

**Syllabus for LS 140
Property and Liberty
Fall 2015**

Professor Ben Brown

Reading assignments are from **Perspectives on Property Law** (PPL) or my Internet website:
<http://www.benbrownshistoryandlaw.com/>

Some assignments require logging onto other Internet sites.

Thursday, August 27 – How Property Structures Personhood

Readings:

PPL – 1-5, Erving Goffman, *“Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates.”*

6-15, Margaret Jane Radin, *“Property and Personhood.”*

Class 1 – Introduction to the course, explain the written/oral assignment. The Importance of Property; Property and Personhood; Effective v. Efficient Property Regimes.

September 1-3 – Origins of Property

Readings:

PPL – 90-97, Papanek, *“To Each Less than She Needs”*

235 – 242, Ellickson, *“Unpacking the Household: Informal Property Rights Around the Hearth.”*

36-41, John Locke, **“Two Treatises of Government”**

29-35, William Blackstone, **“Commentaries on the laws of England.”**

Website – Locke, expanded reading

Internet – www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pridprej.html

Read *Pride and Prejudice* Vol. 1, chap. 13 – Arrival of Mr. Collins, by following the hyperlink above;

In Vol. 1, chap. 13, find the hyperlink **“entailed away from your own children”** and read about entail;

Read Vol. 1, chap. 19 –Elizabeth rejects Mr. Collins’s proposal;

Read Vol. 1, chap. 22 – Charlotte Lucas accepts Mr. Collins’s proposal;

In Vol. 1, chap 22, find the hyperlink **“honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune”** for a discussion of why Miss Lucas accepted the proposal.

Class 2 – Feminism and Property in *Pride and Prejudice*

Class 3 – Locke and the labor theory of property; Blackstone and the Common Law of Property.

September 8 - 10 – Property and Inequality

Readings:

PPL – 42-51, Hume, *A Treatise on Human Nature*.
16-28, Carol M. Rose, “*Property as Storytelling: Perspectives from Game Theory, Narrative Theory, Feminist Theory.*”

Website – Rousseau

Internet – Property in Eve Online:

<http://www.polygon.com/features/2014/2/24/5419788/eve-online-thrilling-boring>

Class 4 – Hume and Rose on who owns Property in an MMO-RPG?

Class 5 – Rousseau’s critiques of individual property rights – Establishing the ongoing dispute.

September 15 - 17 – Property and Capitalism

Readings:

PPL – 292-303, Albert O Hirschman, “*Rival Interpretations of Market Society: Civilizing, Destructive, or Feeble.*”

Website – Karl Marx, “*Communist Manifesto*,” John Stuart Mill, excerpt from **Principles of Political Economy**; Henry George, excerpt from “*Progress and Poverty*,” “*Ode to Liberty*”

Class 6 – Property and Markets – Smith and the Classical Economics, Karl Marx rejects Property.

Class 7 – 19th Century Critiques of Markets – John Stuart Mill and Henry George; Hirschman on the changing attitudes towards Markets and Morality.

September 22 - 24 – Colonialism

Readings:

PPL – 180-189, Carol M. Rose, “*Possession as the Origin of Property.*”
321-335, Stuart Banner, “*Two Properties, One Land: Law and Space in 19th-Century New Zealand.*”

Website – Paul Finkelman, “*Batter Up*,” Trial court decision in Popov v. Hayashi; Johnson v. McIntosh.

Class 8 – Possession as the basis of property. Colonialism and Real Property in New Zealand.

Class 9 – How the Indians lost their land – European versus Native property systems.

September 29 – October 1 – Slavery and Property

Readings:

PPL – none

Website – Somerset v. Stewart; Bryan v. Walton; State v. Mann; State v. Boyce.

Internet – John Belton O’Neill “Negro Law of South Carolina” chapter 2 pp. 17 -28 found at: <https://archive.org/details/negrolawofsouthc00onea>.

Class 10 – American Law of Slavery.

Class 11 – **Group 1** – Valerie Martin, **Property**.

October 6 - 8 – The Critique of Property in the United States

Readings:

PPL – 52-63, Milton Friedman, **Capitalism and Freedom** 259-272, Carol Rose, “Crystals and Mud in Property Law.” 243-250, Penalver and Katyal, *Property Outlaws*.

Website – Thorstein Veblen, **Theory of the Leisure Class**; Carol Rose, “*Property Law and the Rise, Life, and Demise of Racially Restrictive Covenants*,” Bell v. Maryland.

Class 12 – Race and inequality in the 20th Century

Class 13 – Thorstein Veblen and the anthropological analysis of property. Milton Friedman and Property and Freedom in the 20th Century.

October 13 - 15 – Income Equality in the 20th Century

Readings:

PPL – 83-90, John Rawls, **A Theory of Justice**

Website – William Graham Sumner, **What Social Classes Owe to Each Other**; Mark Roe, “*Backlash*.”

Internet – John Cassidy review of Thomas Piketty Capital in the Twenty-first Century:
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/03/31/forces-of-divergence?printable=true¤tPage=all#ixzz2wuzLPF2d>

Class 14 – Economic Inequality in the 20th Century – Roe, Rawls and Piketty

Class 15 – Midterm on October 15

October 20 - 22 – The Tragedy of the Commons –
Do communal use systems always lead to inefficiencies?

Readings:

PPL – 99-106, Garret Hardin, “*The Tragedy of the Commons.*”
112-120, Demsetz, “*Toward a Theory of Property Rights.*”
139-148, Smith, “*Semi-Common Property Rights and Scattering in the Open Fields.*”
107-112, James M. Acheson, “*The Lobster Gangs of Maine.*”
131-139, Michael A. Heller and Rebecca S. Eisenberg, “*Can Patents Deter Innovation? The Anticommons in Biomedical Research.*”
419-428, Robert P. Merges, “*Property Rights Theory and the Commons: the Case of Scientific Research.*”
225-234, Robert Axelrod, “*The Evolution of Cooperation.*”
Internet – Elinor Ostrom youtube clip: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByXM47Ri1Kc

Class 16 –The Tragedy of the Commons; The Tragedy of the Commons Critiqued

Class 17 – Science, the Commons and Patent Trolls

October 27 - 29 –Law and Economics Analysis and Property;
Are Markets Rational?

Readings:

PPL – 173-80, Ronald H. Coase, “*The Problem of Social Cost.*”
322-328, Richard A. Posner, **Economic Analysis of Law**
181-90, Robert C. Ellickson, **Order without Law: How Neighbors Settle Disputes**
190-200, Joseph Henrich, et al., “*Behavioral Experiments in 15 Small-Scale Societies*”
Internet – Dan Ariely Ted Talk:
http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_ariely_asks_are_we_in_control_of_our_own_decisions.html
Dan Pink: http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation.html

Class 18 – Ronald Coase and Efficiency Analysis. Critiques of Coase Theorem.

Class 19 – **Group 2** – Dan Ariely, **Predictably Irrational**.

November 3 - 5 – The Internet and Public Goods –
Should the Internet be a commons?

Readings:

Class 20 – An Introduction to Public Goods; Patents, Copyright and Intellectual Property.

Class 21 – **Group 3** – Lawrence Lessig, **Remix**

November 10 - 12 – Government Regulation and Property Rights

Readings:

PPL – 410-418, Joseph L. Sax, “*The Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resource Law: Effective Judicial Intervention.*”

Website – Pennsylvania Coal Co. v. Mahon, Just v. Marinette County.

Class 22 – How severely can the government regulate the use of property before it must pay compensation to the owner? Government Regulation and the Environment.

Class 23 – **Group 4** – Patrick Beach – **A Good Forest for Dying**

November 17 - 19 – Environmentalism and Eminent Domain

Readings:

Website – Kelo v. New London, Conn.; Charles Reich, excerpt from “*The New Property*,” Goldberg v. Kelly.

Class 24 – Eminent domain and local control of environmental measures. Oregon Prop 37 and Prop 49, Post-Kelo propositions.

Class 25 – **Group 5** – Should Property Rules apply to Government benefits? – Charles Reich, “The New Property.”

November 24 – Homelessness

Readings:

Internet – Denver’s Road Home program: www.denversroadhome.org

Class 26 – Homelessness and Community

Thursday, November 26 – Happy Thanksgiving

December 1 - 3 – Organizing the Internet and Internet Piracy

Readings:

Internet – <http://www.authorama.com/free-culture-1.html>

Lawrence Lessig, Free Culture, Read chapter 5 on piracy and property

Class 27 – Organizing the Internet – Cooperation versus Competition. Is Internet piracy a social good or a social evil?

Class 28 – Net Neutrality; Review for Final

Final Exam – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015, 8-11 a.m.