

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **GOVT 345 JURISPRUDENCE**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to law and philosophy of law, including categories of law, some legal terminology, justice, liberty, crime and punishment.

#### **RATIONALE**

A basic philosophical understanding of law and its relationships to society is essential for a proper application of legal principles in politics, the legal profession, and criminal justice.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (high speed recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Identify the sources of law (Reason, Bible, State, People, etc.).
- B. Identify the basic schools of legal philosophy.
- C. Formulate arguments for and against each jurisprudential school of thought.
- D. Evaluate each school in accordance to the biblical worldview.
- E. Analyze the use of jurisprudential biases in judicial rulings.

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 250 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmate’s thread. The reply must be at least 150 words. Both the thread and the reply must have at least 2 sources (with 1 being the textbook) in current Turabian format.

D. Papers (4)

The student will write three 2–3-page papers and one 4–5-page paper in current Turabian format. These papers will be written on the following topics:

Paper 1: An evaluation of *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat

Paper 2: An evaluation of *The Path of the Law* by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Paper 3: A scriptural argument for the existence of the natural right to life, liberty, and property as well as a definition of justice in light of that existence utilizing concept distinctions between various types of rights

Final Paper: The Future of American Jurisprudence

E. Quizzes (8)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material as well as the presentations for the assigned module/week. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 true/false questions, and have a 45-minute time limit.

**COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

F. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 80 pts ea)	320
Papers (3 at 125 pts ea, 1 at 145 pts)	520
Quizzes (8 at 20 pts ea)	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

A. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

B. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport)

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **GOVT 345**

Textbooks: Bahnsen, *By This Standard: The Authority of God's Law Today* (2008).  
Wacks, *Understanding Jurisprudence: An Introduction to Legal Theory* (2016).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Bahnsen: Introduction, Part I Wacks: ch. 1 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	10 0 80 20
<b>2</b>	Bahnsen: Part II Wacks: ch. 2 6 presentations 1 website	Paper 1 Quiz 2	125 20
<b>3</b>	Wacks: chs. 3–5 3 presentations	DB Forum 2 Quiz 3	80 20
<b>4</b>	Wacks: chs. 6–7 2 presentations 1 website	Paper 2 Quiz 4	125 20
<b>5</b>	Wacks: ch. 8 2 presentations	DB Forum 3 Quiz 5	80 20
<b>6</b>	Wacks: chs. 9–10 2 presentations	Paper 3 Quiz 6	125 20
<b>7</b>	Bahnsen: Part III Wacks: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Quiz 7	80 20
<b>8</b>	Bahnsen: Conclusion Wacks: chs. 13–14 1 presentation	Final Paper Quiz 8	145 20
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.