

ROBINSON COLLEGE

First Year Law Preliminary Reading

Welcome to your first lot of Robinson College reading. Whether you have studied Law before or not, you will find it useful to read some of the books below so that you are familiar with some of the issues at the level you will need to do the course.

It would be a good idea to start with Finch and Fafinski, listed under the General Introduction heading, since this is designed to help you to acquire the general skills you will need as a Law student. You may continue to find it useful after, as well as before, you start the course. Do bear in mind, however, that it is not specifically tailored to the nature of the course at Cambridge. You should not allow it to override guidance given by those responsible for your studies when you arrive.

You should also try to read at least one of the suggested from each subject before you come. However, you may want to leave the actual purchase of the textbooks until you have met your supervisors in those subjects in October since they will have their own recommendations. At the beginning of term, you will meet your supervisors who will then distribute reading lists for the courses themselves.

1. General Introduction

E Finch and S Fafinski, *Legal Skills* (8th ed OUP, 2021)

2. Roman Law

B Nicholas, *An Introduction to Roman Law* (Clarendon, 1962 (2008 edition – [available online](#)), chapters 1-3.

P du Plessis, *Borkowski's Textbook on Roman Law* (6th ed OUP, 2020 – [available online](#)), chapters 1-3.

Or

F. Schauer, *Thinking Like a Lawyer* https://codolc.com/books/Thinking_Like_a_Lawyer.pdf chapters 1-2

P du Plessis, *Borkowski's Textbook on Roman Law* (6th ed OUP, 2020 – [available online](#)), chapter 10

3. Constitutional Law

P Leyland, *The Constitution of the United Kingdom: A Contextual Analysis* (4th ed Hart, 2021).

T Bingham, *The Rule of Law* (London, 2010)

J Beatson, *The Rule of Law and the Separation of Powers* (Hart, 2021)

You may also want to read posts on the following websites:

UKCLA blog <https://ukconstitutionallaw.org/blog/>

Constitutional law Matters website <https://constitutionallawmatters.org/>

The Constitution Society: <https://consoc.org.uk/the-constitution-explained/>

The Constitution Unit: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit/explainers>

4. Criminal Law

Please read this selection of introductions to criminal law:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v25atgtzpaodcx7/AACnSwA3TsmNC0IHfBHYftvMa?dl=0>

You may also want to read:

AP Simester, JR Spencer, GR Sullivan and GJ Virgo, *Simester and Sullivan's Criminal Law* (8thed Hart, 2022), chapters 1-3.

5. Law of Tort

Green and Gardner, *Tort Law*, (OUP, 2021) Ch 1.

or

T Weir, *An Introduction to Tort Law* (2nd ed OUP, 2006, [available online](#)).