

Reading Seminar in Legal Philosophy

H. L. A. Hart's *The Concept of Law*

Summer Term 2018

In his influential book, *The Concept of Law*, an Oxford philosopher, H. L. A. Hart addresses fundamental questions in legal philosophy such as what is law, what is the structure of law, how is law related to morality, etc. The book was foundational for the research method of analytical jurisprudence and made a substantial contribution to the theory of legal positivism. Since its publication in 1961 until the present day, it has been a subject of vivid debates in the philosophy of law.

During the seminar we will go through the text step by step by reading, interpreting and discussing every chapter of the book. The goal is to bolster the understanding of Hart's theory of law, as well as explore its meaning and legacy today.

Basic information about the course

The reading seminar will consist of 9 meetings (120 minutes each) dedicated to different chapters of the book. The meetings will take place on Tuesdays between the 24th of April and the 10th of July 2018.

General information about the course and its organization will be provided during the first meeting on the 17th of April 2018, 16 s.t., HGC 30.

Assignment:

Written commentaries (up to 2 pages each) on the chapter(s) we are currently reading. In total, nine commentaries are expected during the term.

Available Certificates:

Grundlagenschein gem. § 39 Abs. 3 Nr. 2 SPO

Fremdsprachenschein gem. § 7 Abs. 1 Nr. 3 JAG

Promotionsschein gem. § 4 Abs. 2 PromO

The course is open to:

Students and Ph.D. Students

Registration:

To sign up for the course, please contact the chairs' secretariat by phone or email (Tel. 0234-3229640, ls-magen@rub.de) or personally (room GC 8/135).