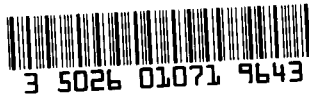


Legal History
Fall 1991
Final Take Home Exam



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University of Mississippi
Law School

INSTRUCTIONS

Examination essays are due no later than 12:00 m. on December 18, 1991. Essays must be typed, double spaced, and must not exceed ten pages. Papers will not be read (or graded) past the tenth page. Law and History are literate professions and grades will be affected adversely by bad English.

You may not talk to anyone except the instructor about this exam. You may consult any published sources, but you are not required, advised, or expected to use sources other than the course materials. You must properly cite, quote, and attribute nonoriginal language and ideas. Failure properly to acknowledge such sources will result in a failing grade. If you do consult sources that are not available at the library, you must be prepared to made a copy of such sources available to the instructor upon request.

Identify yourself on the exam answer only by your exam number. By placing the exam number on your essay and by submitting your essay for credit, you are agreeing to the following pledge (as required by law school policy):

"On my honor I have neither given nor received improper assistance. And I will report any improper assistance that I am made aware of."

QUESTION

Legal historian A.W.B. Simpson observes, "By 1800 the English common law system was already very ancient. It had developed without any major discontinuity for some 700 years or more. . ." A. Simpson, Legal Theory & Legal History: Essays on the Common Law 383 (1987). Your task is to compose an essay that either agrees or disagrees with Professor Simpson's central argument that English legal history from 1066 to 1800 was marked by the absence of any major discontinuity.

A good essay will define terms clearly and state its thesis concisely; it will be supported by ample reference to specific historical developments that were addressed by readings and in class. A strong argument will not neglect important historical events that may seem to contradict its thesis but will rather explain how apparent contradictions or anomalies are consistent with the thesis.