

Introduction to Legal Reasoning (LAW 101)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In-Person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (10:00 AM – 12:50 PM)

Instructor: Aisha Ahmad

Course Description:

This is an introductory level law course aimed at introducing students to basic concepts pertaining to the study of the law, so as to develop their ability to critically engage with case law and analytically engage in legal discourse. The initial sessions aim at introducing students to the basic legal structure of the state, and then focusing on the judicial structure. This shall be used as a foundation to introduce the concept of judicial precedent, and developing an understanding of the concept of and the relevance of case law in Pakistan and other common law countries; as well as the basic concepts that are important for discerning information while reading cases, that is, ratio decidendi, and obiter dicta. The students will also learn about the different rules, as well as the aids used by judges in interpreting statutes.

Once the students have developed a preliminary understanding of case law, they shall learn how to identify relevant facts, spot major issues, what and how relevant law is to be applied, identify and engage with the legal reasoning used in various cases to reach the decision. Students shall be taught eminent cases from various domains – including right to life, freedom of speech, gender discrimination - and a plurality of jurisdictions, including case law from Pakistan, Europe, United States, and international courts such as the ECHR.