Instructor: James M. Richards
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 1-2 pm or at other times by appointment.
Office: Room 4020 JKB; Tele: 801-550-5735; email: james_richards@byu.edu
Required Text: Frederick Schauer and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, The Philosophy of Law, Oxford University Press.

Course Description and Objectives: An introduction to the nature, interpretation, and function of law, rights, liberty, justice, equality, responsibility, and punishment. Readings in classic and contemporary thought and actual case reports. As a result of this course you should be able to read and understand material relating to the various theories and areas of law, to prepare a summary of an article about some aspect of law, to prepare a legal brief of a reported court case, to understand and make arguments from different points of view on various legal issues, to apply legal principles to actual situations, and to identify the various constraints on legal decision-making.

Course Requirements:
1. You will prepare summaries, answers to questions, or legal briefs of some of the assigned readings and cases.
   (10 points each. Your lowest score will not be counted) These should be single spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, not to exceed one page.
2. There will be a paper assignment (75 points). The subject and grading standards for the paper will be distributed and discussed in class.
   It should be double spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, not to exceed 8 pages.
3. There will be several quizzes, some will be scheduled and some will be unannounced.
   (10 points each. Your lowest score will not be counted).
   There will be no make-up of missed quizzes.
4. There will be a mid-term take home examination and an in-class final examination given during the testing period. (100 points each). The final exam will consist of essay questions which will be given to you in advance. The take home exam should be double spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman.

Note:
* Assignments must be turned in during class at the time they are requested by the instructor on the day they are due. After this time they will be considered late and the score will be reduced by one-third for each class period they are late. Assignments may not be submitted by email without the instructor's prior permission.
* You are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Please be respectful of other students by not monopolizing the discussion and by not visiting with other students while someone else is talking. You may be called on by the instructor to comment at any time. Learning is an active process, facilitated by participating in class discussion and by listening to others. For this reason, attending and participating in class is important.
Grades:
You will be graded based on the number of points you receive on the summaries, answers to questions, and case briefs, the paper, the quizzes, and the examinations. Your class participation will also be considered as one of several non-objective factors which the instructor reserves the right to use in determining a final grade at his discretion.
The final grade will be determined as follows:
A 94-100%, A- 90-93%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 77-79%, C 73-76%, C- 70-72%, D+ 67-69%, D 60-67%; E less than 60%.

Note:
1. This syllabus is not a contract. It is for informational purposes only and is subject to revision as announced in class. You are responsible for being aware of all changes.
2. Be sure to keep all your returned work to document corrections in class records.

Honor Code
In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university’s expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

Accessibility Issues
Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with accessibility issues. If you have any accessibility issues that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center in 1520 WSC (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Preventing Sexual Harassment
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education and pertains to admissions, academic and athletic programs, and university-sponsored activities. Title IX also prohibits sexual harassment of students by university employees, other students, and visitors to campus. If you encounter sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or 1-888-238-1062 (24-hours), or http://www.ethicspoint.com; or contact the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.