Course Description: In this course students will study a variety of legal topics within the context of the preferences and needs of our cultural structures. Students are expected to gain substantive knowledge of the multi-faceted ways in which laws, our legal institutions, and our legal customs either enhance or inhibit respect for the law and our representative system of democratic government.

Textbook:
The Law: The Classic Blueprint for a Free Society by Frederic Bastiat
Other readings will be available online. In most cases, the documents or links will be posted to Blackboard.
U.S. Constitution -- Internet or pamphlet format

Course work

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Quizzes – random dates</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper – March 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Final Exam – May 14 1:30 p.m.</td>
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Semester Grade

- 94% and above: A
- 90-93.99%: A-
- 86-89.99%: B+
- 82-85.99%: B
- 77-81.99%: C+
- 72-76.99%: C
- 65-71.99%: D
- 64.99 and below: F

Emails: When sending an email, designate "Govt 407" in the subject heading. If I do not respond within 24 hours (Monday through Thursday), please resend your email.
**Essay and Testing Policies:** All work must be completed at the designated time. In case of an extreme personal emergency, verified by complete written documentation, and at the sole discretion of the instructor, some work may be rescheduled, but any make-up work may be more difficult than the original and may be in a different format.

**Submission of Essay and Grading Penalty**
The essay must be submitted both to Blackboard and in hardcopy paper format in class on the due dates, by the designated time. A late dual submission of a paper without legitimate excuse, written documentation and instructor approval of the delay, can result in a reduction of fifteen grading points for each day either format submission is late. The day-late-penalty will be assessed in full immediately after the designated submission time and the penalty will reoccur and accumulate each subsequent day at the same designated time.

A Blackboard submitted paper is required but does not substitute for the hardcopy format, which must be submitted in class. If a student has a genuine emergency that makes on-time delivery of the hardcopy version impossible, the student should (1) submit to Blackboard as already required AND also email the paper by deadline, (2) assure that the emailed paper was received, (3) submit the paper version within 5 days, (4) attach documentation of the emergency to the hardcopy and (5) attach a copy of the email related to the original submission of the paper. Following all these steps may result in a waiver or diminution of the late penalty, otherwise the date of the hardcopy submission will determine the extent of the penalty despite an on-time online submission. A paper submitted subsequent to deadline (late online and in hardcopy) should follow the same steps. In some cases the date/time of the electronic late submission to Blackboard can qualify as the cut off for the accrual of penalties if the remaining steps listed above are followed.

Work in progress should be saved in multiple formats on a regular basis well in advance of the actual due date. Last minute problems do not usually qualify as valid reasons for a late paper.

**Use of notes during quizzes and final exam.**
Students are encouraged to bring handwritten, personally prepared notes to the Final Exam (two sides of one sheet of standard size paper). Students are also encouraged to bring one page of notes (one side of one sheet of paper) to each class. These notes on the daily reading assignment may be used if there is an unannounced quiz.

Notes can be prepared subsequent to a group study session but notes not written by the individual student cannot be used. Notes must be in paper format; computers cannot be accessed during a test. Using notes prepared by another student, whether from this semester or a prior semester, is a violation of the honor code.

**Make up Work or Delayed Assessments**

*Quizzes and Participations:*
A written explanation/documentation in hard copy must be submitted within two class periods of a missed quiz or participation. Emailed explanations do not fulfill the requirement for documentation but the applicable email may be printed, signed and submitted as the written explanation. A request
for a make-up quiz or participation activity must be based on a personal, unavoidable problem that made attendance exceedingly difficult. A substitute quiz will be more difficult than the original and may be in a different format. Make up quizzes are given on the day of the final exam and can be based on the reading for any day of the semester and may not coincide with the day the student was absent from class. Make up participation activities will also be given on the day of the final exam. Unless there are severe extenuating circumstances, students may only make up one missed quiz and/or one participation.

**Paper and Final:**
Contact the professor as soon as possible if you have an emergency that causes you (or will cause you) to miss the essay deadline or the class session for the final exam. A request for an extension of time for a paper, or another date for a final is rarely granted; however any such request will be considered if the request is timely and the genuine, severe emergency is well documented.

*Class Attendance, Participation, and In-Class Technology:
Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis and to be fully prepared to discuss that day’s reading assignment. Students should arrive on time and stay until class dismissal. Students will be called on randomly to discuss the day’s reading. Students who routinely arrive late, leave early, or leave temporarily in the middle of class will be asked to provide documentation for their reoccurring need.

To maintain a classroom environment that minimizes distractions, encourages student discussion, and maximizes learning, phones may not be out and may not be used during class time. The only exceptions are for students who notify the professor on a particular day at the beginning of the class period that they have a potential emergency requiring their attention on that day. Each violation of the no phone rule will result in a \( \frac{1}{2} \) point deduction from the student’s response/participation grade.

Students who wish to use computers for note taking during class time may do so. Because Internet use during class time jeopardizes the learning environment in the same way that cell phone use does, computers cannot be used to access anything other than course related material during each class period. Students who make the commitment to only use their computers for class work may sit any place they choose in the classroom. Those students who are not willing to make this commitment must sit in the back of the room. When a student’s computer use causes a disruption to the classroom learning environment, there will be an equivalent participation grade deduction as described above.

**Summary of Course Work:**
1. **Quizzes** – random, unannounced dates – (25% of final grade): On eight random dates students will be given a quiz on that day’s assigned reading and recent class lecture material. The

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1 Extenuating circumstances consist of an extreme, unforeseen problem that made it impossible for the student to attend several class sessions.
top six quizzes will be averaged for the grade in this category. Students may use one page (one side) of handwritten notes for any quiz. Students who are late may not be able to take the quiz.

2. Class Responses & Participation - random, unannounced dates - (10% based on two written responses; 15% based on in-class activities):
On eight days there will be structured in-class participation activities. All participating, topic-engaged students will earn full grade value for each activity. Six or more participations = 100%, 5 = 85; 4 = 60; 3 = 50; 2 = 30; 1 = 15.

3. Essay - March 21 - (25% of final grade):
Each student must write a five to eight page essay in response to essay prompt(s) that will be provided by the teacher. There will be a separate document that gives the instructions for this writing assignment.

Revision of Graded Paper
Students may revise their graded paper for a chance to earn a maximum of fifteen additional points. Students who submitted a late paper cannot earn back the penalty points and a late paper can only earn back a maximum of eight points.

Revisions are considered for additional points only if the following rules are met: (a) return the original graded paper (with my marks on it and the attached grading sheet), (b) submit a revised paper, (c) highlight the changes & additions on the revised version so I can immediately and efficiently know how you have revised the original paper. If these conditions are not met, there will be no change in the paper grade.

The number of revision points is at the discretion of the professor and will not follow the original grading categories for the essay.
Revisions are due at the end of the designated period for the final exam.

4. Final Exam - May 14- at 1:30 p.m. (note start time differs from class time) (25% of final grade)
The final exam will require Scantron form 882-E. Students may bring two pages (two sides of one sheet) of personally prepared, handwritten notes to this test.

Other course information:
Class Syllabus and GMU Email Accounts: The instructor may modify the attached class schedule and any such change will be announced in class and/or sent by email or posted to Blackboard at the earliest opportunity. Students must activate their GMU email and Blackboard accounts and check for class notices on a regular basis.

Class Enrollment: Each student should verify enrollment in this class with the registrar’s office no later than January 29. This is also the last day to drop this class without any tuition penalty.
February 23 is the last day to drop this class--with a severe tuition penalty. After this date, withdrawing requires approval from a dean and must be based on non-academic reasons. However, undergraduate students may qualify for a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures and the deadline for this option. Students with nonacademic special hardships may also qualify for an Incomplete per university procedures.

**Academic Integrity:** The GMU Honor Code requires the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying and stealing are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more information.

If any student's academic work or communication related to this course contains an honor code violation, the student's work product may receive a grade of zero. In most instances, a violation of the honor code results in a failing grade for the entire semester and other penalties may be applicable. Students may freely discuss this course's assignments with others, may form study groups, and may seek feedback and guidance from others. However, all work products, as well as the notes used for quizzes and tests, must be the sole work of the individual student. Students may not use a shared outline for the essay.

**Academic and/or Physical Accommodations:** Students must notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding any special needs. Most requests for academic accommodations should initially be processed through the Office of Disability Resources. This office can be reached at 993-2474.
Syllabus

Monday January 22
Introduction to course

Wednesday January 24
The Social Contract
Back to Fundamentals: The Worsening Results of Ignoring the Social Contract in Baltimore City
By John Stinson 8 RRGC 291 (2008)

Monday January 29
Managing Conflict
Telling Tales in School: Youth Culture and Conflict Narratives

Wednesday January 31
Civil Disobedience
Uncivil Obedience
By Jessica Bulman-Pozen and David Pozen 115 Colum. L. Rev. 809 (2015)
Civil Disobedience in a Business Context

Monday February 5
Civil Disobedience
Civil Disobedience and the U.S. Constitution

Wednesday February 7
The Law
The Law: The Classic Blueprint for a Free Society
p. 6-28

Monday February 12
Personal Responsibility
A Framework on Mandating versus Incentivizing Corporate Social Responsibility

Wednesday February 14
Personal Responsibility
Will the Real Reasonable Person Please Stand Up?
By Ashley Votruba 45 Ariz. St. L. J. 703 (2013)

Monday February 19
Personal Responsibility
The Scope and the Grounds of Responsibility

Wednesday February 21
The Law
The Law: The Classic Blueprint for a Free Society
p. 29-58
Monday February 26  The Law
The Law: The Classic Blueprint for a Free Society
p. 59-87

Wednesday February 28  Inequality
Economic Costs of Inequality

Monday March 5  Essay Conferences

Wednesday March 7  The Law in Film
Reading to be determined

No classes March 12 and March 14 – Spring Break

Monday March 19  Law and Crime
Hard Times, Hard Time: Retributive Justice for Unjustly Disadvantaged Offenders
By Stuart Green  2010 U Chi Legal F 43 (2010)

Wednesday March 21  Topic to be determined
Essay Due

Monday March 26  Regulating Self Protection
Taking a Stand?: An Initial Assessment of the Social and Racial Effects of Recent Innovations in Self-Defense Laws
By Mario Barnes  83 Fordham L. Rev. 3179  (2015)

Wednesday March 28  Regulating Self Protection
Good Cause Requirements for Carrying Guns in Public
By Joseph Blocher  127 Harv. L. Rev. F. 218  (2014)

Monday April 2  Drug Regulation
Making Sense of Drug Regulation: A Theory of Law for Drug Control Policy

Wednesday April 4  Drug Regulation
Drugs, Addiction, Therapy, and Crime: Imagining the Addict: Evaluating Social and Legal Responses to Addiction
By Elizabeth Joh  2009 Utah L. Rev. 175 (2009)

Monday April 9  Social Protest
News Coverage and Social Protest: How the Media’s Protest Paradigm Exacerbates Social Conflict
By Douglas McLeod  1 J. Disp. Resol. 185  (2007)
Wednesday April 11  
Social Protest
Protest Policing in New York City: Balancing Safety and Expression

Monday April 16  
Law and Religion
The Competing Claims of Law and Religion: Who Should Influence Whom?
By Robert Cochran and Michael Helfand  39 Pepp. L. Rev. 1051 (2013)

Wednesday April 18  
Society and the Death Penalty
The Price of Justice: Interest – Convergence, Cost, and the Anti-Death Penalty Movement
By Jolie McLaughlin  108 Nw. U. L. Rev. 675 (2014)

Monday April 23  
Hate Crimes
TBD

Wednesday April 25  
The Constitution
The Constitution Outside the Courts
By James Fleming  86 Cornell L. Rev. 215

Monday May 1  
End of Term Discussions

Wednesday May 2  
Review for Final Exam
– Reading Day

Monday May 14  1:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
Final Exam

Semester Grading
Quizzes (random dates)  (average top 6 of 8)  25%
Participation/Responses  25%
Essay  March 22  25%
Final Exam May 15  25%

94% and above: A
90-93.99%: A-
86-89.99%: B+
82-85.99%: B
77-81.99%: C+
64.99 and below: F