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Law

SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

16-18 YEARS OLDS

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EDUCATION

About Immerse

Immerse Education is an award-winning academic summer school provider offering programmes for 16-18 year olds in centres of academic prestige.

The aim of these programmes is to provide participants with academically challenging content that develops their understanding of and passion for their chosen discipline. Through 40 hours of academic sessions, the programmes also offer young students unique and valuable insights into what it would be like to study their chosen subject at university.



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This Syllabus Overview provides a summary of the topics and subject areas that participants can encounter during their studies with Immerse. It has been carefully created by our expert tutors who are current members of world-leading universities, and who have experience in teaching undergraduate students.

Academic Sessions

The academic sessions at Immerse are arranged into modules to enable participants to explore a broad range of topics over the course of two weeks. The modules included in this syllabus overview are indicative but not prescriptive.

Tutors are encouraged to include their own specialisms and also focus on any particular areas of interest expressed by participants within the class. They may choose to provide further detail on a specific topic, or they may include new material and information that builds on the knowledge already developed during the programme.

Personal Project

Each programme includes an element of individual work, generally termed the 'Personal Project'. This can take many forms but is commonly an essay or presentation delivered on the final day of the programme. Participants will receive feedback on this work which may also be mentioned in the participant evaluation which is provided in writing by the tutor once the programmes have ended.



Preparatory work

Some tutors may ask participants to complete some preparatory work, such as reading or a series of exercises in advance of the programme. Participants are strongly encouraged to complete this work since it will be included in the opening sessions of the programme. Any preparatory tasks will be provided in advance of the programme directly to the participant.

Academic Difficulty

As all of our programmes are designed to provide a unique introduction to advanced material, the syllabus will be academically challenging at times.

This is something to be excited about and all of our tutors will encourage and support participants throughout the programme. Immerse Education aims to develop every participant regardless of ability, and our tutors will adapt their teaching to individual needs.

Aim of the Law Programme

The Immerse Education Law programme is designed to provide participants with insight into what law is, and what it would be like to study this broad discipline at university. Participants are encouraged to explore new material in-depth and to form independent and considered opinions and ideas based on sound research and practical knowledge. By the end of the programme, participants will have a good understanding, not only of university-level content, but also the variety of degree programmes available in subjects related to law. Beyond this, participants will also explore the career opportunities available to graduates in this field.





An Introduction to Law

This session will provide an introduction to both the field of law as an academic discipline and also to the legal system which presently operates in England and Wales. We will consider the key elements of the current legal system including key structures, relevant personnel, and principles. Participants will be encouraged to critically analyse a variety of issues relating to the understanding of law in different contexts. This will include discussing particular characteristics of a 'law' in comparison to related ideas such as rules and morals, as well as different approaches to the art of judging.

Constitutional Law

This session will provide participants with an insight into the field of constitutional law. An understanding of this field will provide participants with an understanding of how institutions of state operate in the UK and will improve their wider understanding of the democratic process. The tutor will introduce the various pieces of the constitutional apparatus in the UK and the key principles that guide their operation, such as parliamentary sovereignty, the separation of powers, and the rule of law. We will then consider the legal relationships that exist between the UK and the European Union and also between the UK and its devolved constitutional structures which operate in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Tort Law

In this session we will explore the distinction between public and private law and the extent to which law can be driven by underlying policy objectives. We will discuss a variety of circumstances in which a duty of care is played out within the context of the tort of negligence. In particular, we will consider issues regarding wrongful birth and of psychiatric injury, where both topics pose related as well as very different legal questions in this field. Participants will be encouraged to think critically not only about the current state of the law but also about how the existing legal position could be improved.

Human Rights Law

Human rights law is of increasing importance across all other fields of law given the entry into force of the Human Rights Act 1998. The extent of such rights protection is also a deeply controversial political issue. First, we will introduce the various elements of human rights protection that currently exist in the UK. Participants will be encouraged to consider the scope of existing legislation as well as the substantive rights protected. Participants are then invited to critically consider a variety of issues including how different rights are enforced by the courts and whether there are currently any gaps in human rights protection in this jurisdiction.



Criminal Law

In this session we will analyse criminal law concerning fatal and non-fatal incidents against a person. This will include a consideration of the offences of murder, manslaughter, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, assault and battery. Participants will also consider the operation of the partial defence of the loss of self-control, which can reduce a conviction for murder to a conviction for manslaughter. Participants will be required to discuss a series of problem based and essay style questions with both the tutor and other class members as we consider not only the current state of the law but how the existing legal position in criminal cases could be improved.

European Union Law

Together we will consider the history of the EU, the power of its primary institutions, their available legal instruments and the relationship between the European legal system and those of its member states. We will analyse how fundamental rights are protected within the EU legal order by discussing the role of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, as well as the general principles of EU law. We will then consider issues such as whether there is a democratic deficit within the EU, whether fundamental rights are adequately respected, and the thorny issue of Brexit.

TOPICS LIST

The Criminal Justice Process

Participants will consider the criminal justice process in England and Wales through examination of the primary institutions involved therein, the powers of those institutions, and the actors who exercise discretion at the relevant times. Participants will be introduced to methods of trial advocacy, including the examination in chief and cross-examination of witnesses. In order to improve their abilities in this area, participants will be provided with a practice mock trial problem for them to analyse in small groups and to identify the types of questions which they might wish to ask in such a case, in order to discover the 'truth' and to argue a case for their client effectively.

Public International Law

In this session participants will consider a variety of different issues concerning public international law including its historical development, its primary institutions, the powers of those institutions, and their available legal instruments. We will analyse the relationship between the international and national legal systems in respect of a variety of different states such as the UK, Australia, and the US. Participants will then consider the extent to which the international legal order contains similar legal structures to national legal orders and whether international law is in fact law at all.



TOPICS LIST

The Legal Profession

This module will provide participants with an introduction to the legal profession and legal education as it presently exists in England and Wales. We will commence by setting out the classical structure of legal education and the legal profession in England and Wales. The class will then go on to consider various issues relating to the study of law in higher education and participants will be encouraged to consider the skills and attributes of a successful lawyer and the opportunities that exist to both develop and showcase these qualities. Finally, we will consider the various career pathways open to a law graduate.

Law in Action

With guidance from the tutor, each participant will have the opportunity to practice cross-examining a witness and thus to develop their skills in this area. In each case, students will receive constructive feedback on their work. We will then proceed with a mock trial based around a criminal law matter with participants taking up various roles, from judge to members of the jury. Participants will be encouraged to incorporate all of the theory and understanding of the criminal justice system as we progress through the trial. Particular attention will be given to critical thinking skills and the ability to deliver a well-constructed argument.



Personal Project

Throughout the fortnight, participants will be working on their own personal project. Having been provided with a brief, participants should research and prepare a presentation for their peers. This will build upon an aspect of the theory that they have learnt over the course of the programme and is also an opportunity to showcase their ability to apply this to practical examples. The presentation is followed by questions from the audience and wider class discussion of particular points of interest. The tutor may also include feedback about the presentation in the written evaluation which is sent to participants after the programme has ended.

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