with the modern academic literature on the topics. All the sources used are provided in translation, so that knowledge of Latin and French is not required. Prior knowledge of the history of English law is not required.

The primary teaching method is by eight fortnightly seminars running from mid Michaelmas to early Trinity terms.

This course is taught by Dr Paul Brand and Dr Mike Macnair.

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive knowledge of the law of property and obligations in late thirteenth-century and early fourteenth-century England.

### Law in Society

Considering law in society means asking a number of questions: What does law do? Where does it come from? What forms does it take? How do we understand its meaning and significance? Socio-legal scholars discuss the role of law in providing stability to private relations, law as the foundation of social order, and law as an instrument for directing society and solving social issues. They also investigate the social origins of different laws. Anthropologists may be more interested in the forms that law takes, and matters of meaning and symbolism. Asking these questions ultimately leads scholars to address the issue (whether explicitly or implicitly) of what law is. Using empirical studies as the basis for such enquiries is what largely distinguishes these projects from those of legal philosophers.

The first part of the course (4 weeks in MT) introduces some of the main sociological thinkers to have addressed these questions, including Durkheim (the notion of law as a mirror of social life and the basis of social solidarity), Weber (law as an instrument of the ruler), and Ehrlich (living law). We will use case studies, along with the writings of more recent scholars, such as Roberts, Cotterrell, and Galligan, to assess the relevance of their approaches for contemporary scholarship and social issues.

The second part of the course (8 weeks in HT) uses anthropological and historical case studies to address the same questions. The focus is largely on understanding the different systems of law found in other societies and historical periods. How are we to understand the laws and legal processes of non-literate societies, for example, or the codes of medieval European kings, or the feuding relations of contemporary Tibetan pastoralists? What do they mean and do, and where do they come from? On what grounds can we even define them as law? We do not, however, neglect contemporary studies from the western world, also considering studies of court use, the appeal of human rights, and new forms of transnational law. The diversity of such examples challenges us to ask what unites them as examples of law. Asking about what is unfamiliar causes us to reflect on the parameters and cultural specificity of our own concepts of law and students will be encouraged to think constructively and critically about familiar legal phenomena and their universal application.

The course is convened by Dr Fernanda Pirie of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies. There are 4 seminars in Michaelmas term (odd weeks) and 8 in Hilary term (weekly).

Assessment is by a three hour written examination

Learning outcomes: a conceptual understanding of the role law plays within society and its relations with other aspects of society (attained through study of the relevant scholarship in this area); and an understanding of how these issues play out in a variety of societal contexts.

### **Legal Concepts in Financial Law**

The purpose of this course is to explore the most significant legal concepts and private law issues encountered in commercial finance and in commercial and investment banking. . This is particularly topical, as many of these issues have been brought into sharp focus by the recent financial crisis.

Students will be introduced to the various concepts in contract, property and fiduciary law which are used to allocate, manage and transfer risk in transactions on capital markets and in commercial banking. They will also be invited to consider the legal nature of property, money and payment, and the conceptual basis for corporate personality and limited liability. By examining a range of transactions, and critically considering relevant case law and legislation in the light of market practice, this course will provide a deep understanding of the part that private law plays in the operation of financial markets. Transactional structures covered will include loans, guarantees, documentary credits and first demand bonds,, security, debt issues on the capital markets (and other intermediated securities), derivatives and structured finance.

The focus will be on English law, although the law of other jurisdictions (particularly common law jurisdictions) will be studied where appropriate for criticism and comparison. Whilst the course will primarily be a doctrinal law course, involving close study of cases and legislation and analysis of their underlying principles, the reading lists will contain a significant amount of secondary material examining wider policy issues, different theoretical approaches and possible legal reform.

Whilst the course will primarily be a doctrinal law course, involving close study of cases and legislation and analysis of their underlying principles, the reading lists will contain a significant amount of secondary material examining wider policy issues, different theoretical approaches and possible legal reform.

The course will be taught in eleven seminars, each supported by lectures, and four tutorials. Teaching will be by Professor Louise Gullifer, Mr Christopher Hare and Mr Richard Salter QC, with input from others practising in this area of law.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of some of the more topical and/or complex issues in the banking and financial field (the particular topics selected reflecting the research and professional interests of the teaching team) and a comprehensive understanding of the part that private law plays in the operation of financial markets.

### **Medical Law and Ethics**

The Medical Law and Ethics course provides students with the opportunity to develop a critical understanding of the legal and ethical difficulties that arise in the provision of health care. The primary focus will be on UK law, but the issues to be covered have global relevance and we encourage students to contribute insights from other jurisdictions wherever possible. Students must be prepared to read many types of material and to consider how legal, ethical and policy issues interact. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Topics to be covered include consent to treatment, abortion, ownership of body parts and organ donation, death and dying, medical negligence, public health, and the rationing of health care resources in the UK National Health Service. As the course progresses, we will also encourage

students to be aware of the current issues in medical research and healthcare provision that are being reported in the media.

The course will be taught by Dr Imogen Goold and Prof Jonathan Herring with contributions from other members of the faculties of law and medicine in Oxford, and visiting speakers. There will be twelve seminars, eight in Michaelmas Term and four in Hilary Term, and four tutorials, one in Michaelmas and three in Trinity. The seminars will involve extensive class participation and the tutorials will provide an opportunity to practise essay writing and to prepare for the examination.

Learning outcomes: a critical understanding of the legal and ethical difficulties that arise in the provision of health care.

### **Personal Taxation\***

Taxation comprises a difficult and complex mass of material. It is hard to deny that proposition, but the Oxford Personal Tax course is designed to be questioning and challenging. For a start, only a limited range of taxes is within the syllabus: income tax on trusts and annual payments, capital gains tax and inheritance tax. Legislative and judicial methods of countering tax avoidance are dealt with in depth. We attempt to teach the material in such a way that the detail is much less important than the cases and the ideas underpinning the law. Company taxation is not covered in the Personal Tax course, but is dealt with in the Corporate and Business Taxation course. The two tax courses on the BCL are complementary but are also completely freestanding so may be taken alone or together depending on the student's interest. It is not essential to have studied tax previously in order to take either the Personal Taxation course or Corporate and Business Taxation but students who have studied the subject at undergraduate level will find that the material in the graduate courses will flow on well from their initial courses and will enhance their existing knowledge of taxation. A theme that runs through a significant proportion of the course is the way in which trusts are affected by taxation, particularly in comparison with taxation of individuals. This involves considerable use of trusts cases and theories - not surprising when one remembers the number of trusts cases that have arisen in a taxation context. Accordingly, it is not advisable to study Personal Taxation unless you have covered Trusts already or are taking it as an option in the MJur. Personal Taxation offers the opportunity to consider an almost entirely statutory area and study the reaction of the judiciary to it. This is particularly revealing in the fast developing area of judicial reaction to tax avoidance schemes. This is an area of intense judicial activity and disagreement, at its heart being the question as to how far the courts should go to defeat schemes that set out to frustrate the intended effect of taxes or exemptions from taxation. This is an area that benefits from comparisons with other countries, although most of Personal Taxation has its focus on purely English taxation provisions.

Lectures in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms set out to cover virtually the entirety of the syllabus. Tutorials are normally arranged after lectures are completed. There is a "Tax Problem Class" in Trinity Term which combines the objectives of developing the necessary skills to handle problem questions on taxation and of enabling seminar discussion of some of the more perplexing issues in the subject. Anyone who wishes to have further information before deciding whether to take Personal Taxation is welcome to contact Mr R J Smith (Magdalen College).

This course covers selected topics within (a) Income Tax; (b) Capital Gains Tax; (c) Inheritance Tax and other methods of taxing capital; (d) general responses to tax avoidance. The taxes are to be studied with particular reference to the taxation of gifts and settlements. Candidates will not be examined on the details of the Finance Bill or Act of the year of examination. Candidates are advised not to offer this paper unless they have studied the law of Trusts in their first law degree course. Income Tax comprises: (i) Principles of the general charge to tax on individuals and families: personal

reliefs and allowances in general; (ii) taxation of settlors, trustees and beneficiaries; foreign element relating thereto. Capital Gains Tax comprises: (i) General charge to tax on individuals; (ii) disposals and acquisitions of assets in general; (iii) gifts and settlements; (iv) disposal on death and administration of estates; (v) computation of gains and losses in general (but not the rules relating to leasehold interests, or wasting assets); (vi) exemptions; (vii) foreign element. Inheritance Tax comprises: (i) historical background; (ii) general charge to tax on individuals; (iii) settled property; (iv) administration of estates; (v) reliefs and exemptions; (vi) valuation; (vii) foreign element.

Learning outcomes: a detailed knowledge of the law applying to income tax on trusts and annual payments, capital gains tax and inheritance tax, and legislative and judicial methods of countering tax avoidance.

### **Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law\***

This course explores the principles which may be thought to underlie each of the three areas it is concerned with – contract, tort, and the criminal law – and the relations between them.

Do notions such as causation, intention and foresight, which figure in all three areas, lend them doctrinal unity, or do these branches of the law represent different (complementary or conflicting) principles? For example: can one or other of them be understood as embodying principles of corrective justice, while the others are based on considerations of distributive justice? Does the law, in these areas, reflect moral concerns, or pursue efficiency or some other goal, or is it the case that no underlying principles can be discerned? Does the law make sense only in the light of certain assumptions about the nature of persons (e.g. that they are rational choosers, that they are autonomous beings)? These are some of the issues explored in this course.

The course presupposes knowledge of the basic doctrines of contract, tort, and criminal law. While some philosophical background might be helpful, it is not essential.

The main teaching is by seminars. At least two but not necessarily all three of the areas identified in the syllabus (criminal law, torts, contracts) are covered in depth in any given academic year. Up to four tutorials are also provided, and these are arranged centrally via the seminars. The course is among those supported with detailed material on the Faculty's [Jurisprudence website](#)

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the concepts underlying the principal areas of English common law and an understanding of relevant philosophical debate concerning those areas.

### **Principles of Civil Procedure**

The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the fundamental principles of Civil Procedure. These principles are not specific to England but are common to all advanced systems of law. The operation and implications of these principles is discussed against the background of English law and the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights. A short introduction to English civil procedure is provided so that students not familiar with the English system could soon acquire a working knowledge. However, students coming from other jurisdiction are encouraged to consider how the principles and the ideas discussed in the lectures can play a part in their own home litigation systems.

Both lectures and seminars involve active student participation. The course consists of approximately 20 lectures (most of 2 hours duration), 6 to 8 guest lectures and seminars and 4 tutorials. The lectures are normally held in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms and the seminars in Trinity Term. The lectures will be given by Professor Zuckerman and Dr Higgins. The seminars address central issues in contemporary procedure in England and elsewhere. The sessions are conducted by

Professor Zuckerman with guest speakers, such as scholars, practitioners and judges from England and abroad. Tutorials are given in all three terms and may be spread over two or three terms. Tutorials will be taken with Dr Higgins, Professor Zuckerman and a graduate teaching assistant.

The course contains the following topics:

1. General theory of civil adjudication
2. The common law right to fair trial and procedural implications of the European Convention on Human Rights
3. An introduction to English civil procedure
4. Adversarial litigation; case management and sanctions for non-compliance with rules or orders; fraudulent litigants
5. Summary adjudication
6. Interim remedies including super injunctions, freezing orders and search orders
7. Disclosure
8. Exceptions to disclosure including public interest immunity, closed material proceedings, legal professional privilege and privilege against self-incrimination
9. Expert evidence
10. Collective redress including class actions
11. Appeals and finality of litigation
12. Costs: full cost shifting, partial (fixed) cost shifting, qualified one way cost shifting and the no-costs rule; Funding: hourly fees, conditional fees, referral fees, damages based agreements and third party commercial funding; Protection from costs: part 36 offers; security for costs; wasted costs orders.
13. Litigants in person
14. Alternative dispute resolution (Time permitting)

Learning outcomes: a comprehensive knowledge of the principles which underpin the laws governing the adjudication of civil lawsuits.

### **Principles of Financial Regulation**

Financial regulation is subject to rapid change, and its optimal content is hotly debated. This course will introduce you to the underlying principles which various forms of financial regulation seek to implement. The focus is on the financing of firms and their interaction with capital markets. Students completing this course will be able to understand the regulatory goals of market efficiency, investor protection, financial stability and competition, and the principal regulatory strategies that are employed to try to bring these about in relation to financial markets and financial institutions. The course will conclude with a consideration of the structure of financial regulators, both at the domestic and international level.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the principles which govern financial regulation of the financing of firms and their interaction with capital markets, and (by means of that understanding) a

capacity to assess critically new developments in financial regulation and their implementation in novel contexts.

### **Private law and Fundamental Rights**

The enactment of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the adoption of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU as a binding treaty has provoked new questions about the relation between fundamental rights and the legal principles and rules elaborated in fields of private law, principally contract, tort, and property. Questions that have been raised include: Is private law based on or derived from fundamental rights? Can fundamental rights provide a source for new private law rights and obligations? Does the enactment of fundamental rights in a legal order collapse the distinction between public and private law, and if so, what are the consequences for theories of law? Do fundamental rights have the same meaning in a horizontal dispute between private parties? How should the fundamental rights of private parties be balanced against each other? As well as examining these broad questions, the course critically examines and assesses the case-law concerning the impact of fundamental rights on contract law, tort law, property law and other fields of private law. Cases and examples are drawn primarily from the common law in the UK and decisions of the Court of Justice of the EU and the European Court of Human Rights, but selective comparisons from other jurisdictions are occasionally introduced.

Learning outcomes: the course will permit graduate students to draw on, develop, and deepen their existing knowledge of private law and constitutional or human rights law. It will require considerable previous knowledge in private law and fundamental rights law. It will build on that knowledge in part by combining or integrating it in a new way, but more fundamentally in offering a fresh perspective on these materials. The course will require both careful analysis of legal reasoning in case law, but also more jurisprudential reflection on the relation between private law and fundamental rights. Comparative law material (mostly from European countries and the EU itself) will provide additional perspectives.

### **Punishment, Security and the State**

The proposed course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings, justifications, and contemporary practices of punishment and security. The subject is approached from criminological, socio-legal, philosophical, and historical perspectives. The course explores the role of the state in the exercise of its most coercive functions against individual citizens – whether punishing those found guilty of criminal wrongdoing or taking security measures against those deemed to pose a risk to the safety of the public and the nation.

In Michaelmas Term it will focus on ‘why we punish’ by examining major debates in penal theory concerning the justification and rationale for punishment (not least desert theory and its critics, communicative and consequentialist theories). The second half of the term will consider ‘how we punish’ by exploring diverse social, economic and political aspects of punishment and examining whether it is possible to do justice to difference.

In Hilary Term the focus will shift from punishment to the pursuit of security and critically examine what is meant by security (whether, for example, as pursuit, commodity, or public good). Successive seminars will consider whether the growth of markets in private security and the development of communal and personal security provision evidence the fragmentation or dispersal of state power. They will go on to examine exercises in state sovereignty in the name of risk management, counterterrorism, and migration and border control. These reassertions of state power permit significant intrusions into individual freedom and the deployment of exceptional measures and the

course will address important questions about the limits of legality and the balancing of liberty and security.

In Trinity Term two final seminars will provide an opportunity for critical reflection and engagement with issues raised throughout the course. The first will examine the case for 'civilizing security' and consider how security should be pursued, distributed, and governed and by whom; the second returns to the question of punishment to explore the notion of penal excess and the case for penal moderation.

The course will be taught by 12 seminars and 4 tutorials spread across Michaelmas and Hilary Terms (six seminars and two tutorials in each) with 2 further summative seminars in Trinity providing an opportunity for critical reflection on the whole course. The standard exam for the BCL (ie, 3 hour closed book) will be set.

The focus of teaching will be the weekly seminar which all those taking the course are required to attend. Students will be expected to read and think about the assigned materials in advance of the seminar. The seminar will be introduced by a Faculty member, followed by discussion, usually based around a set of questions distributed in advance. In addition the Centre for Criminology organizes seminars during the academic year at which distinguished invited speakers discuss current research or major issues of policy. This programme is advertised on the [Centre's website](#) and all students are encouraged to attend.

Learning outcomes: an in-depth understanding of the theoretical underpinnings, justifications, and contemporary practices of punishment and security.

#### **Restitution of Unjust Enrichment\***

Restitution of Unjust Enrichment is concerned with about how and when a claimant can compel a defendant to surrender an enrichment gained at the claimant's expense. Long neglected, the subject has in recent years been one of the most exciting in the postgraduate curriculum. It draws its cases from areas of the law which have resisted rational analysis, largely because they have tenaciously preserved the language of an earlier age.

Common lawyers found themselves unable to escape from money had and received, money paid, and quantum meruit, while those on the chancery side became defensively fond of the unsolved mysteries of tracing and trusts arising by operation of law. In the result, down to earth questions about getting back money and value in other forms have been made to seem much more difficult than they need be. The aim of any course on restitution must be to try to understand what has really been going on and to play back that understanding to the courts in accessible modern language. These aims are helped by keeping an eye on the main lines of civilian solutions to the problems with which the common law has to wrestle.

Note that this course is concerned only with restitution of unjust enrichment. Restitution for wrongs is not part of the course and is dealt with in the Commercial remedies course.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the laws by which a claimant can compel a defendant to surrender an enrichment gained at the claimant's expense.

#### **Transnational Commercial Law**

With the growth of international trade has come a growing recognition of the benefits to be obtained through the harmonization of international trade law. Transnational commercial law consists of that set of rules, from whatever source, which governs international commercial



transactions and is common to a number of legal systems. Such commonality is increasingly derived from international instruments of various kinds; such as conventions, EC directives and model laws, and from codifications of international trade usage adopted by contract, as exemplified by the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits published by the International Chamber of Commerce and the Model Arbitration Rules issued by the UN Commission on International Trade Law. Underpinning these are the general principles of commercial law (*lex mercatoria*) to be extracted from uncodified international trade usage, from standard-term contracts formulated by international organisation and from common principles developed by the courts and legislatures of different jurisdictions.

The first part of the course concentrates on the general framework, policies and problems of transnational commercial law, while in the second part these are examined in the context of specific international trade conventions, model laws and contractual codes, so that the student gains a perception of the way transnational law comes into being and helps to bridge the gap between different legal systems.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the rules which govern international commercial transactions and how those rules operate.

#### **List 2 – options available to MJur students only**

The following options are taken from the BA in Jurisprudence syllabus and are only available to MJur students, who can only take one option from this list.

##### **Administrative Law**

Administrative Law is concerned primarily with judicial control of the activities of the executive branch of government. The main topics covered are: (1) the grounds on which decisions and rules made by the executive can be challenged in the court - some of these relate to the substance of the decision or rule and others to the procedure by which it was made; (2) the remedies which can be obtained by applicants challenging administrative decisions; (3) the liability of public authorities in contract and tort.

Some tutors also deal with tribunals, public local inquiries, next steps agencies, contracting out and public sector ombudsmen. Some of these topics are the subject of lectures, which also occasionally deal with more theoretical aspects of the subject. Administrative Law is now one of the compulsory standard subjects within the Final Honours School syllabus. It also covers material in the "foundations of legal knowledge" and so must be taken by those seeking a professional qualification in England and Wales. The subject is taught in tutorials arranged by your college tutor.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of administrative law within the context of the English common law system.

##### **Company Law**

The company is one of the most important institutions in our society. There are over two million registered companies which, of course, vary radically in size and commercial significance ranging from the "one person" company to the large public companies. By virtually any measurement the company is the dominant vehicle through which business is conducted. There are a number of reasons for this but principally it is because it is a very flexible commercial institution and it is made conveniently and cheaply available.

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the basic conceptual apparatus of company law and to analyse some of the policy issues raised in regulating this pervasive commercial form. It is

important to note that the course is of relevance not only to those who wish to pursue a career as commercial or company lawyers, but also to those who have no such aspirations, as a knowledge of the company and how it works is relevant to many aspects of legal practice. The course involves an analysis of not only cases but also statute law and, although the Companies Act 2006 is among the largest statutes on the statute book, the course is not overly dominated by the study of statutory materials.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of the laws relating to the creation and regulation of companies.

### **Comparative Private Law**

Comparative Law is one of the most fascinating subjects in the legal syllabus. Comparative lawyers examine the differences and similarities of legal rules and doctrines across various legal systems. Students of comparative law soon realise that many of the legal issues that they have examined in the first two years of their degree are resolved in a very different manner in foreign jurisdictions.

English private law in particular has certain features that exist in a radically different shape, or are not present at all in other jurisdictions. These include the doctrine of consideration, the specific structure of tortious liability and the entire law of trusts.

An awareness of such differences is vital for students if they wish to be prepared for the challenges of legal practice in a globalised world, where many of them will be faced with cross-border dealings on a daily basis. It also enables them, at a time when they are approaching the end of their degree, to build on the knowledge of English private law that they have been able to acquire in their first and second year. Studying comparative private law allows them to draw together various threads of the wider discourse on the foundations of private law and to reflect critically on the English law by comparison with other legal systems.

The course focuses on a number of selected topics, drawn from the areas of contract (the conception of contract; performance, non-performance and remedies), tort (the structure of extra-contractual liability; product liability), land law (ownership, title and possession) and trusts (trust and fiduciary devices). English law is mostly compared to the private laws of France and Germany, the two most influential jurisdictions within the Western legal tradition other than England and the US.

Teaching is provided throughout Michaelmas and Hilary. For each of the selected topics there is an introductory lecture and a two-hour class contrasting English law with the solutions found in other jurisdictions. Lectures and classes are followed by tutorials. Instead of producing four or more standard length tutorial essays students write two extended essays of 4,000-5,000 words on a topic of their choice (one in Michaelmas and one in Hilary). They receive four (one-to-one) tutorials overall: for each of the two essays there is a tutorial discussing the proposed plan of research and another one discussing the result.

The teaching also includes a general lecture series provided throughout Michaelmas. This gives a general overview of the discipline of comparative law and provides a theoretical and methodological framework for the actual comparison to be made in the classes and tutorials.

Students work with a wide range of materials including primary sources, such as cases and statutes, and legal writings drawn from articles and textbooks. All materials are made available in English, so no knowledge of foreign languages is required.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of how certain fundamental aspects of private law are dealt with in jurisdictions beyond England and Wales and a capacity to reflect on the differences and similarities between practices in those jurisdictions and those of English common law.

## **Contract**

The syllabus comprises the general principles of the law governing enforceable agreements. It is not concerned with special rules governing specific types of contracts, such as sale, carriage or employment. The principal topics normally discussed are: (a) the rules relating to the formation of agreements and to certain further requirements which must be satisfied to make agreements legally enforceable; (b) the contents of a contract and the rules governing the validity of terms which exclude or restrict liability; (c) the nature and effects in a contractual context of mistake, misrepresentation, duress and undue influence; (d) the general principle that right and duties arising under a contract can only be enforced by and against the parties to it; (e) performance and breach, including the right to terminate for failure in performance and the effects of wrongful repudiation; (f) supervening events as a ground of discharge under the doctrine of frustration; (g) remedies for breach of contract by way of damages, action for the agreed sum, specific performance and injunction. (h) the basis of contractual liability.

Contract is one of the compulsory standard subjects within the Final Honour School syllabus. It also covers material in the “foundations of legal knowledge” and so must be taken by those seeking a professional qualification in England and Wales.

The subject is taught in tutorials arranged by your college tutor. Particular areas are also explored in lectures.

A comprehensive understanding of the general principles of contract law within the English common law system.

### **Copyright Patents and Allied Rights**

It is commonplace to claim that we live in an information and technological age, and that rights in creative and informational works, and in technology, are becoming increasingly important. In this course we introduce two of the central regimes for the protection of those rights – copyright and patent law - and their allied regimes. Copyright protects authorial works and recordings/transmissions of them, and is supported by the moral rights and performance rights regimes (which give authors and performers additional rights in respect of their works and performances). Patent law protects inventions, ie, technical ideas for doing things of use in industry (such as making drugs and drilling for oil). We ask why we have these regimes and how they operate at a national and European level. The course should appeal to those interested in the arts and entertainment industries, publishing, literary theory, information technology, research and development, trade, unfair competition, medical law and ethics, European harmonisation, EU law, science and intellectual property practice. It will be taught in eight two-hour seminars and six one-hour tutorials spread over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms by Lord L Hoffmann and Dr J Pila.

NOTE: MJuris and DLS students are welcome to take this course. The course may not be taken in conjunction with Copyright, Trade Marks and Allied Rights.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of intellectual property law with specific reference to copyright and patents and of various applications of this area of law.

### **Copyright Trade Marks and Allied Rights**

It is commonplace to claim that we live in an information and consumer age, and that rights in creative and informational works, and in words, logos and other signs used in trade, are becoming increasingly important. In this course we introduce two of the central regimes for the protection of those rights – copyright and trade mark law – and certain of their allied regimes. Copyright protects authorial works and recordings/transmissions of them, and is supported by the moral rights and performance rights regimes (which give authors and performers additional rights in respect of their works and performances). Trade mark law protects signs that indicate the commercial origin of goods and services, and is supported by the passing off action (which protects against certain

unauthorized uses of information to mislead or deceive the market). We ask why we have these regimes and how they operate at a national and European level. The course should appeal to those interested in the arts and entertainment industries, publishing, literary theory, brand management, European harmonisation, EU law, unfair competition and intellectual property practice. It will be taught in eight two-hour seminars and six one-hour tutorials spread over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms by Dr J Pila and Dr D Gangjee.

NOTE: MJuris and DLS students are welcome to take this course. The course may not be taken in conjunction with Copyright, Patents and Allied Rights.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of intellectual property law with specific reference to copyright and trade marks, and of various applications of this area of law.

### **European Human Rights Law**

The objective of the course is to provide a thorough grounding in the application of the European Convention on Human Rights. The primary aim is to introduce students to the substance of Convention rights and to their interpretation and enforcement, including the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court on Human Rights. This will include an analysis of general principles as well as broad themes arising from the interpretation and limits of several specific Convention rights (such as fair trial, protection of private life, and non-discrimination). Other European conventions and institutions will be referred to when relevant. Teaching will take place over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, and will consist of a combination of lectures, seminars, classes and tutorials.

Learning outcomes: a sound understanding of the significance of human rights and civil liberties, and their theoretical dimensions, in Europe; familiarity with the relevant provisions of the ECHR; a knowledge and understanding of the European Human Rights system as a whole and the place of the Convention in that system; and an understanding of the institutional procedural requirements for bringing human rights claims under the ECHR.

### **Family Law**

This course focuses on the legal regulation of individuals' intimate personal and family lives. The fact that the definition of 'family' itself is both highly contested and much assumed offers some insight into the hotly contested nature of much of Family Law.

Studying Family Law often involves taking a legal concept or underpinning idea with which most have some familiarity from daily life, such as marriage, divorce, parenthood, or children's rights, and then exploring exactly how the law regulates that subject and why. Key issues are examined within their historical, social, economic, and theoretical context. For example, what is the purpose of the consanguinity restrictions on marriage and should those have been extended to civil partnership? What does it mean to say a child is a rights-holder? If we cannot offer a coherent account, is there no such thing as 'children's rights'? Why do so many people believe the 'common law marriage myth'? Should the courts and Parliament care that these people think that legal benefits and obligations exist when they do not? The syllabus lists the precise topics covered.

Our focus is on the substantive law, though an awareness of the family justice system in practice adds an important additional perspective to key debates. We currently examine through essay questions only so as to enable students the opportunity to devote sufficient attention to the interplay between law and the larger social and policy issues that are critical to an in-depth understanding of the Family Law field.

Family law is inter-disciplinary in terms of the range of materials students are expected to read and the nature of the arguments and debates with which students are expected to engage. This includes working with social science research, government publications, and non-government public and social policy materials. Family law involves an examination of statutory law, which is more extensive than in many other subjects.

Property law and trusts law are relevant to discussing the legal position of relationships outside of marriage and civil partnership. Students may find the background from having studied these as part of their core Land Law and Trusts courses useful, though the Family Law perspective is distinctive. Underlying conceptual ideas and a little substantive detail covered in Contract Law are also relevant to private ordering and adult intimate relationships more generally. Discussion of contentious issues in parenthood and disputes over who should raise and see children when interested adults do not live together (residence and contact disputes) includes children born as a result of fertility treatment, which is discussed from a different perspective as part of the Medical Law and Ethics course. The child's capacity to make medical treatment decisions also features as part of both courses; in Family Law, it is one aspect of a larger discussion of children's rights and children's involvement in decision-making affecting them in a number of contexts. Examination of the legal approach to child protection includes limited discussion of public authority liability in negligence, as explored in Tort Law.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the principles and practical applications of family law, and of discussion of relevant issues not only in a legal context but in social and political contexts as well.

### Land Law

The focus of attention within the course is on interests in land: interests which do not merely operate not merely between the parties to a particular transaction involving the land, but can also affect third parties - other people coming into contact with it, such as later purchasers. Examples of such interests are the fee simple (virtually equivalent to ownership of the land), leases, easements and mortgages. The course concerns itself with questions such as: What interests count as interests in land? How are they created? Exactly when will they affect third parties?

Land Law has a well established set of principles, often regulated by statute, to govern it. In part this is because people dealing with land need to know with certainty what the result of a particular transaction will be. Even so, there are many areas of the subject which are currently being developed by case law.

The course is not about conveyancing, the buying and selling of land. It is true, however, that in Land Law we are conscious of the needs of purchasers. Thus, for example, the circumstances in which purchasers will be bound by interests are inextricably tied in with the way land is bought and sold.

Land Law covers material in the "foundations of legal knowledge" and so must be taken by those seeking a professional qualification in England and Wales. Candidates in the FHS examination must offer both Land Law and Trusts.

The subject is taught in tutorials by your college tutor. For an introduction to the subject see Simon Gardner with Emily MacKenzie, *An Introduction to Land Law* (Hart Publishing, 3rd edn, 2012).

### Teaching Conventions:

- (a) Estates and interests in land; the idea of ownership
- (b) Formalities required for transactions relating to land: estoppels
- (c) Successive and concurrent interests
- (d) Leases
- (e) Easements, covenants, licences
- (f) Mortgages
- (g) Protection of title to and of rights in and over land by registration
- (h) Human rights as relevant to land law. [W.e.f. FHS 2015 for Course 1, 2016 for Course 2.]

(i) Acquisition of title by possession; Loss of title because of dispossession. [W.e.f. FHS 2016 for Course 1, 2017 for Course 2.] Candidates will not be expected to display in-depth knowledge of human rights issues in answering problem questions.

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the law dealing with the rights to use, alienate, or exclude other from land, but excluding the buying and selling of land.

### Public International Law

There has never been a more exciting time to study Public International Law (PIL). Issues of PIL and international justice are at the forefront of public debates to a greater degree than ever before. International law provides the technical and intellectual underpinnings to large areas of international co-operation, including the prosecution of war crimes (both internationally and nationally), the legality of the use of force against States (e.g. Iraq), environmental protection, the scope of human rights protection (e.g. the 'war on terrorism'), the economic effects of globalisation promoted through the work of institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the settlement of land and maritime boundary disputes, and the resolution of jurisdictional conflicts arising in the context of anti-trust and other forms of economic regulation by States.

PIL today not only impacts and shapes decisions by States to a greater degree than ever before, but it also penetrates into the national legal order – often through national court decisions – to give rights to individuals and corporations to an extent that is unrivalled in the history of the subject. These developments have in turn led to the growth of lawyers and law firms who specialise in the practice of PIL. This is in addition to the demand for PIL lawyers in governments, inter-governmental organizations (such as the United Nations and the large number of UN Specialized Agencies), and non-governmental organizations.. For those who do not intend to follow a career in international law, the subject provides a broad sweep of issues which illuminate not merely questions of international law but the problems and processes of the world of diplomacy.

The PIL course at Oxford covers the major areas of general international law and is not over-specialized. The lectures cover the core tutorial topics on the nature and sources of international law, the law of treaties, international legal personality, jurisdiction and immunities, the law of foreign investment, State responsibility, the use of force and the procedures for peaceful settlement of disputes. In addition, the lectures introduce students to special areas such the law of the sea, international humanitarian law and investment arbitration. The consideration of these subject areas takes place within their broader policy context and having regard to recent experience.

Although in principle the syllabus is extensive, both the teaching practice and the mode of setting the FHS paper avoid any drawbacks which might result from this wide scope. Thus, different teachers will focus on different selected topics, and the student will find that it is not necessary to know the whole syllabus from A to Z. In the same context, the Schools paper provides a wide selection of questions.

Learning outcomes: an understanding of various aspects of Public International Law; the syllabus is too wide to be taught prescriptively but areas of knowledge gained through study of the course will include those outlined above, e.g. the law of treaties, jurisdiction and immunities, the law of foreign investment and state responsibility.

### Tort

Tort is one of the compulsory standard subjects within the Final Honour School syllabus. It also covers material in the "foundations of legal knowledge" and so must be taken by those seeking a professional qualification in England and Wales. The law of tort is mainly concerned with providing compensation for personal injury and damage to property, but also protects other interests, such as reputation, personal freedom, title to property, enjoyment of property, and commercial interests.

The subject is taught in tutorials arranged by your college tutor. Lectures in Michaelmas and Trinity terms cover most, but not all, of the topics on the agreed reading list. Revision lectures on contract and tort take place in Hilary term

Learning outcomes: a knowledge of the principles and practical applications of the law of tort within the English common law system.

## Trusts

The institution of the Trust is one of the most important ideas in English law. Its very definition is heavily contested, but most would agree that a trust arises where someone (a trustee) nominally owns property, and may wield many of the powers of ownership, but is generally unable to take advantage of that ownership. Instead the trustee-owner holds the property to the benefit of some other person (known as a beneficiary), a class of persons, or an object such as a charitable purpose bringing benefit to the public. Trusts can arise in two main ways – by intention; or because the law has other reasons to make an owner into a trustee. The purpose of the intentional trust is to transfer wealth in a more complex way than would be easy or possible to achieve by straight-out conveyance, such as to have the property distributed on particular terms and conditions, or to disperse ownership to win tax advantages, or to allow ongoing management of the asset. There are myriad situations in which the law has other reasons to make an owner of property into a trustee; one very important one is where a couple's home is nominally owned by only one partner, but the other partner deserves a share in it. The course looks at the scenarios in which the different kinds of trusts arise, and at how they behave.

In one respect, the course also looks outside trusts. A trustee is a fiduciary, being someone having a duty to act for another's benefit through the control of property. But there are other examples of fiduciaries too, such as solicitors, who must act for their clients' benefit; or agents who can contract on behalf of their principals. The course looks at the law's control of fiduciaries in general, whether they are trustees or persons otherwise charged with promoting the interests of others.

Trusts is one of the compulsory standard subjects within the Final Honours School syllabus. It also covers material in the "foundations of legal knowledge" and so must be taken by those seeking a professional qualification in England and Wales.

Learning outcomes:

### Optional Dissertation

A BCL or MJur student can offer a dissertation, in lieu of one written examination. The dissertation must be written in English, and it must not exceed 12,500 words which includes notes, but which does not include tables of cases or other legal sources. The subject must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee; approval will depend on the Committee being satisfied that the relevant subject group can provide a supervisor and two examiners.

Candidates must submit the proposed title and description of the dissertation in not more than 500 words, not later than Monday, Week Minus One of Michaelmas Term (the first day of registration) to the Academic Administrator ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)).

In considering such applications, the Committee will take account of the subject matter and the availability of appropriate supervision. You should be aware that the demand for supervision for such dissertations may exceed the supply, especially from particular Faculty members, and where this is the case a potential supervisor may elect to supervise only those dissertations which he or she judges most promising. Although in principle the option of offering a dissertation is open to all BCL and MJur students, therefore, in practice it is possible that some students who wish to offer a dissertation will be unable to do so, as a suitable supervisor with spare capacity cannot be found.

The dissertation (two copies) must be delivered to the Clerk of the Examination Schools for the attention of the Chairman of the BCL and MJur Examiners. It must arrive not later than noon on the Friday of fifth week of the Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken.

The topic of your dissertation may (and often will) be within the area of one or more of your taught courses, and/or in an area which you have studied previously. But any part of the dissertation which you have previously submitted or intend to submit in connection with any other degree must be excluded from consideration by the BCL and MJur Examiners. Although BCL students cannot take the List II courses, they are allowed to offer a dissertation within these fields. BCL students may offer a dissertation which does not fall into the field of any BCL course, if a suitable supervisor within the Faculty can be found.

Once you have received approval for your dissertation topic at the start of Michaelmas term, the topic may not be changed. This is because supervisors and examiners have already been approached and have agreed to act on the strength of the original proposal. However, it is accepted that, in the light of your work on the dissertation, the title (not the topic) may change. If that happens, you should agree a new title with your supervisor then email both the new title and the old title to Paul Burns ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)) and ask your supervisor to send an email indicating that he/she supports the proposed change. Approval for the change will then be sought from the Board of examiners. Proposed new titles should be communicated as soon as possible and no later than **Friday of week 1 of Trinity Term**. If your dissertation is submitted with a title different from that approved, the examiners have the right to refuse to examine it.

#### Dissertation format

1. 'Thesis' here includes not only the writing submitted for the DPhil, MLitt, MPhil, or MSt, but also the essay which is submitted by a Probationer Research Student for a Qualifying Test, Confirmation of Status and dissertations offered in the examination for the BCL or MJur. It does not include essays set by way of examination for the BCL or MJur.
2. Every thesis must include an abstract not exceeding 300 words. The abstract must contain no footnotes. The abstract must appear immediately after the title page. Its format is governed by regulations 7 to 10 below.
3. Every thesis must contain a table of contents. The table of contents must state the titles of the chapters and their principal sub-divisions. The table of contents must be indexed to the pages where the chapters and first-level sub-headings begin. If required, a table of abbreviations should follow the table of contents.
4. Every thesis which mentions cases and statutes must contain separate tables of cases and statutes. Unless there are very few cases and/or statutes, divide the tables into separate sections for separate jurisdictions. Arrange EC cases in chronological and numerical order. Any other tables should follow, eg tables of other primary legal sources (official papers treaties, UN documents, etc), and of tables and/or diagrams provided in the text. The tables must be indexed, so that each entry shows on what pages the case or statute in question is mentioned.
5. A bibliography listing secondary sources (articles, books, monographs etc) in alphabetical order must appear at the end of the thesis. It should include all such sources cited in the thesis. It need not be indexed.
6. The order of the thesis should be: title page, abstract, table of contents, table of abbreviations, table of cases, table of statutes, tables of other primary legal sources, table of diagrams and tables, main body of thesis, any appendices, bibliography. An index is not required. If there is one, it must come after the bibliography



7. All footnotes and appendices are included in the word count. The abstract, the table of contents, the table of cases, the table of statutes, the bibliography, any headers or footers, and any index are not included in the word count.
8. The thesis must be written in English
9. The thesis must use A4 paper.
10. The thesis must be word-processed using size 12 font on one side of the paper only, with a margin of 32 to 38 mm on the left hand side. Variations of font size may be used for headings, sub-headings, and footnotes.
11. The lines in the main text must be double spaced (8mm).
12. The first line of every paragraph must be indented unless the paragraph immediately follows a heading or sub-heading, or an indented footnote.
13. Quotations must use single inverted commas, saving double inverted commas for use for quotes within quotes. Quotations longer than three lines must be presented as a double-indented, single-spaced paragraph with no further indentation of the first line. Such double-indented quotations must not use quotation marks.
14. Endnotes must not be used. Footnotes must be internally single spaced with double spacing between the notes.
15. The thesis must comply with OSCOLA (the Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities: <http://denning.law.ox.ac.uk/published/oscola.shtml>), or another useful standard for citation. You should consult your supervisor if you wish to depart from OSCOLA.
16. The thesis must be bound in a soft or hard cover. NB For BCL and MJur dissertations, any form of binding – e.g. spiral binding – is sufficient.
17. Where the thesis is offered as part of an examination which is assessed anonymously, it must not at any point divulge the identity of the candidate or the candidate's college.
18. The word limits for the dissertation are: 10,000 words minimum; 12,500 words maximum

### Suspension of status

If you experience any difficulties that are sufficiently serious as to mean you are unable to continue with your studies, either for the immediate future, or for a sufficient period of time to mean that your chances of passing the BCL and MJur examinations will have been jeopardized, you can apply for suspension of status; the relevant form can be found on the webpage <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/graduates/forms/> under 'Miscellaneous Forms'. However, because the BCL and MJur are structured one-year taught courses, if you do suspend, then you have to return the following year at the point at which you suspended; so if you suspended at the start of Trinity Term 2015, then you would have to return at the start of Trinity Term 2016.

### Changes of course

The procedures for changing a BCL/MJur option choice are described above. Changing to a different course – i.e. a course other than the BCL and MJur – is likely to be considerably more difficult. If you think you might want to change course entirely, then please contact the Academic Administrator ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)) to discuss your position.

### **Progression to the MPhil or DPhil after completion of the BCL/MJur**

Providing there is no break in your study and you apply to be admitted the academic year directly following that in which you took the BCL/MJur/, you may apply using the readmissions forms available from the Student Self Service system (<https://www.studentsystem.ox.ac.uk>). These will be pre-populated with details that the University currently has on record for you, such as your personal details and your previous qualifications, but you will need to enter details of the programme you intend to study and any changes to the data we hold in your record. You will need to submit a research proposal which should be approximately two pages in length and should have a working title and a short synopsis and, unless it is self-evident, should indicate the areas or subject matter the proposed dissertation will cover. In both cases, applications should be submitted by 23 January 2014.

## **Teaching and supervision**

There are a number of different people who will be involved in the teaching and supervision you receive as a BCL/MJur student.

### **The role of course convenors and tutors for BCL/MJur options**

As described above, BCL and MJur options are typically taught by a combination of seminars and tutorials (and sometimes by means of lectures as well). While every option has an overall course convenor, in some options, the teaching will be shared between a number of individuals. The person you will work with most closely is generally the Faculty member with whom you have tutorials, given that tutorials offer the closest interaction between student and teacher.

### **The role of the dissertation supervisor**

Those who have opted to write a dissertation will be allocated a dissertation supervisor. Each student is entitled to six sessions of supervision, each of approximately one hour, not counting meetings to settle the shape of the dissertation before it was approved. The supervisor will report every term on the progress the student is making through through the Graduate Supervision System (GSS). For further information about GSS, please refer to the relevant entry in the Feedback section elsewhere in this handbook.

### **The role of the College Advisor**

Each graduate student is assigned a College Advisor who is normally (but not always) a member of the Law Faculty. Their specific role will vary slightly from college to college (and will be defined more precisely in information provided by your college) but essentially, they monitor students' progress, are available for consultation on academic and other matters, and act as a focal point for each individual student's relationship with their college.

### **The role of the student**

The student is responsible for the successful completion of his/her degree programme and playing an appropriate part in working with tutors and supervisors to that end. He/she is also responsible for making appropriate use of the teaching and learning facilities available within the University and following the relevant procedures concerning registration for and assessment of BCL/MJur options. The student is also responsible for ensuring that he/she has a standard of English sufficient for successful completion of the course.

For a more detailed account of the role of the student and dissertation supervisor, please refer to the Education Committee's policy document on graduate taught degrees which can be found on the webpage at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/policiesandguidance/>

## Assessment

### Formative assessment

The term 'formative assessment' refers to any feedback that doesn't relate directly to your final results. This typically takes the form of marks and written comments provided by tutors on essays submitted by the student; and verbal feedback on ideas advanced and points made by the student in the course of tutorials or seminars (though more broadly interpreted, it can also include comments made by a tutor in response to a student's verbal contribution to a tutorial or seminar). It is an important element of all Postgraduate taught programmes at Oxford and should provide guidance to those for whom extended pieces of writing are unfamiliar forms of assessment, will indicate areas of strength and weakness in relation to an assessment task, and will provide an indication of the expectations and standards towards which students should be working.

In 2011, the University's Education Committee introduced new policies in response to requests from students for enhanced formal mechanisms for the provision of feedback on both formative and summative assessment. The new policy stipulated that all students on taught Masters programmes could expect to receive formal written feedback on at least one designated piece of work normally submitted during the first term or very early in the second term of the course. The standard practice for BCL/MJur courses is to discuss written work in a tutorial, but the structure of a number of options militates against holding tutorials in the first term. These options are listed below. Typically, we find that, amongst their four option choices, most students will have chosen one or more options which do hold tutorials during the first term. **However, if all four of your choices are taken from the list below then please contact the Academic Administrator ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)). He will arrange you for you to have the opportunity to submit an essay in one of your four options and receive feedback on that essay before the end of Michaelmas Term.**

Commercial Remedies

Comparative and European Corporate law

Comparative Public Law

Competition Law

Constitutional Theory

Criminal Justice and Human Rights

European Business Regulation

European Private Law: Contract

International Commercial Arbitration

International Economic Law

Jurisprudence and Political Theory

Law in Society

Philosophical Foundations of the Common Law

Principles of Civil Procedure

Principles of Financial Regulation

Regulation

Restitution of Unjust Enrichment

### Summative Assessment

Summative assessment is the term used to describe the results that you receive for examinations, dissertations, and, in the case of the Jurisprudence and Political Theory option, the three essays you submit as the formal means by which this course is assessed. Formal written feedback (i.e. the comments of the examiners) is provided on the dissertation. This feedback is intended to provide a critical review of the work and provide suggestions for improvements and future development of the topic of research to enable students to develop their work for doctoral study if appropriate.

### Entering for University Examinations

Each BCL/MJur student is required to fill out an exam entry form and indicate by ticking the appropriate boxes on the form which options he/she is taking. The form will usually be sent to you by your College about two weeks before the Examination entry date, which for FHS is usually Friday of Week 4 of Michaelmas Term of the third year. If you change options after the form has been submitted, then you are charged a fee of £40<sup>1</sup> by Examination Schools. For further information about changing options, see the entry on How to register/change your BCL/MJur option preferences in the Courses section above.

### Submission of the dissertation

If you have chosen to write a dissertation, then you must submit two copies of your dissertation to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG by noon on Friday of the fifth week of Trinity Full Term. The package must be clearly marked 'Dissertation for BCL/M.Jur.'. In order to ensure anonymity, the dissertation must bear your examination number. Neither your name nor the name of your college must appear. You must include with the thesis (i) a signed statement that, except where otherwise indicated, the thesis is entirely your own work, and (ii) a second statement indicating which part or parts of the dissertation have formed or will form part of a submission in accordance with the requirements of another course at this or another university. To ensure anonymity these statements must be placed in a sealed envelope. The examiners shall exclude from consideration any part of your dissertation which is not your own work or which has been or will be submitted to satisfy the requirements of another course, and the examiners shall have power to require you to produce for their inspection the work so submitted or to be submitted. Further information relating to the presentation of the dissertation is included in the entry Dissertation Format above and will be provided in the Examiners' Edict.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure is correct as of September 2014 but may be subject to increase in Michaelmas Term 2014

### **Submission of Jurisprudence and Political Theory essays**

Candidates offering Jurisprudence and Political Theory will be examined in that subject by the submission of three essays. Essay questions will be published by the Board of Examiners on the morning of the Friday of the eighth week of the Hilary Term preceding the examination. Candidates will be contacted with details of how to collect or access the questions. The examiners shall offer a choice of six topics from which candidates shall be required to select three. The total length of the three essays submitted shall be not less than 5,000 words, nor more than 8,000. The essays shall be wholly or substantially the result of work undertaken whilst registered for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law or Magister Juris. Two copies of each essay submitted must be delivered to the Chair of the BCL/M.Jur. Examiners, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, by noon on the Friday preceding the beginning of the Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken. The essays must bear the candidate's examination number, but not his or her name or the name of his or her college. Every candidate shall sign a Declaration of Authorship to the effect that the essays are his or her own work. Candidates shall further state the total number of words used in their essays. This Declaration of Authorship shall be presented together with the essays. To ensure anonymity the Declaration of Authorship must be placed in a sealed envelope.

### **Dates of Examinations**

The dates of examinations are only finalised in the course of the year and the final timetable is generally available in mid-Hilary Term. Typically, BCL/MJur examinations begin on Saturday of Week 8 of Trinity Term and continue through to Saturday of Week 10 of Trinity Term.

### **The format of the examinations**

Examinations are unseen, and with the exception of the Corporate Tax Law and Policy and Personal Taxation options, you are not allowed to take books or notes into the examination room. However, in many examinations you will be provided with copies of statutory and other official material relevant to the subject: details of this are notified to you in advance. The examination in each subject offers a choice of questions, though in some cases there are rules as to permissible combinations of questions, which are strictly enforced. You are normally required to answer four questions in three hours; this rule too is strictly enforced, and attempting fewer than the required number of questions is penalised. You will normally be required to hand write your examination answers, so you must take care that your handwriting is legible (see information about illegible scripts below).

### **Procedures for dealing with illegible scripts**

Examiners are not bound to take account of illegible material and may ask for illegible scripts to be typed if they are unable to read them. Examiners will try to identify such scripts as early as possible in the examining process; once scripts are identified, the candidate's College will be notified and the candidate will be asked to read out the script to a scribe who will then transcribe it. The candidate will be charged for the re-typing of the script. To accommodate this possibility, it is recommended that candidates remain in Oxford for up to five days after their final examination.

## The Examiners' Edict

Midway through Michaelmas Term, the Examiners' Edict, also known as the Notice to Candidates, will be circulated to all students. This is a set of instructions about all aspects of the BCL/MJur examinations and covers information such as how many questions each paper will comprise, what materials you will be provided with in the exam room, and information about examination protocol. Typically, this is followed by further notices to candidates to provide supplementary information that wasn't available at the time of the initial circulation. **Please pay careful attention to these communications and retain them for reference in the period leading up to the examinations and during the examinations themselves.**

## Illness or other Causes affecting Candidates for Examinations

The Proctors have authority to authorise alternative arrangements for candidates who for medical or other sufficient reasons are likely to have difficulty in writing their scripts or completing the examination in the time allowed. Such arrangements must be made at the time of submission of the examination entry form. If this applies, you should consult the appropriate college officer, (usually the Senior Tutor). See further *Examination Regulations* 2014, Part 10.

[http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-10 Part 10 Candidates with Special Examination Needs.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-10%20Part%2010%20Candidates%20with%20Special%20Examination%20Needs.shtml)

If your performance in any part of an examination is likely to be, or has been, affected by factors, such as illness, disability, bereavement etc, of which the Examiners have no knowledge, you may, through the appropriate college officer, inform the Proctors of these factors. Usually this will involve submitting a medical certificate to the Proctors, in which as much detail as possible should be recorded by the certifying doctor to explain your case. The Proctors will pass this information to the Chair of Examiners if, in their opinion, it is likely to assist the Examiners in the performance of their duties. See further *Examination Regulations*, Part 11. [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-11 Part 11 Acute illness or other urgent causes affecting.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-11%20Part%2011%20Acute%20illness%20or%20other%20urgent%20causes%20affecting.shtml)

The examiners cannot take account of any special circumstances other than those communicated by the Proctors. Candidates are advised to check with the appropriate college officer that any medical certificate for submission is complete (eg covers each paper where the candidate was affected by illness). The medical certificate must provide explicit detail about the factors that are likely to have affected your performance in the examination. The Proctors will accept submission made after the final meeting of the Examiners only in exceptional circumstances. **Every effort should be made to ensure that medical certificates or other documentation are passed on to the Proctors as soon as possible.**

## Withdrawal from the examinations

If you are experiencing problems of any kind which are severe enough to mean you are unable to take your examinations, then you may apply for withdrawal from the examinations. For further information about how to do this, please refer to the 2014 Examination Regulations, section 14

[http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-14 Part 14 Withdrawal from Examinations and Nonappearance.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-14%20Part%2014%20Withdrawal%20from%20Examinations%20and%20Nonappearance.shtml)

### Late submission of work (for dissertation and Jurisprudence and Political Theory essays)

If, for good reason, you are unable to submit the dissertation/essays by the stipulated deadline, you may apply through your College to the Proctors for permission to submit the work later than the deadline. This process can also be enacted retrospectively – i.e. after you have missed a deadline – but you should make the case to the Proctors as soon as you possibly can. The full regulations concerning late submissions can be found in the 2014 Examination Regulations, section 16.8 (see [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-16 Part 16 Marking and Assessment.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-16%20Part%2016%20Marking%20and%20Assessment.shtml))

### Marking Conventions

In order to get a Distinction in the BCL or MJur, you must attain a Distinction mark (a mark of over 70) in at least two of your four options and have no mark below 60. In order to attain a Pass in the BCL or MJur, you must attain marks of 50 or above in all your options. A mark lower than 50 but greater than 39 can be compensated by a very good performance elsewhere, but a mark of 39 or below is not susceptible of compensation. The qualities a paper must demonstrate to be awarded a Distinction or Pass are:

**Distinction (70% and above):** Distinction answers are those that represent an excellent level of attainment for a student at MLF level. They exhibit the following qualities:

- acute attention to the question asked;
- a deep and detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic addressed and its place in the surrounding context;
- excellent synthesis and analysis of materials, with no or almost no substantial errors or omissions, and coverage of at least some less obvious angles;
- excellent clarity and appropriateness of structure, argument, integration of information and ideas, and expression;
- identification of more than one possible line of argument;
- advanced appreciation of theoretical arguments concerning the topic, substantial critical facility, and personal contribution to debate on the topic.

**Pass (50-69%):** Pass answers represent a level of attainment which, for a student at MLF level, is within the range acceptable to very good. They exhibit the following qualities:

- attention to the question asked;
- a clear and fairly detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic addressed and its place in the surrounding context;
- good synthesis and analysis of materials, with few substantial errors or omissions;
- a clear and appropriate structure, argument, integration of information and ideas, and expression;
- identification of more than one possible line of argument;
- familiarity with theoretical arguments concerning the topic, and (especially in the case of high pass answers) a significant degree of critical facility.



**Fail (below 50%):** Qualities required for a pass answer are absent.

In assessing the optional dissertation, Examiners are particularly instructed by the Examination Regulations to judge "the extent to which a dissertation affords evidence of significant analytical ability on the part of the candidate".

Scripts are marked on the University scale from 1 to 100. In practice a mark above 75 is very rarely seen, and a mark of 80 would indicate an utterly exceptional script.

It is important to appreciate that these conventions are not inflexible rules. The examiners have a residual discretion to deal with unusual cases and circumstances. However, their discretion to depart from the normal conventions is not exercised except in very unusual circumstances in which the examiners are convinced that the convention would yield an indefensible result. The discretion has to be exercised rationally, and the primary component of rationality in this context is that all candidates should be subjected to exactly the same rules. It follows that the discretion will not be exercised in favour of a candidate merely because the marks very narrowly fail to satisfy the convention or against a candidate merely because they only very narrowly succeed in satisfying the convention.

### Examination Procedures

The marking process involves the second marking of a random sample of scripts for each paper (if a particular paper only has a few candidates, then all the scripts may be second marked) after which all the markers for that paper meet and consider any differences arising, following which a single mark is agreed by the two markers of the scripts in question. Second marking will also be applied for candidates whose overall marks place them on the distinction and fail borderlines, and may also be required to determine the winners of prizes. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. medical) third readings may take place.

The examiners meet and agree a final classification/result for each candidate, having taken account of medical and other special case evidence and having made appropriate adjustments for such matters as absent answers and breach of rubric. The examiners also agree on the award of prizes at this stage. The decisions of the examiners are then passed to Examination Schools. Candidates will be able to view their results (both overall classification and individual paper marks) within the Student Self Service webpage in OSS (<http://www.studentsystem.ox.ac.uk>).

### Academic appeals

For the procedures for appeals from the decisions of the Proctors, see *Examination Regulations* 2014, Part 18.1. [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-18 Part 18 Appeals from Decisions of the Proctors and Examiners.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/08-18%20Part%2018%20Appeals%20from%20Decisions%20of%20the%20Proctors%20and%20Examiners.shtml)

The appeal must be made by you or by your college within 14 days of the date of the Proctors' decision. If this applies to you, you should consult your college adviser or the Senior Tutor. For appeals from the decisions of the examiners, see *Examination Regulations* 2014, Part 18.2 (URL as above). If you wish to raise a query or make a complaint about the conduct of your examination you should urgently consult the Senior Tutor in your college. Queries and complaints must not be raised directly with the examiners, but must be made formally to the Proctors through the Senior Tutor on your behalf, and no later than 3 months after the notification of the results. The Proctors are not empowered to consider appeals against the academic judgment of examiners, only complaints about the conduct of examinations. Further information about complaints procedures may be found in the Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum, particularly section 13 - see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/section13/#d.en.41334>

## Re-takes

Candidates who fail or withdraw from the examination may with the permission of the Graduate Studies Committee and subject to such conditions as it imposes offer themselves for re-examination. Candidates offering themselves for re-examination must retake all of the papers, except that:

- (a) if all of the written papers are passed and the dissertation failed then only the dissertation need be resubmitted;
- (b) if the dissertation is passed and one or more of the written papers failed then only the written papers need be re-taken;

Partial resits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances. Candidates are normally allowed to re-enter on only one occasion.

If you do fail, and wish to re-take, please contact [Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk) for details about how to re-enter the examination.

## Examiners' Reports

Examiners' reports from previous years can be found on the Faculty's website at <http://www.law.ox.ac.uk/publications/handbooks.php>

## Good Academic Practice

### Plagiarism

You are reminded that the work that you present for your examination (this includes assignments, projects, dissertations and examination papers) must be your own work and not the work of another individual. You should not quote or closely paraphrase passages from another source, be that a book, article, web page, another student's work or other source, without acknowledging and referencing that source. If you do present other people's work as your own work you are committing plagiarism. This is cheating and the Faculty and the University treat any alleged offence of plagiarism very seriously.

The University's definition of plagiarism can be found at:

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/apply/legal\\_information/plagiarism.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/legal_information/plagiarism.html)

The University's Education Committee has developed a website

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/goodpractice/>

that gives useful advice about all aspects of plagiarism – why it matters, how to avoid it, what happens if you are suspected of plagiarism etc. It also provides a list of related documents which includes advice from other institutions, and about academic good practice more generally.

For law students, there are particular things to watch for:

#### *Getting ideas from other students work*

Law students often "borrow" work from other students in their own year or from students in the year above. If the work is directly copied then this will clearly be an obvious form of plagiarism but you also need to be aware that taking the structure and ideas from this work can also be plagiarism unless the source is acknowledged. Although it may sometimes be helpful to see how others have tackled issues, an important part of the learning exercise in Oxford is to work out how to present an answer yourself. This is often an intellectual struggle but it is an important part of the educational process. By borrowing the work of others you therefore not only risk plagiarism but you are also less likely to develop your own intellectual abilities fully.

#### *Articles etc.*

You will be expected to read many articles as part of your tutorial preparation. Students often find it difficult to know how to incorporate these into their own written work. The temptation is there to "lift" bits from the introduction and conclusion of the article, or odd sentences from it. Usually, an article will be presenting an argument which is, to some extent, original and the author makes the case for this argument in the detailed text. You may wish to use this article in a variety of different ways but it is important to bear in mind that it is not only verbatim quotations and paraphrases that need to be properly referenced but also the overarching argument that the author makes.

Therefore, even if you are not using any of the detailed wording of the article, you must still acknowledge the author's intellectual input if you are drawing on the argument that (s)he makes.

#### **A brief example:**

Source text, from S Bright and B McFarlane, *Proprietary Estoppel and Property Rights* (2005) 64 Cambridge Law Journal, 449, 455.

It can therefore be argued that proprietary estoppel, like wrongs, unjust enrichment and other non-consensual sources of rights, always gives rise to an underlying personal liability which may, in some circumstances, be coupled with a property right. As A's personal liability will persist after a transfer of the land in respect of which the proprietary estoppel claim arose, it may well be that B has no need of a property right to protect his reliance: instead B is adequately protected through his personal right against A.

### Plagiarised

Proprietary estoppel always gives rise to personal liability and may also generate a property right, but a person to whom a representation is made will not always need a property right to adequately protect his reliance.

(This is plagiarism. Even though there is little verbatim copying it paraphrases the argument of Bright and McFarlane without acknowledging the source of this argument.)

“Proprietary estoppel, like wrongs, unjust enrichment and other non-consensual sources of rights, always gives rise to an underlying personal liability”<sup>2</sup> and sometimes the courts will give a property right if necessary to protect reliance.

(This is also plagiarism. Although the first part of the sentence is correctly attributed, the implication is that the second part is the original idea of the writer.)

### Non-Plagiarised

Bright and McFarlane argue both that proprietary estoppel gives rise to personal liability and, further, that this will sometimes be coupled with a property right, but only if it is necessary to protect the reliance of the person to whom the representation was made.<sup>3</sup>

(This is not plagiarism as it clearly attributes the whole of the argument to Bright and McFarlane, and cites the source).

### **Textbooks and Cases**

A particular challenge for law students is how to use text books correctly. The most obvious form of plagiarism is where students closely follow the wording of textbook writers. This often occurs (unintentionally) where students have taken notes from a textbook and then use these notes to form the basis of their essay.

It also occurs where students use the structure adopted by a text book writer in order to organise the essay.

By way of illustration, the author of a text book may set out that a general principle can be manifested in one of 3 ways, and then set out those 3 ways. To the student, this may appear uncontroversial and as ‘the only’ way that the topic can be understood. It is likely, however, that other writers will present the material differently. The breakdown of the principle into those 3 ways is the author’s work, and if this structure is adopted, the author must be acknowledged.

Students often use text-books too closely without being aware that this constitutes plagiarism and will say to tutors: “...but X put it so clearly and I could not put it better”, or “...lots of writers break

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<sup>2</sup> S Bright and B McFarlane, *Proprietary Estoppel and Property Rights* (2005) 64 Cambridge Law Journal, 449, 455

<sup>3</sup> S Bright and B McFarlane, *Proprietary Estoppel and Property Rights* (2005) 64 Cambridge Law Journal, 449, 455

down this principle into those 3 ways". This does not justify plagiarism. If a text book writer is being relied on, the writer must be acknowledged.

The same applies with respect to cases. The reasons for citing a case are therefore two-fold: first, as an *authority* for a proposition of law, in which case you will generally be citing the case itself; and second, as the *source* of a statement about the law, in which case you will generally be citing the court or a judge.

If, having referred to the above and to the University website, you are still unsure how to reference your work properly, and would like further advice, you should contact your Tutor or Director of Studies for guidance.

### **Further guidance on avoiding plagiarism**

Plagiarism will be covered in the class on OSCOLA referencing for BCL and MJur dissertations in Week 4 (see lecture list for further details). While this class is predominantly for those writing dissertations, all those with an interest in learning more about how to avoid plagiarism are invited to attend. The University's IT Services section runs a course for students on plagiarism awareness – see <http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TTER> for details.

## Facilities

### General Information about Oxford and University Facilities

#### Libraries

The Law Faculty is lucky to have a superb library resource in the form of the Bodleian Law Library, which has an excellent, extensive collection, providing support for the teaching and research needs of our students. It is a library of legal deposit, with the largest law collection in the United Kingdom. It offers not only its collection of books, but access to all relevant legal electronic databases and online journals. All books on the reading lists are placed at the library's Reserve desk, for ease of access. As a member of the University you are also able to use any of the other 40 libraries which are part of the Oxford University Library Service, in addition to your own College's library.

Books in the law library may not be borrowed: they must be read in the library, this ensures they are always available when you need them, and there are self-service photocopying facilities. Public access computers are available in several areas of the Library, including the Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer IT Room. They provide access to the catalogue and the extensive range of databases provided by Oxford University Library Services. PCs in the Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer IT Room also give access to word processing and other computing applications. Students' own laptops may be used in the Library, which has wireless and ethernet access. The Baker & McKenzie Seminar Room is available for small group discussions when not in use for seminars.

Further details of services will be explained at your library induction. The procedures for enrolling as a user of the library are explained to you on arrival in Oxford, as part of the orientation sessions offered by the law library staff. Further information about the law library can be found at its web site <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/>.

#### Computing Services

##### Your Oxford single-sign on account and access to networked services

Your Oxford single-sign on account is your main access to University online services. It is essential that you activate your account. It gives you access to all the main Oxford University services, including Student Serf Service, electronic library services, such as Lexis, Westlaw and online journals; Oxford email (<https://nexus.ox.ac.uk/>), to which all crucial University information will be sent; and Weblearn (<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/law>), where reading lists and handouts from lectures are available. For more information about IT Services see <http://welcometoit.ox.ac.uk>. IT Services is at 13 Banbury Road, phone 273200, fax 273275 or e-mail [help@oucs.ox.ac.uk](mailto:help@oucs.ox.ac.uk).

Please use your Oxford email account for all email communication with the University.

#### Email Lists

All BCL and MJur students are automatically subscribed to the email lists specific to each course and to a more general PGT email list (PGT stands for Postgraduate Taught). These maillists are the Faculty's main means of communicating announcements about lectures and seminars, examinations, IT and library training, library hours etc. It is therefore **essential** that **ALL** students check their email on a regular, preferably daily basis, and ensure that their Oxford email accounts remain operative. If you do not receive messages, contact the Faculty Office by emailing [lawfac@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lawfac@law.ox.ac.uk).

## The Faculty website and Weblearn

The public Faculty website ([www.law.ox.ac.uk](http://www.law.ox.ac.uk)) provides information about courses, news and events, graduate discussion groups, how the Faculty works, Faculty members, much detail relevant to undergraduate and postgraduate study, links to Faculty centres, specialisations, publications, library and computing facilities and more.

The Faculty website has two sections, the public site, and the intranet site. Reading lists and lecture handouts are held on Weblearn (<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/socsci/law>). All students have their own password-protected 'My Weblearn' site on Weblearn which provides calendars and some file storage. For help with Weblearn, contact Marianne Biese (Marianne Biese ([marianne.biese@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:marianne.biese@law.ox.ac.uk)), phone 281 051 or Sandra Meredith ([sandra.meredith@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sandra.meredith@law.ox.ac.uk)), phone 271 499).

## Student self-service

Student self-service provides web access to important information that you will need throughout your academic career. You are able to register, view and update your personal and academic information throughout your studies at Oxford. For further information, see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/studentselfservice/>

## IT facilities in the St. Cross Building

Most of the computing provision for students in the St. Cross Building is within the Bodleian Law Library (BLL). The Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer IT Training Room, which is used for the Legal Research and Mooting Skills Programme, has 26 networked computers, giving access to all the online resources within the Library and University. Word and other Microsoft Office applications and EndNote are available on these computers. It is necessary to use a USB key to save documents on these computers.

The Freshfields room is available for general use when not being used for teaching. There are also networked computers in the upstairs gallery computer room, and more at various positions around the library. Kurzweil software, which allows blind readers to listen to pages of a book being read aloud, is also available in the BLL, but it must be booked in advance.

The main reading room has wireless access and there are power points at the ends of several desks. For more information ask at the library. There is no network access in the lecture theatres, and extremely limited access to power points. If you wish to bring a laptop to lectures, charge it before you come.

Do not leave your laptop unattended in the library or anywhere else – cables for securing your laptop are available at the library enquiry desk or at any computing shop. You can store your laptop and other items in a locker in the St. Cross Building. Ask at the Porter's Lodge for information about getting a locker.

## IT/electronic research resources training

The library's electronic holdings are accessible via SOLO: <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk> and OxLIP+: <http://oxlip-plus.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. When off-campus, your Oxford Account log in is required to

access electronic holdings. With the exception of Lexis Library and Westlaw, most databases don't require passwords when on campus. Detailed information about legal databases and passwords is available at [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/e-resources/databases](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/e-resources/databases).

Online tutorials for key legal and journal databases are available at

<http://ox.libguides.com/law-uklaw>. The BLL also gives classes on using databases, finding online journals and researching particular areas of law. The Library distributes a Newsletter via the Faculty's email lists, and the Law Bod Blog (<http://lawod.wordpress.com>) also provides current information.

#### University Rules for Computer Use

The University's Regulations and Policies applying to use of University ICT facilities can be found at <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/legal/rules/> In the Policy Statements section below, there is also a specific link to the Regulations Relating to the use of Information Technology Facilities – though that information can also be found at the URL above.



## **Support**

### **General sources of help**

Being a student is exciting, challenging and rewarding, but it is not always a bed of roses! Everyone in Oxford is well aware that students, like anyone else, can have problems. To a large extent we take these in our stride, consciously or unconsciously making use of the familiar support systems with which we surround ourselves, such as family bonds, friendships, and reliance upon those whose role it is to supervise us. But sometimes our problems need more intensive attention. Do not feel alarmed about acknowledging this: it really can happen to anyone. Oxford has a number of mechanisms designed to help.

### **Departmental**

If the problem is essentially academic in nature, then the first person you should speak to is the convenor of the BCL/MJur option in question (if the issue concerns a particular option) or (if the issue relates to your studies more generally) the Academic Administrator, or Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses.

### **College**

If the problem isn't principally an academic one, then you should speak to your College Advisor. Each graduate student is assigned a college advisor who has various pastoral responsibilities and can assist with personal guidance and practical problem-solving (e.g. in dealings with agencies outside the college on behalf of students when so requested by students). Colleges also have various appointees with specific pastoral and welfare responsibilities, e.g. advisors to women students, chaplains, resident assistant deans appointed from the postgraduate community, etc. There are often part-time college nurses on site and all students are registered with college doctors based at nearby surgeries. Domestic bursars are charged with meeting special living needs, e.g. in respect of students with disabilities or students who fall ill or students in need of emergency accommodation. The head of college also often plays a role in ensuring that students are settled and adequately supported.

The Middle Common Room (college graduate student union) often has its own welfare officer who acts as a source of information and an advocate. The tradition of extensive college-level peer support in academic matters extends to non-academic matters as well. In general the relatively communal aspect of college life makes for extremely easy access to confidential support in respect of non-academic matters, including support from people who know the student well, as well as more anonymous advice and support from professionals when necessary.

### **University**

The University offers a counselling Service to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service. For more information visit:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling/)

There is also range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, peer support, OUSU Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer/)

The Equality and Diversity Unit supports a network of over 300 harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central Harassment Advisory Service. For more information on the University's Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students visit: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/)

The Faculty has two harassment advisors whom students and Faculty may contact for advice:

Sue Bright, New College

Tel No: 01865 289050  
Email: [Sue.Bright@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Sue.Bright@law.ox.ac.uk)

Roderick Bagshaw, Magdalen College  
Tel No: 276078  
Email: [Roderick.Bagshaw@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Roderick.Bagshaw@law.ox.ac.uk)

For information on a variety of issues relating to health and welfare, you can also consult the University webpage at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare> This covers subjects such as general health, disability, counselling and student-led support.

### Help for students with disabilities

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on a your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/)

The Law Faculty itself has two Disability Contacts. These are:

Emma Gascoigne, Personnel Officer  
St. Cross Building  
Tel No: 01865 281622  
e-mail: [Emma.Gascoigne@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Emma.Gascoigne@law.ox.ac.uk)

Paul Burns, Academic Administrator  
St. Cross Building, St. Cross Road  
Tel No: 01865 271495  
e-mail: [Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk)

The Disability Contacts work with the University Disability Staff and other bodies, such as the Bodleian Law Library to help facilitate students' access to lectures, classes, tutorials and access to information.

The Contacts are also involved in an ongoing programme to identify and promote good practice in relation to access to teaching and learning for students with disabilities within the Faculty, and to ensure that the Faculty meets the requirements of the Equality Act (2010).

### Education Committee and the Proctors

The University's Education Committee is principally concerned with policy matters relating to teaching, learning, and assessment, but it is also the body which can grant dispensations from the regulations in certain instances (though in such situations a student's college will normally write to the Education Committee on the student's behalf – the student does not write direct). Further information about the Education Committee and its activities can be found at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/edc/>

The Proctors are responsible for ensuring that regulations are implemented and investigating complaints by members of the University. The activities they regulate and the regulations they enforce are set out in detail in the documents on the Webpage 'Essential information for students' at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/> The Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum in particular covers an extensive range of subjects, including disciplinary procedures, welfare matters, and a number of University policies which are referred to in the policy statements section below.

## OUSU

The Oxford University Student Union exists to provide a number of student services, ranging from enhancement of your experience whilst a student to protection of your ability to study should you encounter financial, academic or health-related difficulties. For further information about all its activities, please refer to its website at <http://ousu.org/>

## Safety for Students

Guidance about how you can ensure your personal safety while studying at Oxford can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/community/personal>

## Careers

The Careers Service can provide you with comprehensive support in your career planning and management. As an Oxford Alumnus you can attend careers events, fairs, workshops and company presentations. Your student account on CareerConnect will switch to an alumni account when your University card expires, ensuring you stay up-to-date with job vacancies, events, skills sessions, fairs and resources on job sectors, applications and international opportunities. The Careers Service website can be found at <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/>; for CareerConnect information, please refer to <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/our-services/careerconnect/>

The Careers Service also provides information about a series of Professional networking events; see <https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=773> for further details.

## Alumni relations

As part of the University's 180,000-strong alumni community, you can take advantage of our varied alumni programme to stay involved. Whether your interests lie in further study, building a career, travel, or something else, Oxford's alumni programme has something to offer everyone. For more information, please visit: [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk) All law students at Oxford are members of both a college and the University and therefore they have shared allegiances. Undergraduate alumni are inclined towards contacting their colleges for most alumni matters yet increasingly become involved with Law Faculty offerings for professional interaction and networking. Because the Faculty of Law organizes and provides all graduate supervision and runs the postgraduate taught courses, graduate students tend to have stronger ties with the Faculty.

The Faculty of Law is eager to maintain contact with all law alumni, including those who go on to practice law from other Oxford faculties. Benefits of staying in touch with the Faculty's alumni programme include:

- Opportunities to attend alumni reunions and professional networking events. The Faculty organises events, both social and professional, which take place in the UK and internationally. We have previously held events in the United States, Canada, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, and Australia and, due to their popularity, we plan to increase these events in the years ahead.
- Receiving copies of the Faculty's annual alumni magazine, Law News, and the termly electronic e-bulletin to keep you up-to-date with Oxford news.
- Joining the group 'Oxford University Lawyers', via LinkedIn, which offers exclusive membership to all Oxford students, staff, and alumni. This provides members with the

chance to share discussions with other Oxford law alumni across the world. Our major benefactors often post their news and job advertisements on the group's page as well.

- Professional support and advice. We work closely with the Careers Service and our benefactors to help our alumni achieve their full potential in the workplace. Amongst other initiatives, the Faculty has founded the networking group Oxford Women in Law (OWL) which will assist female alumni working in field of law to network and find mentors.

To ensure that you are on our mailing list, or to enquire about organising an alumni event, please contact: Dr. Elizabeth Hodges, Donor Relations Coordinator, Faculty of Law, St. Cross Building, St Cross Road, Oxford or by e-mail at [elizabeth.hodges@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.hodges@law.ox.ac.uk). Finally, should you know of any Oxford Alumni who are not in contact with us but would like to be, please forward their contact details to us.

## **University and departmental policy statements**

University Equal Opportunity Policy

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/appendixauniversityofoxfordequalitypolicy/>

University Policy and Procedure on Harassment and Bullying

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/appendixbuniversitypolicyandprocedureonharassmentandbullying/>

Disability equality scheme and policy

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/>

Regulations Relating to the Use of Information Technology Facilities

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/196-052.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/regulations/196-052.shtml).

## Feedback, complaints, and student representation

### The GSS system

The University operates an online Graduate an online Graduate Supervision System (GSS). For those taking dissertations, the system will be used by your dissertation supervisor to report on your progress. For all students, it is an opportunity to review and comment on your progress over the term.

To access the GSS, please visit <http://www.gss.ox.ac.uk/> You will be able to log on to the site using your single sign-on details. Full details of how to use the site are provided at the on-line help centre; however, should you need additional support, please contact [Geraldine.Malloy@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Geraldine.Malloy@law.ox.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Students are asked to report in weeks 6 and 7 of each term. Once you have completed your sections of the online form, it will be released to your supervisor(s) for completion, if you are writing a dissertation, and will also be visible to your Director of Graduate Studies and to your College Advisor. When the supervisor's sections are completed, you will be able to view the report, as will the relevant Director of Graduate Studies and your college advisor. Directors of Graduate Studies are responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision takes place, and this is one of the mechanisms they use to obtain information about supervision. College advisors are a source of support and advice to students, and it is therefore important that they are informed of your progress, including concerns (expressed by you and/or your supervisor).

When reporting on academic progress, students on taught courses should review progress during the current term, and measure this progress against the timetable and requirements for their programme of study. All students are asked to describe briefly which subject-specific research skills and more general personal/professional skills they have acquired or developed during the current term. GSS is not for registering complaints – please refer to the entry below for information about complaints procedures.

### Other opportunities for feedback

You can provide feedback by one or more of the following means:

- Lecture evaluation forms: these are generally available at all lectures and seminars based in the St Cross Building (ask in the Faculty Office if there are not copies available in the lecture theatre itself). The forms are anonymised – i.e. you are not required to provide your name or college.
- End of year questionnaires: at the end of each year of the undergraduate course, you will be asked to complete an online survey which will ask you questions specific to your year. The survey is then considered (confidentially) by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. All survey responses are anonymised.
- Contacting your student representative, as described below.

## Feedback and complaints regarding standards of lectures, seminars and tutorials

### Quality of lectures, seminars, academic services (other than libraries)

If you have a problem with the quality of teaching provided in lectures, seminars, or tutorials, then contact the Academic Administrator at [Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk) who will liaise with the Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses as appropriate. If for any reason, you would rather contact the DGST directly, you may do so by emailing [Mindy.Chen-Wishart@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Mindy.Chen-Wishart@law.ox.ac.uk). All such communications will be treated as confidential and will only be shared with others with your permission. The Academic Administrator is also the person to contact if you have encountered any problems relating to the scheduling of lectures and seminars or about the provision of any services (e.g. IT services) within the Faculty building.

### Quality of library provision

If you have a problem regarding the quality of the provision of library services within the Bodleian Law Library, please contact Ruth Bird, the Bodleian Law Librarian ([Ruth.Bird@Bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Ruth.Bird@Bodleian.ox.ac.uk))

## Academic appeals

See entry under Assessment section earlier in this handbook.

### Further information about complaints

For general information about complaints relating to various University resources, please refer to the University webpage at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations>

For more detailed information, and links to particular regulations relating to various different types of complaint, please refer to section 13 of the Proctors' Memorandum at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/info/pam/section13/#d.en.41334>

## Student representation

The Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) is the body with the principal responsibility for making decisions on graduate matters and it includes representatives of each of the Faculty's postgraduate taught and research courses. At the start of Michaelmas Term, an email is circulated to all postgraduate students asking if they wish to stand as representatives for their particular course, after which students from each course vote for those standing. The elected representatives then serve as a voice for their constituency – the students who have elected them – on GSC. As such, they will raise with GSC any matters that other students on their course have asked them to bring to the Committee's attention; they will also consult those students if there is an issue on which GSC wants students' opinions. From time-to-time, they will also coordinate social events of one sort or another.

One of the two BCL/MJur representatives will also attend the open business of the Law Faculty Board, the Faculty's most senior decision-making body to which GSC refers any matters which it doesn't have the constitutional authority to deal with itself. Student representatives also serve on the Committee for Library Provision and attend a Divisional forum at which student representatives across the Social Sciences Division come together to discuss matters of relevance.

The generic contact addresses for the BCL and MJur representatives are:

[BCL.Rep@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:BCL.Rep@law.ox.ac.uk) and [MJur.Rep@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:MJur.Rep@law.ox.ac.uk) Please use these addresses to bring matters to the attention of your representative.

## **Skills training**

### **Faculty, college, and library resources**

During your first week here, the Bodleian Law Library organises induction sessions for graduate students to introduce you to the library and its staff and help you to use its resources. Online tutorials for key legal and journal databases are available at <http://ox.libguides.com/law-uklaw>. The BLL also gives classes on using databases, finding online journals and researching particular areas of law. The Library distributes a Newsletter via the Faculty's email lists, and the Law Bod Blog (<http://lawod.wordpress.com>) also provides current information. A full list of classes is provided in the Induction Timetable in the Introduction section of this handbook.

### **University resources**

The University offers advice and guidance on research and study skills on the webpage at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills> This covers subjects such as plagiarism, time management, language skills, and revision and examination preparation.



## **Law Faculty Statement of Provision for BCL and Magister Juris**

*This template relates to the BCL and MJur course; there is a separate document covering the MLF, and M.Sc. and M.Phil. in Criminology*

### **1. Who is the Course Director with overall responsibility for students on this course?**

The course director is the Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses, Mindy Chen-Wishart, Merton College. Queries about course administration should be directed in the first instance to the Academic Administrator, Paul Burns ([Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Paul.Burns@law.ox.ac.uk))

### **2. What induction arrangements will be made?**

Induction arrangements are preceded by a letter sent by email during the summer to all those students due to start the course in October, informing them of which course options will be available, giving details of when students need to arrive in Oxford, and providing a list of frequently asked questions. This is then followed by a further communication later in the summer giving students passwords to the Faculty's induction website, which contains the induction timetable, handbooks, etc.

The induction programme itself takes place in –the two weeks preceding Michaelmas term, and includes registration with the Faculty, and a social event; a question and answer session about the course and the Faculty more generally; a programme of taster lectures familiarising students with the course options available to them; IT sessions introducing students to electronic resources; and a library induction, introducing students to the Bodleian Law Library.

The induction arrangements aim to provide students with information about course content, and the Faculty's facilities and resources, as well as providing opportunities for students to meet and get to know their classmates.

### **3. What is the overall length of the course, and for how many weeks are students expected to work in Oxford?**

The BCL/MJur course takes between nine and ten months, from initial induction through to the final examinations, so typically students will need to be in Oxford from late September through to mid July. Oxford University has three terms, each of 8 weeks duration. These terms are called: Michaelmas Term (October to December); Hilary Term (January to March); Trinity Term (April to June). You will be expected to be in residence at Oxford for each of the 8 weeks of term. You will be free to leave Oxford after the end of each term but are advised to return during the week prior to the start of the next term (referred to as 0<sup>th</sup> week). Written examinations will take place shortly after Trinity Term (typically late June/early July) and you will need to make sure that you do not leave Oxford until your examinations have finished. Examination results will normally be published in mid to late July.

#### **4. What is the pattern of lectures, classes, seminars, tutorials and self-directed work for this course?**

BCL students make their choices from a section of 30 or so courses.. Each student takes either four courses, or three courses and a dissertation (students must receive approval for their proposed dissertation topic before they are permitted to commit to this option). Teaching is organised by the Faculty and typically comprises 16 two-hour seminars and two to four tutorials per option, though this may vary from one option to another; and in some cases, options will involve lectures as well as seminars. All examinations, except the essay-based examination for Jurisprudence and Political Theory, and the dissertation option, take place at the end of the year, in late June/early July. In addition to the courses available to BCL students, MJur students may also choose one subject from a range of options available to students in the undergraduate Jurisprudence degree; teaching for these may be organised either by the Faculty or the student's college, depending on the option in question.

For all options, students will be expected to undertake substantial amounts of reading arising from lectures, seminars, and tutorials, and will also be required to submit written work for some of the seminars, and for most tutorials.

#### **5. What one-to-one or small group teaching will students on this course receive?**

Small group teaching is provided through the tutorials that form an integral part of all BCL/MJur courses, and which provide direct interaction between students and leading experts in the relevant field. A student can expect to receive two to four tutorials for any given option. While one-to-one tutorials are unlikely (2-5 is the norm), those writing dissertations also receive a number of one-to-one sessions with their dissertation supervisors.

#### **6. Who will take overall responsibility for an individual student's progress and for completing the GSS report form in each term of the course?**

Students are invited to report on their own progress using the Graduate Supervisory System (GSS) and their reports are viewed by the Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses, who will address any problems identified in the reports. However, the tutorial nature of teaching for the BCL and MJur means that there is no joint progress report on GSS. Instead, the tutors' own reports are completed on the OxCORT system as for undergraduate tutorials, and college advisors view these reports and will bring any problems to the attention of the Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses.

#### **7. What are the provisions for formative and summative assessment? What formatively assessed work in the first term will receive written feedback, and which piece(s) of summative assessment (if any) will receive written feedback in addition to final dissertations/theses of 5000 words or more?**

Formative assessment (that is, assessment that does not relate directly to the final grades with which the student graduates) takes the form of written comments on students' essays or

dissertation drafts (for those choosing the dissertation option); and verbal feedback given in tutorials (in the course of which essays are discussed) or in discussions with dissertation supervisors. All students will have the opportunity to submit at least one item of work for formative assessment before the end of Michaelmas Term. Summative assessment refers to the final marks awarded for each option taken. Additional comments are provided for in respect of marks attained for dissertations and Jurisprudence and Political Theory essays but not for marks attained in any other option.

**8. What workspace will be provided? What IT support/library facilities/experimental facilities will be available?**

BCL/MJur students share with research students the Bodleian Law Library Graduate Reading Room, which has wireless access and Ethernet sockets. Public access PCs are provided on all three floors of the library and wireless network coverage includes the central part of the library, which also contains a number of Ethernet sockets for readers' use. There are PC training rooms in both the Law Faculty and the Bodleian Library, and both the Faculty and the Library have IT Training and Development Officers, who offer general support and specific training in the use of the many legal databases the Library services provide.

The Bodleian Law Library is one of the largest faculty-based libraries in the University, and offers almost all of its paper holdings – some 400,000 items – on open shelves. It has excellent US and Commonwealth materials, strong European and international collections, and extensive holdings in the philosophy and sociology of law and in criminology.

**9. What training needs analysis will be carried out with students and what formal graduate research skills and transferable skills training will be provided? What opportunities are provided for students to take part in research seminars or groups?**

Analysis of training needs and provision of training is carried out by means of the induction course which involves sessions on use of library resources and legal databases, understanding common law sources and EU legal sources, and an introduction to common law for students with a civil law background, and to civil law for students with a common law background. There are also two workshops on essay writing and problem-solving, aimed principally at MJur students and an introductory session provided for those choosing to write a dissertation which includes information about avoiding plagiarism, which all students are welcome to attend. There is an extensive programme of research seminars in which BCL and MJur students are welcome to participate. These are supplemented by a number of discussion groups which have regular lunchtime meetings at which members (graduate students or Faculty members) present work in progress or introduce a discussion of a particular issue or new case. These may involve guest speakers from the Faculty and beyond

**10. What are the arrangements for receiving feedback from students on provision and for responding to student concerns? What are the arrangements for appointing student representatives to (G)JCCs, Departmental Committees and to for the Divisional PGT student discussion forum?**

Concerns that relate to a particular course option should be discussed with the course convenor in the first instance, or the Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses if the student prefers. Concerns of a more general nature should be discussed with the College Advisor or with the Academic Administrator and/or Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses.

Students may also raise issues through the Graduate Studies Committee. The Committee includes both a BCL and an MJur student representative whose roles are to put to the Committee any issues brought to their attention by the students they represent. Beyond the Faculty, the Oxford University Student Union also has considerable expertise in the area of academic welfare and offers several publications and services that may be of use to students. These include the provision of study skills sessions with an expert in this area. Information can be found on their web site at <http://www.ousu.org>.

**11. What arrangements for accommodation, meals and social facilities will be made for students on a graduate taught course?**

Many colleges will be able to provide accommodation. Generally speaking, colleges will provide meals through the year, but provision will vary from college to college, especially during vacations, and students will need to familiarise themselves with their college's detailed arrangements. In addition, there are usually self-catering facilities available in graduate accommodation. Students will be members of the Middle Common Room, or equivalent, of the college, which is the main social centre for graduates. The MCR provides a common room and usually organises a programme of social events throughout the year. The college will also provide a bar, some computing facilities and a library, and may often have dedicated funds for research (conference and field grants). The MCR also represents the interests of its members to the college through an elected committee or through elected representatives to college committees. Again, details will vary from college to college. Graduates are also welcome to participate in all other social and sporting activities of the college. Please see individual college websites for further details about all aspects of college provision.

**12. What arrangements are in place for pastoral and welfare support? (please refer to Department, College and central provision)**

There is an extensive framework of support for graduates within each college. A student's college will allocate a College Advisor from among its senior Members, usually in a cognate subject, who will arrange to see the student from time to time and who the student may contact for additional advice and support on academic and other matters. In college, students may also approach the Tutor for Graduates and/or the Senior Tutor for advice. The Tutor for Graduates is a fellow of the college with particular responsibility for the interests and welfare of graduate students. In some colleges, the Senior Tutor will also have the role of Tutor for Graduates. Each college will also have other named individuals who can offer individual advice.

At Faculty level, both the Academic Administrator and Director of Graduate Studies for taught courses are generally available to discuss any problems a student may encounter.

At central University level, the student union, OUSU, can offer advice and help through its Student Advice Service; details can be found at <http://www.ousu.org/help-and-advice/>. The University also has a Student Counselling Service, and details are available at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling/>.

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## Glossary of Oxford Terminology

Some words and phrases used at Oxford are explained below, but the list will be incomplete because anyone who has been here for a while forgets which words are strange. If you don't know what something means, just ask someone!

**Associate Professor:** the standard tenure-track career academic post at Oxford. Some Associate Professors hold the title of full Professor in recognition of their distinction.

**Battels:** college bills, payable each term. Non-payment is the only really quick and effective way for a student to get suspended.

**BCL:** (Bachelor of Civil Law): So called, but it is actually a *postgraduate* degree in *English* law. Its history and name are medieval, like the MA. But it evolved after World War I into a demanding postgraduate course taught by the professors of the University, as well as college tutors, in a combination of seminars and tutorials. In 1927, the exams for the BCL were in Common Law, Conflict of Laws, Equity, Evidence, Jurisprudence, Roman Law: Ownership and Possession, Roman Law: Locatio Conductio and Societas, Real and Personal Property, and Public International Law. There are some 35 to 40 options available in the BCL.

**Common Room:** in a College, a name for the organization of the academic staff (Senior Common Room), the undergraduates (Junior Common Room) or the graduate students (Middle Common Room; members of the MCR are typically given membership of the JCR as well). These names are used because along with other facilities, those organizations usually provide a room where you might find coffee and newspapers, or at least comfy seats. The Senior Common Room in the St. Cross Building is only a room, not an organization.

**Collection:** (1) A mock examination held by colleges (typically just before the beginning of term, based on work done in the previous term); (2) a College meeting between a student and the head of college, and or tutors, held at the end of each term to discuss the student's work (also called a 'handshaking' in some colleges).

**College:** A self-governing society of fellows. Colleges admit undergraduate students (who are then admitted to the University), and admit graduate students after they are admitted by the University. Colleges provide accommodation, meals, common rooms, libraries, sports and social facilities, and pastoral care for their students and faculty. Crucially, they provide tutorial teaching for undergraduates. That makes them more than just student residences; they are residential communities whose focal purposes are teaching and learning.

**DGSR:** the Law Faculty's Director of Graduate Studies (Research).

**DGST:** the Law Faculty's Director of Graduate Studies (Taught Courses).

**DPhil** (Doctor of Philosophy): a recent (1914) innovation, the University's highest research degree.

**Examination Schools:** grandiose, scary Victorian building on the High Street where most undergraduate and BCL, MJur, and MSc examinations are held, as well as some oral examinations for research degrees.

**Fellow:** member of the governing body of a College. Most of the tutors in a college are fellows.

**Final Honour School ['FHS']:** the course leading to the second public examination (i.e., the University examination for the BA). The course for the BA in law is the Honour School of Jurisprudence.

**Finals:** the final examination in the Final Honour School, sometimes called 'Schools'.

**First Public Examination:** see Law Moderations.

**Graduate:** a person who has received a university degree.

**GSC:** Graduate Studies Committee (a committee of the Law Board).

**Head of a college:** the chief officer in a college, with various responsibilities including charring meetings of the governing body. 'Head' is a generic term; they are called President (Corpus Christi, Kellogg, Magdalene, St. John's, Trinity, Wolfson), Principal (Brasenose, Harris Manchester, Hertford, Jesus, Lady Margaret Hall, Linacre, Mansfield, Regent's Park, St. Anne's, St. Edmund Hall, St. Hilda's, St. Hugh's, Somerville), Master (Balliol, Pembroke, St. Catherine's, St. Cross, St. Peter's, University), Rector (Exeter, Lincoln), Warden (All Souls, Green, Keble, Merton, New, Nuffield, St. Antony's, Wadham), Provost (Oriel, Queen's, Worcester), or Dean (Christ Church).

**Isis:** The Thames, while running through Oxford.

**Junior member** (of a college, or of the University): student.

**Law Board:** the governing body of the Law Faculty, chaired by the Dean. Faculty officers (the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Law Board, the Directors of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies) are members *ex officio*; other members are elected from among Faculty members. The Graduate Studies Committee, like other Faculty committees, reports to Law Board and acts subject to the approval of Law Board. The Law Faculty sometimes meets as a Faculty to discuss policies, but decisions are made by the Law Board.

**Law Moderations (Law Mods):** the first University examination taken by undergraduate law students. The result is a Fail, a Pass, or a Distinction, and students must pass to proceed to Finals. Marks awarded are supplied to students' colleges, but do not count to the final classification of degrees. First Public Examinations in other subjects may be called Preliminary Examinations or Prelims.

**Lecture:** an exercise in which one teacher addresses an audience of students (a few students, or a few hundred). Students are allowed to ask questions!

**MA** (Master of Arts): a degree awarded to a student who completes the BA, and then survives for 21 terms (7 years) after matriculating without going to prison. MAs outrank any person who does not have the degree of MA, other than doctors of divinity, medicine and civil law.

**MJur** (Magister Juris): a taught postgraduate degree introduced in 1991, and designed as a counterpart to the BCL for students who have been trained in law outside the common law jurisdictions. MJur candidates may take one of the Oxford undergraduate common-law courses, and are eligible for most of the BCL subjects.

**MLitt** (Master of Letters): A two- to three-year research degree.

**MPhil** (Master of Philosophy): a limited-entry, one-year research degree, which is only open to students who have completed the BCL or the MJur and met special grade requirements.

**MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice:** a one-year taught postgraduate course, which involves a combination of coursework and a dissertation.

**MSt** (Master of Studies): a research degree designed to be completed in one year.

**Matriculation:** ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre for admission to the University of Oxford as a student.

**Pigeonhole:** your mailbox, usually in an array of mailboxes in a porter's lodge.

**Porter:** gatekeeper, receptionist, and postal worker at the front entrance ('porters' lodge') of each college. Porters are helpful.

**Postgraduate:** a graduate who is a student.

**Proctors:** two senior university officers, nominated by colleges in rotation for a period of one year, with responsibility for (among other things) some matters of student discipline, overseeing the conduct of examinations, and investigating student complaints about the University. The extent of their jurisdiction is indeterminate.

**Professor:** the holder of a senior academic post with responsibilities to teach for the University but not for a College, or an academic holding another post on whom the title has been conferred in recognition of their distinction.

**PRS** (Probationer Research Student): the term used for a student admitted to work toward the DPhil or the MLitt, before completion of the Qualifying Test for DPhil or MLitt status.

**Punt:** a boat with a pole. When it comes to a choice, stay with the boat and let go of the pole.

**Reader:** the holder of an academic post intermediate between a university lectureship and a professorship, or an academic holding another post on whom the title has been conferred as a sign of distinction. The University no longer creates new Readerships.

**Rustication:** a temporary sending down, i.e. a suspension from the University, usually for a major disciplinary offence.

**Schools:** see **Examination Schools**. Also a name for the undergraduate examinations (see **Finals**).

**Scout:** a member of a college's staff who cleans rooms and keeps an eye on students.

**Second Public Examination:** see **Finals**.

**Seminar:** an exercise, typically held around a table, in which one or more teachers discuss their subject with a group of students. Different from a lecture because the teacher is usually sitting down, and there is often more than one teacher. A common procedure is that one teacher (sometimes a visiting speaker) presents a paper, or less formally explains their view on a problem, and another teacher responds, with open discussion following.

**Sending down:** requiring a student to leave the University.

**Senior Member** (of a college or the University): roughly, a member of the Faculty or a college fellow. So, professors, lecturers (whether of a college or of the University) and research fellows of colleges may all be termed senior members. The contrast is with junior members (students).

**Senior Status:** the status of a student who has already taken a degree, and is reading for another undergraduate degree (a second BA) with dispensation from the First Public Examination.



**Senior Tutor:** the officer in a college who has overall responsibility for academic affairs. The fellow who has been at the college the longest is usually called the 'senior fellow'. The tutor in a particular subject who has been at the college longest is usually called the 'senior subject tutor' (so the law tutor who has been there longest is the Senior Law Tutor).

**Subfusc** (from the Latin for 'dark brown'): for women, black trousers and black socks or a black skirt with dark tights, black shoes, white blouse, a black ribbon worn as a bow-tie, and mortarboard and gown. For men, a dark suit, black shoes and socks, a white shirt and white bow-tie, and mortarboard and gown. Wear subfusc for matriculation, examinations (written and oral) and degree ceremonies. Avoid wearing it on other occasions.

**Term:** The 8 weeks (Sunday of week 1 to Saturday of week 8) of the three Oxford academic terms: Michaelmas Term (MT) (early October to early December, named after the feast of St. Michael on September 29), Hilary Term (HT) (mid-January to mid-March, named after the festival (January 13) of Hilarius, the bishop of Poitiers, who died in 367), and Trinity Term (TT) (mid-April to mid-June, named after the festival of the Holy Trinity). Strictly speaking, those periods are known as 'full terms' and extended terms are about three weeks longer. Faculty teaching, including lectures and seminars, is conducted during full terms.

**Tutor:** a teacher who gives tutorials. Most undergraduate students have a tutorial at least once a week in term time. Tutorials are more important in the BCL/MJur than in any other graduate degree in Oxford (or in the whole world).

**Tutorial:** a meeting to discuss the student's work, and the subject that the student is studying. Tutorials vary widely, depending on the tutor's methods and the subject matter; the core features are that (i) there is one teacher present, (ii) there are very few students (typically two, sometimes one or sometimes three for an undergraduate tutorial; anywhere from one to four for a BCL/MJur tutorial), (iii) one or more of the students has written an essay. The students' own work is usually the focus of discussion in the tutorial; most tutors try not to turn the tutorial into a small lecture.

**The University:** the oldest English-speaking degree-granting institution in the world, and older than any of the colleges. It was already in some sort of operation before 1100, but it started to grow in 1167 when Henry II stopped English students going to Paris. The University has had a Chancellor since 1214. The University decides the content of courses, organizes lectures, seminars, and graduate supervision, provides libraries, laboratories, museums, computing facilities, etc; admits graduate students, conducts all degree examinations, and awards degrees. The Law Faculty is part of the University's Division of Social Sciences ([www.socsci.ox.ac.uk](http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk)). The University's first overseas student was Emo the Friesian, in 1190. For the University's legal status, see [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/375-092.shtml](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/statutes/375-092.shtml).

The University is not to be confused with University College, which is a college.

**Viva** (short for 'Viva Voce'): oral examination. There used to be vivas for the BA and for the BCL, but now we only use them in examining research degrees, for which purpose the viva serves as an opportunity for the student to defend the thesis.