

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

JURI 610

JURISPRUDENCE/LEGAL HISTORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the many schools of jurisprudence. Jurisprudence is the study of legal philosophy. An examination of the nature and meaning of the legal past, particularly the Western legal tradition, with a primary focus on the historical relationship between church and state; and the biblical and theological foundations of the Western legal tradition and the English Common Law heritage. Particular emphasis is given to formulating principles of a distinctively Christian jurisprudence and on reading primary materials.

Note: LL.M. students must meet additional legal brief component as described in course syllabus.

RATIONALE

Fundamental theological and philosophical presuppositions shape the way human beings understand social institutions, including the law. This includes the view of the nature of the law; the place of positive norms; natural law, and historical ideas in the establishment; and development of legal institutions, principles, and norms. The Christian worldview integrates diverse legal ideas and serves as a foundation for jurisprudence.

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 (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Compare and contrast diverse jurisprudential perspectives.
- B. Analyze the philosophical and theological presuppositions that serve as foundations for the main legal theories.

- C. Evaluate diverse schools of jurisprudence in light of the Christian worldview and the historical influence of Christian ideas.
- D. Understand the historical origins and development of legal ideas and institutions.
- E. Analyze the justice of legal norms consistent with fundamental principles of Divine Law.

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 (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to post a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and be supported by 3 sources in current Bluebook format. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 150–200 words and include 2 sources.

D. Research Papers (3)

The student will write three 2,800–3,000-word research-based papers in current Bluebook format that focus on the following topics: natural law and positive law, modern perspectives on legal theory, and integrative jurisprudence. Each paper must include at least 10 references drawn from at least 5 separate sources. The word count does not include citations.

Note: LL.M students must add an additional 2,500 words of writing in their final paper. This is a Pass/Fail component of this assignment. This is not required of the JM students.

E. Video Lecture Quiz

This quiz will cover the Reading & Study presentation for the assigned module/week. It will be open-book/open-notes, contain 5 multiple-choice questions, and have a time limit of 25 minutes.

F. Quizzes (3)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the assigned modules/weeks. Each quiz will be open book/open-notes, contain 10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions, 5 short answer questions, and have a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist

10

Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts each)	150
Research Papers (3 at 200 pts each)	600
Video Lecture Quiz (Module 1)	25
Quiz 1 (Modules 1–2)	75
Quiz 2 (Modules 3–4)	75
Quiz 3 (Modules 5–7)	75
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

JURI 610

Textbooks: Berman, *Faith and Order: The Reconciliation of Law and Religion* (1993).
Bix, *Jurisprudence: Theory and Context* (2015).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Berman: chs. 1, 3 Bix: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Video Lecture Quiz	10 0 50 25
2	Berman: ch. 5 1 presentation	Quiz 1	75
3	Bix: chs. 3–6 1 presentation	Research Paper 1	200
4	Bix: chs. 7, 17–18 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	50
5	Bix: chs. 19–20, 22 1 presentation	Research Paper 2 Quiz 2	200 75
6	Berman: ch. 11 Bix: chs. 8, 10–11 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	50
7	Berman: chs. 7–9 1 presentation	Quiz 3	75
8	Berman: chs. 12–13 1 presentation	Research Paper 3	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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