

Philosophical problems lie at the heart of each area of law.

Criminal law punishes people for wronging

others, but what conduct is wrong exactly, and do current criminal laws prohibit only such conduct?

Civil rights law prohibits discrimination, but what kinds of differential treatment are morally troubling and why? Constitutional law offers special protection for freedom of speech and religion, but why are speech and religion special? Coursework and faculty at Virginia are engaging with these questions every day.

► Professor Frederick Schauer is a world-renowned expert in the areas of constitutional law, evidence, legal reasoning, freedom of speech, and jurisprudence and the philosophy of law. He won the 2023 Scribes Book Award for "The Proof: Uses of Evidence in Law, Politics, and Everything Else."



► Professor Charles Barzun focuses on constitutional law, torts, evidence and the history of legal thought.

► Professor Rachel Bayefsky's work addresses both the practical workings of legal institutions and underlying philosophical ideas such as dignity and equality.



► Professor Deborah Hellman studies equal protection law and its philosophical justification, and the relationship between money and legal rights.

► Professor Richard M. Re's blog, "Re's Judicata," considers questions of Supreme Court jurisprudence. His primary research and teaching interests are in criminal procedure, federal courts and constitutional law.



► Professor Micah J. Schwartzman focuses on law and religion, jurisprudence, political philosophy and constitutional law.

► Professor Lawrence B. Solum is an internationally recognized legal theorist who works in constitutional theory, procedure and the philosophy of law.

CONTACT

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COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Advanced LawTech
- Advanced Topics in the First Amendment (Religion Clauses)
- Barbarian Law
- Behavioral Law and Economics
- Building the Rule of Law
- Chinese Law
- Civil Rights Litigation
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Comparative Gender Equality
- Constitutional Law and Economics
- Constitutional Law II: Freedom of Speech and Press
- Constitutional Law II: Religious Liberty
- Constitutional Originalism
- Constitutionalism: History and Jurisprudence
- Constitutionalism: Nation, Culture and Constitutions
- Contract Theory
- Dignity Law Seminar
- Feminism and the Free Market
- Feminist Jurisprudence
- French Public and Private Law
- International and Comparative Family Law
- Jurisprudence
- Law and Inequality Colloquium
- Law and Social Science Colloquium
- Law and Theories of Justice
- Law, Literature and Social Policy Seminar
- Legal Theory in Europe and the United States: A Very Brief Introduction
- Legal Theory Workshop Seminar
- Liberalism and Its Critics
- Personal Data Protection in Europe
- Philosophical Legal Ethics
- Poverty in Law, Literature and Culture
- Rule of Law and Threats to It
- Seminar in Ethical Values
- Social Identity, Critical Theory and the Law
- Social Science in Law
- Sports and Games
- Supreme Court From Warren to Roberts
- The Supreme Court: Before, During and After Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Voice and Silence in Law and Literature

These courses represent the 2020-23 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

Law and Philosophy

Center for Law & Philosophy

Questions of legal philosophy are not merely academic.

Moral and philosophical assumptions structure current law and bear on pressing questions of social justice. The Virginia faculty associated with the Center for Law & Philosophy investigate these questions. The center also facilitates exceptional scholarship through its Legal Theory Workshop and occasional symposia.