

PLS 4965/POLS 3340  
Foundations of Law  
Saint Louis University  
SPRING 2020

logic

experience

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Email: [anders.walker@slu.edu](mailto:anders.walker@slu.edu); Office: 856 Scott Hall; Office Hours: Tuesday 4:15, Thursday 4:15 (after class)

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This course provides an introduction to the foundations of American law. It takes the Legal Realist position that law evolves over time, and that a full understanding of American legal development is not possible without some understanding

receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according to the policy on academic honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion by the University. Students should review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty (<http://www.slu.edu/x16363.xml>).

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS-DISABILITY SERVICES

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

## COURSE CONTENT DISCLAIMER

In this course, students may be required to read text or view materials that they may consider offensive. The ideas expressed in any given text do not necessarily reflect the views of the instructor, the History Department, the Law School, the Writing Program, or Saint Louis University. Course materials are selected for their historical and/or cultural relevance, or as an example of stylistic and/or rhetorical strategies and techniques. They are meant to be examined in the context of intellectual inquiry of the sort encountered at the university level.

## WRITING CENTER

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with any writing, multimedia project, or oral presentation. During the one-on-one consultations, you can work on everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. These services do fill up, so please make an appointment! For more information, or to make, change, or cancel an appointment, call 977-3484 or visit <http://www.slu.edu/writingservices.xml>.

Additional Academic Honesty requirement: Please keep copies of notes and sources used for your term paper until the date of the final exam. If you cannot show the notes and sources upon request you will automatically receive a grade of zero for the term essay. Any assignment, whether written or verbal, that does not meet the University's standards of academic honesty will receive a grade of zero and will be liable to other University penalties, including a failing

course grade. Please be aware that I consider all communication, even private conversations, to be an important part of your course work, and subject to academic honesty requirements.

Readings and exams: The midterm and final exams will cover readings, lectures, and class discussions. All exams will be in essay form.

Grading:	Class participation /	
	Attendance	250 points
	Midterm exam	250 points
	Term Paper	250 points
	Final exam	250 points
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		1000 Total

Percentage / Letter Grade Equivalents

95



## The Early Republic: Law, Innovation, &amp; Commerce

1790 Federal Patent Act &amp; the Genius Inventor

1791 Jefferson, Hamilton, & the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank  
(1803)

(1816)

Corporations, Contracts, &amp; (1819)

(1824) &amp; the Commerce Clause

The Rise of Bankruptcy Law [excerpt from Morton J. Horwitz,  
(1977)]Andrew Jackson Vetoes the Bank  
(1837)

## The Laws of Slavery

Leviticus 25: 44-46

Ephesians 6:5

Aristotle, Part V (350 BC)

Thomas Jefferson, (1782)

"Joseph Emory Davis: A Mississippi Planter Patriarch"

Solomon Northrup, (1853)

Slave Code of the State of Georgia (1848)

The Crimes of Jesse Ruffin (1835) [excerpt from Laura Edwards,  
(2009)]Theft, Arson, & the Law the Slaves Made [excerpt from Eugene D. Genovese,  
(1976)]

## The Laws of Marriage

(1833)

Trusts, Estates, & Marriage Settlements [excerpt from Marylynn Salmon,  
"Women and Property in South Carolina: The Evidence of Marriage Settlements,  
1730-1830," 39 (1982)

Angelina Emily Grimke to Catherine Beecher (1837)

Gender Equality: The Shakers of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky [excerpt from Lyman  
Tower Sargent, "The Social and Political Ideas of the American Communitarians:  
a Comparison of religious and Secular Communities founded Before 1850," 3  
(1991)Friedrich Engels to Karl Marx, October 1844 (on American communitarianism)  
Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments (1848)

# Foundations of Law



The Gilded Age



The New Deal

- "Stock Prices Slump," New York Times, Oct. 29, 1929
- 1934 Securities Exchange Act
- 1934 Indian Reorganization Act
- 1935 National Labor Relations Act (The Wagner Act)
- 1937 Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Fireside Chat on the Court-Packing Bill,"  
(1937)
- Maurice Spector, "The Collapse of the New Deal," (1938)

World War II: Internment, Integration, International Law

- Adolf Hitler,  
The Nuremberg Laws (1935)
- Executive Order #8802 (1941)
- Japanese Internment & Ex. Order # 9066 (1942)  
(1944)
- Taft-Hartley Act (1947)
- The Truman Doctrine (1947)
- Harry S. Truman, "To Secure These Rights" (1948)

The Cold War, Civil Rights

- (1938)
- (1948)
- (1948)
- (1950)
- (1954)
- Mary Dudziak, "Desegregation as a Cold War Imperative"

