



St Hilda's College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

June 2026

### Law

We're writing as the Law Tutors at St Hilda's to welcome you to read for a BA degree in Jurisprudence. We look forward to meeting you in October and hope that you will enjoy your time at Oxford.

To help you prepare for your course, the Law Faculty has prepared an Induction Course Pack (attached to this letter and which will also be sent by the Law Faculty) which provides you with an introduction, as well as both a statute and a case exercise to complete. Please work through this carefully. It should lead you to begin to think about how we analyse statutes and cases, and we will discuss these exercises together in your first week at Oxford. It is probably better not to do these too far in advance of coming up, so that they are fresh in your mind when you arrive.

We also enclose a list of books that you might find useful should you want to do some reading before you come up to Oxford. At this stage, there is no need for detailed knowledge of the subjects, but merely a general sense of how the different dimensions fit together, so you should not expect to take very many notes as you work through these texts.

Please note that this is not a prescribed reading list; rather it gives you a selection from which you might want to read two or three books which appeal to you, so that you get an idea of what Law is about. You will, however, probably find it helpful in your first term to have read some of the substantive textbooks on the list. Reading a good quality newspaper will also heighten your awareness of contemporary legal issues. We do not recommend that you purchase these books. You might be able to get hold of a copy in your local library or a local University library.

If you have any questions about the list, or about anything else, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dev S Gangjee  
Fellow and Tutor in Law

Dr Barbara Havelková  
Fellow and Tutor in Law



## Introductory Reading Lists for Law

### General Introduction to Legal Study

- Nicholas McBride, *Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University* 5<sup>th</sup> ed (2022).
- ATH Smith, Glanville Williams: *Learning the Law* (17th ed, 2020) chs 1-2, 4-9.
- J.A.G. Griffiths, *The Politics of the Judiciary* (Fontana 2010)
- T. Bingham, *The Rule of Law* (Penguin 2011)

### General Introduction to Some Relevant Legal/Writing Skills

- Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*
- George Orwell, *Politics and the English Language*; here: [http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e\\_polit/](http://www.orwell.ru/library/essays/politics/english/e_polit/)

### Introductory Substantive Textbooks

*These books are basic introductory textbooks in the three subjects you will be studying in your first two terms.*

- David Johnston, *Roman Law in Context* 2nd ed (CUP 2022)
- Mark Elliott and Robert Thomas, *Public Law* 5<sup>th</sup> ed (OUP 2024)
- Jonathan Herring, *Great Debates in Criminal Law* 4<sup>th</sup> ed (Bloomsbury 2020)
  - [Backup: David Ormerod, Karl Laird and Matthew Gibson, *Smith, Hogan and Ormerod's Criminal Law*, 17th edn (OUP, 2024)]

### Websites you Might Wish to Follow/Have a Look at

- <https://ukconstitutionallaw.org/>
- <https://uksblog.com/>