

Spring 2018

**HIST 585-7: Special Topics in History:**

Topic: English Legal History

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Volokh	TUTH	10:35 am – 12:05 pm	15

**Semester Description:**

Subjects covered:

- The law codes of the Anglo-Saxon period
- The Norman Conquest and Domesday Book
- The legal structure of “feudalism”
- The legal reforms of Henry II
- Magna Carta
- The development of property, tort, contract, and criminal law
- The development of Parliament
- The deposition of kings
- The development of the Chancery court
- Ecclesiastical courts and canon law
- The Reformation
- Villeins and slaves
- The Civil War and the Glorious Revolution

**Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**

The legal readings are almost entirely primary materials (law codes, statutes, cases, writs, etc.), with a small smattering of pages from a legal history textbook.

These readings are supplemented by readings from a general book on English political history (probably Robert Tombs, *The English and Their History* (2014)).

**Grading:**

The whole grade depends on a single 3-hour final exam, sometime during the April 25–May 18 exam period