

# LAW100 Introduction to Law

3rd and 4th quarters, Freshman

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<b>Instructor</b>	IKOMA TOSHIHIDE
<b>Style of Class</b>	Lecture
<b>Number of Credits</b>	2
<b>Day and Period</b>	Wednesday, Period 2

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## Course Description

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This course is intended for students who have never studied this subject before. It will explain the role of law in society by using everyday examples. This will be followed by an examination of a broad range of issues related to law, including types of law and judiciary systems. This course also includes on-site learning by visiting the courts and witnessing what students learned in the classroom. The ultimate objectives of the course are: acquisition of legal thinking; fostering an interest in law.

## Course Objectives

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- (1) To understand the role of law in society
- (2) To acquire basic knowledge about legal systems and laws
- (3) To acquire a habit of legal thinking

## Prerequisites

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None in particular.

## Class Materials

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Textbook

Suekawa Hiroshi (ed.), *Hogaku Nyumon* (Introduction to Law), Yuhikaku Soshō.

Supplementary Materials

To be introduced from time to time during the lecture.

## Course Method

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Lecture, supplemented by further explanations written on the blackboard.

Student participation will be encouraged as needed, depending on the contents of the lecture.

## Evaluation/Assessment

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Three reports need to be submitted during the course.

There will be a final examination.

## Grading

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30% Paper(s)

70% Final examination

## Course Schedule

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### Week 1: Introduction and Organization

Explanation of course schedule, content and format of the class.

### Week 2: What is Law (1)

The role of law as a social norm; difference with other types of social norms.

### Week 3: What is Law (2)

Types, typologies and systems of law.

### Week 4: Development of Law

Development of law in conjunction with social development.

### Week 5: Law and Trials (1)

Japanese judiciary system (including the lay judge system).

**Week 6: Law and Trials (2)**

Audiovisual instruction on the lay judge system. The First paper due in class.

**Week 7: Law and Trials (3)**

Visit to the court house. The Second paper due.

**Week 8: Criteria of Trials**

Sources of law as the basis of trials.

**Week 9: Interpretation of Law**

Legal syllogism, with case studies.

**Week 10: Lecture by way of Audiovisual Material**

Work of lawyers (audiovisual materials will be used in class), to be followed by a writing assignment of thoughts and impressions from the audiovisual materials. The third paper due.

**Week 11: Law in Practical Life**

*Houterasu* (Japan legal support center), as an everyday institution for legal consultation with a talk by a practitioner.

**Week 12: Learning from Recent Cases (1)**

Case studies and discussion of everyday legal issues.

**Week 13: Learning from Recent Cases (2)**

Case studies and discussion of everyday legal issues.

**Week 14: Learning from Recent Cases (3)**

Case studies and discussion of everyday legal issues.

**Week 15: Course Wrap-up**

Review and Q & A to deepen student' understanding.

**Preparation and Follow-up**

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Preparation: Students are expected to finish reading of the assigned chapter in the textbook before class (30 minutes).

Follow-up: Review lecture notes and identify in writing questions after reviewing the assigned readings of textbook and supplementary materials (1 hour).