

FALL 2017
PHIL 3740 Philosophy of Law
Section: MW9
Registration Code: 15608
PROFESSOR SAMIR CHOPRA

Course Description

We will explore the philosophical foundations of law, the ability of law and legal practice to serve as an experiential space for philosophical theories, and the critical interplay between philosophical and legal theorizing. Along the way, we will explore questions such as: the nature of law, including theories like natural law, legal positivism and legal realism; legal reasoning, such as reasoning from precedent and analogy; the moral foundations of law, and the relationship of law to theories of applied ethics; the legal and philosophical dialectic in questions of justice, rights, equality, punishment, privacy, property, and responsibility; and the nature of legal procedure and evidence in the judicial process.

We will read both philosophers and legal theorists, and examine case histories as concrete illuminations of the issues discussed in the readings. Several papers will be assigned over the course of the semester.

For more information, contact Professor Samir Chopra at schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu