

LAW 101: Introduction to Law

Course Syllabus – Summer 2026

Instructor: Dr Ömer Erkut Bulut (Office hours: Contact by email)

Email: omererkut.bulut@bogazici.edu.tr

Course Prerequisites: Consent of the Instructor

Class Hours:

Monday	Wednesday
11.00-14.00	11.00-14.00

**Additional practice sessions might be added throughout the term.*

Quota policy: LAW 101 is a required course for first-year law students and is open to students in other departments.

Assessment: Midterm exam (30%), Final exam (60%), and active participation (10%).

Grading: Grading scale is as follows: A score below 40 in the final mark will result in an FF. A score between 40-44 will be graded DD. A score between 45-49 will be graded DC. A score between 50-59 will be graded CC. Between 60-69 will be graded CB. A score between 70-79 will be graded BB. A score between 80-89 will be graded BA. A score of 90 and above will be graded AA.

Academic Integrity and Consequences: Plagiarism, cheating, or any other forms of academic dishonesty will lead to an automatic grade of "F" for the associated course objective. It is imperative to note that all students are obliged to adhere to the regulations set forth by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and Boğaziçi University concerning academic integrity and misconduct.

Attendance and Participation Requirement: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Active participation during lectures will be taken into consideration by the instructor and will contribute to the overall assessment of students' final grades.

Core Readings

- Raymond Wacks, *Law: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2008)
- Gökhan Güneysu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2017)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Week I: Course Structure

Induction and overview of the class

Week II: Legal Rules & Law and Morality

Origins of legal rules, Legal rules v. other social order rules, Law and State.

Core reading:

1. Raymond Wacks, *Law: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2008), Chapters 1,2,3.
2. Gokhan Guneyusu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2007), Chapter 1.

Additional reading:

1. P. Eleftheriadis, Law And Sovereignty. *Law and Philos* 29, 535–569 (2010).
2. Phil Harris, *An Introduction to Law* (Cambridge University Press 2007)
3. R. Aybay, *An Introduction to Law* (DER Yayınları, 14th ed., 2022), 3-30.
4. V. A. Coşar, *Introduction to Law & Turkish Law Lecture Notes* (Aristo, 2019), 29-62.
5. E. Finch & S. Fafinski, *Legal Skills* (OUP, 7th ed., 2019), Chapter 12.
6. Ronald Dworkin ‘The Model of Rules’ (1967) 35(1) U Chicago L Rev 14.
7. Ronald Dworkin, *Law’s Empire* (Belknap Press 1986).
8. HLA Hart, *The Concept of Law* (2nd edn, OUP 1997) 91-99.

Week III: The Sources of Law and Court Structure

Kelsen’s pure theory of law and hierarchy of norms, Sources of law and court structure in Turkish legal system, Sources of law in Common law.

Core reading:

1. Raymond Wacks, *Law: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2008), Chapters 4 and 5.
2. R. Aybay, *An Introduction to Law* (DER Yayınları, 14th ed., 2022), 49-59.
3. E. Finch & S. Fafinski, *Legal Skills* (OUP, 7th ed., 2019), Chapter 5.

Additional reading:

1. J Laws, ‘Our Lady of the Common Law’ (ICLR Lecture, 2012)
<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/JCO/Documents/Speeches/lj-laws-speech-our-lady-of-common-law.pdf>

Esin Orucu, ‘A Legal System Based on Translation: The Turkish Experience’ 2013 *Journal of Civil Law Studies* Vol. 6(2),
<https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1106&context=jcls>

Week IV: Interpretation & Persuasive Legal Writing

Interpretation, analysing court decisions.

Core reading:

1. Gokhan Guneyusu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2007), 40-49.

2. R. Aybay, *An Introduction to Law* (DER Yayınları, 14th ed., 2022), 31-49.
3. E. Finch & S. Fafinski, *Legal Skills* (OUP, 7th ed., 2019), 68-80.

Additional reading:

1. J. Raz, 'Why Interpret?' (1996) 9 *Ratio Juris* 349.
2. Gokhan Guneyusu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2007), Chapter 2.

Week V: Branches of Public Law

Overview of public law, constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law

Core Reading:

1. Raymond Wacks, *Law: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2008), Chapter 2.
2. Gokhan Guneyusu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2007), Chapters 3,4,5

Additional Reading:

1. R. Aybay, *An Introduction to Law* (DER Yayınları, 14th ed., 2022), 53-105.
2. O Kahn-Freud 'On the Uses and Misuses of Comparative Law' (1974)1 *MLR* 1, 1-13.

Week VI: Branches of Private Law

Concepts of private law, legal personality, legal capacity, civil law, law of obligations

Core Reading:

1. Raymond Wacks, *Law: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2008), Chapter 2.
2. Gokhan Guneyusu (ed), *Introduction to Law* (Anadolu University Press 2007), Chapters 6,7,8.

Additional Reading:

1. R. Aybay, *An Introduction to Law* (DER Yayınları, 14th ed., 2022), 105-127.

Week VII: International Law & Human Rights Law

The last week will be dedicated to international law, international human rights law and revision of the module.

Core Reading:

1. Malcolm N. Shaw, *International Law* (9th Edn, Cambridge University Press 2021), Chapter 3: Sources of International Law

Additional Readings:

1. Rosalyn Higgins, *Problems and Process: International Law and How We Use It* (OUP 2021), Chapter 2.
2. Coustas Douzinas, *Human Rights and Empire: The Political Philosophy of Cosmopolitanism* (Routledge 2007).
3. Hersh Lauterpacht, *International Law and Human Rights* (Archon Books 1968)
4. O Kahn-Freud 'On the Uses and Misuses of Comparative Law' (1974)1 MLR 1, 1-13.

Week VIII: Revision

** This is an estimated plan for the course. Some changes may be made by the instructor during the term.*