

COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Legal Studies

UCEAP Course Number

123

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

UCEAP Transcript Title

PHIL OF LAW

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale degree program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. At the end of the course, the student: is able to understand the fundamental philosophical issues raised by law and their significance; has knowledge of legal-philosophical conceptions in their historical development, from their origins to contemporary perspectives, and can reconstruct how these conceptions provide answers to these issues; can critically evaluate the theoretical advantages and limitations of the various conceptions; possesses basic notions of legal theory and the theory of legal interpretation. The course consists of two parts:

- The first part (Conceptions of Law) introduces the three main conceptions of legal theory – natural law theory, legal positivism, and legal realism – and discusses their theoretical implications; then, some contemporary trends (law and economics, critical legal studies, and legal feminism) are introduced and discussed, also in connection with the traditional views.
- The second part (Hart: *The Concept of Law*) discusses in details H. L. A. Hart's masterpiece “The Concept of Law” and its Postscript, also in the light of some contemporary debates in legal theory that derived from it: particularly the Hart-Dworkin debate, but also the debate on inclusive and exclusive legal positivism (Raz on authority).

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

32616,94355

Host Institution Course Title

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

LM in LAW

Host Institution Department

LEGAL STUDIES

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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