

Fall 2018 PHIL 155

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW



DR. REBECCA CHAN
TUES/THURS 12-1:15, SH 241

*What do buried bodies, fantastic beasts, and games have to do with philosophy or law?
We'll explore these connections in PHIL 155.*

This course is a rigorous but enjoyable introduction to topics in the philosophy of law such as:

- (i) Why do we have laws?
- (ii) At what types of goods (e.g., fairness, liberty, wealth) should the law aim?
- (iii) What are the philosophical and non-philosophical rationales behind particular laws?
- (iv) Are we ever obligated to follow (or oppose) the law?

We'll engage these topics primarily by looking at various answers to them, as well as the legal and philosophical arguments for those answers. By the end of the course, you should be able to understand arguments for and against various answers to the questions above, support your own answers to these questions with reasoned reflection, and apply your analytical skills to other subjects.

Assessment in the class will be based on discussion, presentations, written work, and creative projects.