



**UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG**  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

# Foundations of English Law

Faculty of Law,  
University of Heidelberg

Course Syllabus  
Summer Semester 2022

Instructor: Dr. Martin Jarrett



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR COMPARATIVE PUBLIC LAW  
AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

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# **Introduction**

Welcome to 'Foundations of English Law'.

In this course, you will be introduced to the core areas of English law. Through this process, you will not only be exposed to the workings of another legal family, but you will also learn about the distinctive legal concepts and legal doctrines in the 'common law world' and gain a knowledge of its vocabulary of legal terms.

## **Overview of Course Content**

The course content is divided between the following substantive parts:

- The Infrastructure of English Law
- English Public Law
- English Criminal Law
- English Private Law

A summary of each part is provided below.

### **Part 1: The Infrastructure of English Law**

In Part 1, the teaching content revolves around the question:

*What are the basic building blocks of English law?*

Answering this question will involve examining the sources of English law, particularly judicial law, and the key legal institutions of English law.

### **Part 2: English Public Law**

Part 2 focuses on the question:

*How does English law keep government power in check?*

For each arm of government, namely executive, judicial, and legislature, the various mechanisms that are available in English law to scrutinise exercises of power are identified and described.

### **Part 3: English Criminal Law**

Part 3 looks at two questions:

*What are the key doctrinal concepts underlying English (substantive) criminal law? How do juries work?*

After introducing the key doctrinal concepts, their application is exemplified via an in-depth look at homicide offences. The second question on juries covers what role juries have, how they are composed, and how they function.

#### **Part 4: English Private Law**

Part 4 examines the question:

*What are the legal concepts of English law that regulate legal relations between private persons?*

The answer begins identifying the various areas of English private law (law of persons, law of property, and law of obligations) and gives an overview of what their function is. The second half of this Part 4 consists of a deep-dive into English tort law, particularly the tort of negligence.

## **Contact Details**

If you have any questions relating to the course content, you are welcome to contact me via the following email address or telephone number:

[jarrett@mpil.de](mailto:jarrett@mpil.de)

Please direct your emails regarding administrative matters, such as credit points for this course, to the relevant administrative officers at the Faculty of Law, University of Heidelberg.

# **Lecture Schedule**

## **Lecture 1**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 20 April 2022
- Content: Introduction to 'Foundations of English law'

## **Lecture 2**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 26 April 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 1 (Infrastructure of English Law)

## **Lecture 3**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 3 May 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 1 (Infrastructure of English Law)

## **Lecture 4**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 4 May 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 1 (Infrastructure of English Law)

## **Lecture 5**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 10 May, 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 2 (English Public Law)

## **Lecture 6**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 11 May 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 2 (English Public Law)

## **Lecture 7**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 17 May 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 2 (English Public Law)

## **Lecture 8**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday 25 May 2022
- Content: Discussion of Part 1 (Infrastructure of English Law) and Part 2 (English Public Law)

**Lecture 9**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 14 June 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 3 (English Criminal Law)

**Lecture 10**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 15 June 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 3 (English Criminal Law)

**Lecture 11**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 28 June 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 3 (English Criminal Law)

**Lecture 12**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 29 June 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 4 (English Private Law)

**Lecture 13**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 5 July 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 4 (English Private Law)

**Lecture 14**

- Time: 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday, 6 July 2022
- Content: Lecturing on Part 4 (English Private Law)

**Lecture 15**

- Time: 16:00 – 18:00, Tuesday, 7 July 2022
- Content: Discussion of Part 3 (English Criminal Law) and Part 4 (English Private Law)

## **Class Mode, Recording of Lectures, and Class Attendance**

### *Class Mode*

The lectures will ordinarily be held via Zoom. The relevant details for logging in are:

<https://mpil.zoom.us/j/87447722979>

Meeting ID: 874 4772 2979

Passcode: 998081.

For Lecture 8 and Lecture 15, the current plan is to hold in-person classes. Whether this plan can be carried out will mainly depend on the covid-infection rate in Heidelberg at the relevant times. We will discuss more details in class.

### *Recording of Lectures*

The lectures will be recorded and uploaded to Youtube.com.

### *Class Attendance and Assessment*

You have to attend 12 out of the 15 lectures to receive your 'Sitzschein'. For this purpose, when you log in to Zoom to attend a lecture, please make sure that your Zoom name adheres to this format: full name and student number in brackets. For example:

Max Mustermann (1234567)

If your Zoom name does not appear as above, then your attendance will not be recorded.

There are no formal assessment tasks for this course.