

Understanding Jurisprudence

An Introduction to Legal Theory

Second Edition

Raymond Wacks, *Emeritus Professor of Law and Legal Theory, University of Hong Kong*

What is law? Does it have a purpose? What is its relationship with justice? Do we have a moral duty to obey the law? These sorts of questions lie at the heart of jurisprudence. Moreover, every substantive or 'black letter' branch of the law raises questions about its own meaning and function. The law of contract cannot be properly understood without an appreciation of the concepts of rights and duties. The law of tort is directly related to several economic theories of compensation. The criminal law is inextricably linked to philosophies of punishment.

Understanding Jurisprudence explores these problems and provides an engaging introduction to the central issues of legal theory. The book navigates the reader through legal philosophy's fundamental concepts, concerns, and controversies.

Students of law, politics, philosophy, and other social sciences will find this an ideal guide to the essential themes of contemporary jurisprudence.

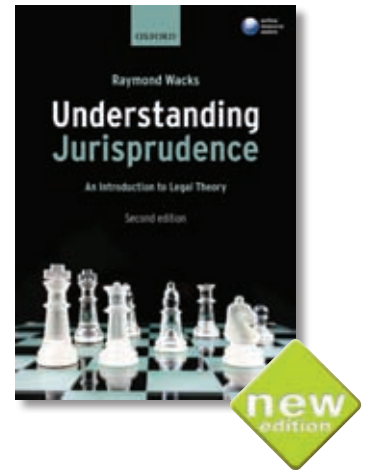
New to this edition

- Wider coverage of non-western legal traditions
- Three new chapters on: historical and anthropological theories of law; the duty to obey the law; and the philosophy of punishment

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CONTENTS:

1. Introduction;
2. Law and morals;
3. Classical legal positivism;
4. Modern legal positivism;
5. Law as integrity;
6. Legal realism;
7. Law and social theory;
8. Historical and anthropological jurisprudence;
9. Justice;
10. Rights;
11. The duty to obey the law;
12. Punishment;
13. Critical legal theory;
14. Feminist and critical race theory



An approach that is easy to follow and understand without avoiding the complexities and subtleties of the subject

ONLINE RESOURCE CENTRE

An accompanying Online Resource Centre provides a wealth of supporting material for the reader, including: questions and answers; an additional chapter providing guidance and advice on the study of jurisprudence; further contextual analysis of current controversies of a jurisprudential nature, such as current legal and moral controversies and political debates; links to useful websites and related articles; and an interactive glossary of key terms relating to legal theory.



www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/orc/wacks2e/

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Key features

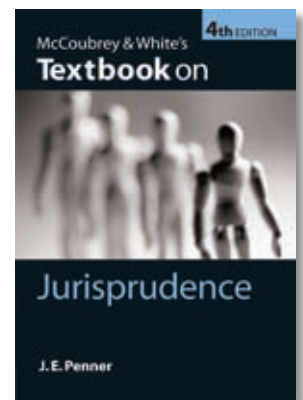
- Includes coverage of a wide range of legal theorists and philosophies, each presented in dedicated chapters to allow for easy navigation and to suit most undergraduate courses
- Suggestions for further reading point the way for students who wish to follow up on particular aspects of the subject

- More in-depth coverage of the philosophical debates and concerns surrounding the key topics ensures the text continues to map well to most undergraduate jurisprudence modules
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CONTENTS:

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4. Legal realism;
5. Hart: The critical project;
6. Hart's theory of law;
7. The natural law revival: Fuller and Finnis;
8. Post-Hart analytic philosophy of law: Dworkin and Raz;
9. Marxist theories of law;
10. Critical legal studies;
11. Postmodern legal theory;
12. Feminist legal theory;
13. The economic analysis of law;
14. Justice theory;
15. The concept of injustice



Penner, Schiff and Nobles: Introduction to Jurisprudence and Legal Theory

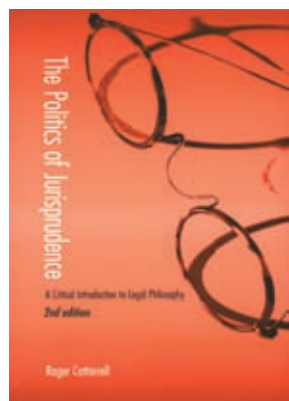
Commentary and Materials

Edited by James Penner, Professor of Property Law, University College London, David Schiff Professor of Law, Queen Mary, University of London and Richard Nobles, Professor of Law, Queen Mary, University of London

This book provides an accessible introduction to jurisprudence and legal theory. It sets out a course of study that offers a highly effective series of introductions into a wide variety of theories and theoretical perspectives, from traditional approaches such as natural law to modern ones such as feminist theory, economic analysis of law and Foucault and law.

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