



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 601 – Seminar in Selected Problems  
Lec 02, Topic 13- “The Authority of the Law”**

**Fall Term 2010**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: Thursday, 12:30 – 3:00 in EDC 156**

**Instructor:** Allen Habib

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**Office Hours :** Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:00

***Course Description***

This class is a graduate seminar (jointly taught with an upper level undergraduate seminar) in the philosophy of law. The central topic of the course will be the nature and structure of the authority of the law, and its related phenomena, e.g. the obligations (if any) we have to obey the law, the intersection between law and morality, the relationship between the authority of the law and that of the state, etc.

***Required Texts***

- *The Concept of Law*, H.L.A. Hart, Oxford (Clarendon), 1961
- *The Authority of the Law*, Joseph Raz, Oxford (Clarendon), 1979
- *Law's Empire*, Ronald Dworkin, Harvard (Belknap), 1986

***Evaluation***

Students will be graded on three sorts of assignments:

- Ten (10) weekly short (1-2 pp) précis of the assigned material, due at the beginning of each class
- An APA style 20 min paper presentation, along with a written text for same, on some aspect of the course material due in class during the semester
- A 15-20 pp. term paper, due at the end of the semester

The précis will be worth 2% apiece, for a total of 20%; the presentation 30% and the paper 50%. All three assignments will be graded on their writing quality as well as other aspects of the work. There will be NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

***Grading Scale***

95-100 = A+	78-80 = B+	68-70 = C+	58-60 = D+
85-94 = A	75-77 = B	65-67 = C	50-57 = D
81-84 = A-	71-74 = B-	61-64 = C-	< 50 = F

***Policy on Late Assignments***

Late assignments will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the TA instructors or me. If accepted late assignments may be subject to penalties, although no more than 1/3 of a letter grade per day.