

Course instructor: **Vladislav Skorobogatov**, Lecturer of the Department of General and Interbranch Legal Disciplines, Faculty of Law, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia

Syllabus

1. Course Description

- a. Title of a Course:
Introduction to English Common Law
- b. Pre-requisites: English (Upper Intermediate)
- c. Abstract:

The course will give you an introduction to this influential legal system including its history, constitutional background, sources and institutions. You'll learn about the different ways in which laws are made and interpreted, the English court system and the increasing importance of European Union and human rights law. Each week we'll focus on one aspect of English common law, using video lectures, readings, discussion questions and activities to enable you to learn about and evaluate key issues.

2. Online platform: Coursera
3. Course link: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/intro-common-law?>
4. Language of instruction: English
5. Course Plan:

Module 1. Introduction to the English Legal System

Week 1 is an overview of the English legal system. We will consider the history of the common law, and look at what it means to say that English law is a common law system. We will also explore some important themes in common law.

Module 2. Constitutional Principles of the English Legal System

This week will introduce you to the British Constitution and identify its sources. Week 2 will also look at the fundamental constitutional principles which underpin the English Legal System.

Module 3. The Court System

This week we'll look at how the court system works in England. We'll think about different courts in the system, and also other methods of resolving legal disputes.

Module 4. Statutes

This week will introduce you to statutes or Acts of Parliament, one of the most important sources of English law. Week 4 will cover how statutes are made and the different ways they are interpreted by the courts. You'll also consider whether statutes should be simplified.

Module 5. Case Law

Welcome to the fifth week of the course. This week we'll explore another key source of English law, case law. You'll be introduced to the doctrine of judicial precedent and the question of judges as law-makers. You'll have the opportunity to read a case yourself and write a case-note.

Module 6. The European Union, European Convention on Human Rights and Human Rights Act 1998

This week will introduce you to the European Union and to the European Convention on Human Rights. Week 6 will also consider the impact of membership of the EU and of the Human Rights Act 1998 on the English Legal System, in particular on the principle of parliamentary sovereignty.

6. Reading List

Required: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/intro-common-law?>

7. Forms of Control:

- a. Current control: 14 graded multiple answer quizzes and a peer graded assignment (80% Final grade)
- b. Intermediate control: interview with the instructor (20% Final Grade)

Students are also expected in an oral examination to deliver answers in which the following qualities will be assessed:

- audibility and clarity, pitch, proper articulation;
- fluency, appropriate forms of language including addressing the examiner, clarity of expression;
- appropriate content (proper coverage of legal issues, relevance of law in their responses, emphasis, anticipating or responding to other side; at least certain justification of the argument which has been supported).

8. Grading System: $\text{Fin.} = \text{Curr.} * 0,8 + \text{Accum.} * 0,2$

9. Methods of Instruction:

- use of online educational technologies
- use of accumulative system of control.

10. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required):

- a. Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS
- b. Microsoft Windows 10