

MU LOGIC & THE LAW

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# MINDS UNDERGROUND™ LAW CLUB



# Overview

Law is one of the building blocks of our society. It shapes and moulds people's behaviour and so says a lot about what we collectively value and how. The MU Law Club is designed to encourage out-of-the-box, lateral thinking for students considering a future degree or career in Law.

## What to Expect

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The course covers a range of theories and their real life application to government law and policy, taught through dynamic and interactive masterclasses. Students will be encouraged to think about a wide variety of issues, developing debate and reasoning skills, and learning about a whole host of interesting ethical and philosophical issues that influence the law.

All classes will take place online. Online platform links will be sent out prior to the sessions commencing. Club sessions run weekly for 1hr during Term times.

## Key Skills

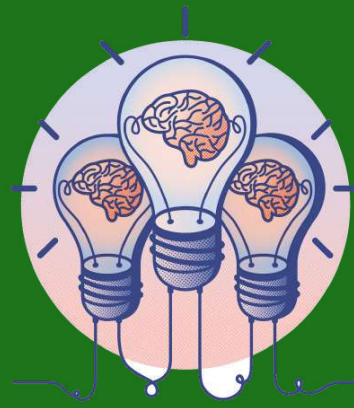
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- Ability to read excerpts of legislation and analyse them
- Exposure to articles and books about law
- Learn how to think logically, break down components of legislation and justify your reasoning
- Become confident at explaining your view
- Look out for distinctions between scenarios and point them out!



Law Series

# Our Hosts



## Learn From Oxbridge Law Tutors

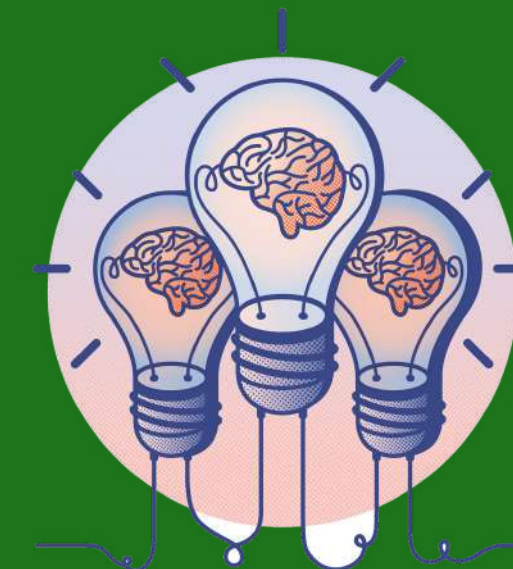
Our Law Club hosts are all Law tutors from the University of Oxford or Cambridge. We carefully select tutors for their experience with legal university applications and with strong knowledge of different Law career routes. Our Law Club tutors are highly inspiring and ensure sessions are interactive and dynamic.

### Example Law Club Profile

Yasmine is a Law graduate from the University of Cambridge (Peterhouse). She thoroughly enjoys providing teaching to prospective Law students, including hosting interactive masterclasses (which mimic the Oxbridge tutorial/supervision style) on legal topics to provide the student with foundational knowledge - e.g. she hosts masterclasses on both core topics (like criminal law and constitutional law) as well as topics of interest to students such as intellectual property law and human rights law). As well as this, Yasmine often assigns legal articles / chapters from law books for discussion - this equips students with an impressive knowledge base which they can tap into when drafting their personal statement or preparing for interviews. Yasmine experienced in mentoring students on Top UK University and Oxbridge Law applications, including work experience guidance, personal statement writing, college choice support and mock interviews. With her mentorship, three recent students have been successful in receiving conditional offers to study Law at Cambridge.



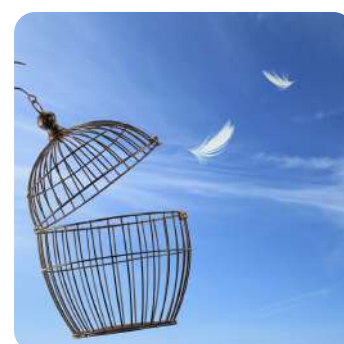
# Example Session Topics



## Utilitarianism: How do we decide what the right thing to do is?

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Utilitarianism - the theory that the right thing to do is what produces the greatest good for the greatest number. Is this a good way of approaching decision-making? What potential problems might it cause? What examples of utilitarian policies and you think of?



## Libertarianism: How much should governments interfere?

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Libertarianism: consider the theory of very limited state intervention. How does it apply to arguments about the free market and taxation? How does it apply to arguments about non-interference in citizens' private lives, e.g. abortion, decriminalisation of drugs, commercial surrogacy? Is it a desirable theory? What problems does it have?



## Equality: What does it mean?

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Equality - what does this mean? Equality of outcome or equality of opportunity? You will consider indirect discrimination and disparate impact, as well as affirmative action - is this a means of achieving substantive equality or does treating one group preferentially always amount to discrimination?



# Example Session Topics



## Punishment: Should the justice system just aim to punish?

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Punishment - this features often in government policy discussions regarding the criminal justice system. Should the justice system just aim to punish? What other aims are important - deterrence, rehabilitation, public protection? How do we decide what punishments are proportionate?



## The Rule of Law in Times of Crisis: Fundamental or Forgettable

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The Rule of Law is a critical constitutional principle in states around the world. It stands for various things, including the importance of ensuring that law is clear, easy to follow, and accessible – before the point at which people might be punished if they fail to comply. Covid-19 saw governments struggle with this; it is difficult to keep the law up to date with constantly evolving scientific advancements. This begs the question: is it legitimate to abandon such a fundamental principle in time of crisis, or is it in such times that it is needed the most?



## Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?

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Robots taking over the world has been the plot of science fiction for years now. As artificial intelligence becomes more and more advanced, however, the need for a clear legal framework has become increasingly important. Yet this means answering difficult questions: who is accountable when AI fails? How do we ensure it does not jeopardise our human right to privacy and non-discrimination? Do we need to expand our conception of personhood to include it? This is unprecedented territory, but the law needs to act to keep up with scientific developments – and to ensure that the risks do not come to outweigh the benefits. →

## Example Session Topics

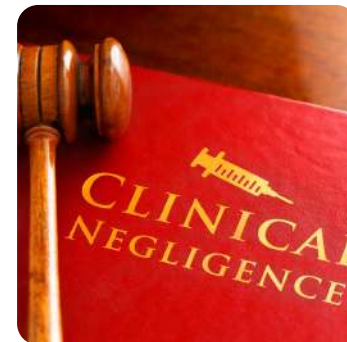
These example sessions introduce students to concepts in criminal, tort, human rights, and equality law.



### Omissions & Causation

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The first session will focus on omissions and causation in criminal law. We will consider whether people should be held criminally liable for failing to help others – if I see someone drowning and do nothing to help them, should I be guilty of a crime? If so, does that make us all guilty for failing to donate to charity? We will also consider the concept of causation – if I stab someone who goes on to receive negligent medical treatment and dies as a result of that treatment, did I cause their death?



### Duty of Care in the Tort of Negligence

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The second session will focus on the duty of care in the tort of negligence. When should people be responsible for psychiatric harm caused to others? Should a doctor who negligently performs a vasectomy have to pay for the cost of upkeep of a resultant child?



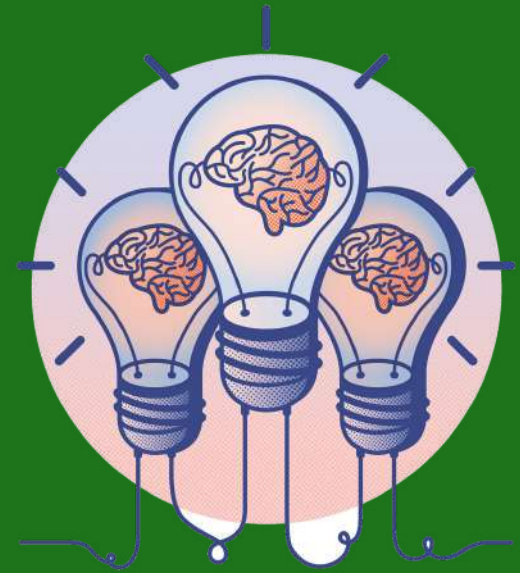
### Human Rights

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In the third session, we will consider human rights law in cases where different rights clash. What should take precedence – someone's right to privacy or a newspaper's freedom of expression?



# Example Session Topics



## Discrimination

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In the final session, we will consider the distinction between direct and indirect discrimination, looking at some famous legal cases in both the UK and the US. We will also consider the approach in Canada, where the distinction does not exist. Which approach is better and why?



## Intellectual Property Session: The Legal Protection of Brands

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This session will explore how the 'trademark' has been stretched in recent years to protect more than mere logos and other marks to protect broader notions of brand imagery. We will explore whether IP law is a good vehicle to protect brand imagery, or whether there are inherent shortfalls of IP law to achieve this end.

We will look at some case studies involving huge brands such as Christian Louboutin, L'Oreal, and Louis Vuitton.



## Legal Theory Session: The Purpose(s) of Law

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This legal theory session will push students to think about the purpose(s) and source(s) of law. We will look at the Hart v Dworkin jurisprudential debate and consider the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments on each side. If we have enough time, we will zoom in a bit deeper and use tort law as a case study to show how the law often seeks to achieve numerous objective simultaneously.



An illustration of a hand holding a pen, positioned as if writing on a grid floor. The floor is composed of orange and blue squares. Several stylized human figures are scattered across the floor, some holding books or papers. In the background, there are two sets of stairs, one on the left and one on the right, leading up and down. The overall style is a clean, modern line-art illustration with a limited color palette of orange, blue, and purple.

Any questions? Get in touch!

# Contact Us

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