

**Philosophy of Law**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Frances Kamm & John Oberdiek**

Contact Information

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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Meetings

Department of Philosophy

106 Somerset Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Seminar Room 524B

Wednesday 3:15pm-6pm

Readings

All readings will be posted to Canvas.

The Course

This is a colloquium-style seminar in the philosophy of law, broadly construed to include issues in moral and political philosophy that relate to law.

The course will consist in visits by seven outside scholars. Each meeting before a guest's visit will be devoted to reading the background materials suggested by the guest. In the meetings including the guest, we will focus on their work-in-progress. So, two seminar meetings will be devoted to the topic of each outside scholar's work-in-progress.

As the course is a series of visits by outside scholars presenting their work-in-progress, there is no necessary connection between each two-week block. For that reason, it will be important that students focus only on the visiting guest's materials and not read ahead. Deep engagement with the assigned readings will be crucial.

Schedule

September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Chatterjee
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mala Chatterjee (Columbia)
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Yaffe
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Gideon Yaffe (Yale)
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Fricker
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Miranda Fricker (NYU)
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Wodak
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Daniel Wodak (Penn)
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Ramakrishnan
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ketan Ramakrishnan (Yale)
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Moreau
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sophia Moreau (NYU)
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Preparatory discussion of Shiffrin
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Seana Shiffrin (UCLA)[Zoom]

Learning Objectives

It is the overarching goal of this seminar to acquaint you with cutting edge philosophical work related to the law. Philosophy in general prizes analytical rigor, and philosophy of law

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is no different. It is therefore a subsidiary goal of this course to hone both your skill in analyzing issues of law as well as your analytical and argumentative writing skills.

#### Writing Requirements

The *main writing requirement* is a final essay of 6000 words (not including footnotes) in which you will develop your own ideas about some topic or topics covered in the seminar. This will be due December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like comments on a draft, please submit the draft no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

There are *two shorter writing assignments*: you should plan to write a 600-word essay exploring a topic of interest in two of the works-in-progress presented. The first 600-word essay will be due October 7<sup>th</sup>, while the second will be due November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, every student should prepare *two well-constructed questions* for each outside scholar, which will be submitted the day before each guest's visit, for a total of fourteen written questions.

#### Grading

Two short papers: 10% each, totaling 20%

Fourteen written questions: 10%

Class participation: 10%

Final essay: 60%

#### Academic Integrity

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in Rutgers' community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, submitting a paper or a portion of a paper written for another class, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This action includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment and course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. For more information, refer to Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy/>

Note that you need not intend to plagiarize in order to do so. You are guilty of plagiarism if you represent the ideas of others as your own or if you present, as new, ideas you derived from an existing source regardless of intending to do so. All sources and assistance used in preparing your papers must be precisely and explicitly acknowledged. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk with the instructor. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is *not* a defense. It is your responsibility to be sure. The web and artificial intelligence create special risks. Cutting and pasting even a few words from a web page or paraphrasing material without a reference constitutes plagiarism. If you are not sure how to refer to something you find on the internet, you can always give the URL. It is generally better to quote than to paraphrase from material on the web, because in the absence of page numbers it can be hard to find passages that are paraphrased rather than quoted. Using AI to assist with writing assignments without explicitly noting where and how it was used are also academic integrity violations. The *minimum* penalty for an academic integrity violation in this course is a zero on the assignment.

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Accommodations

Rutgers University is committed to providing a learning environment meeting the needs of all students, including those with physical, learning, mental health, or other disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, mental health, or other disability that may require accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible so that you can be approved for accommodations.