

Introduction to U.S. Law

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Gulf of Mexico

Nassau

THE BAHAMAS

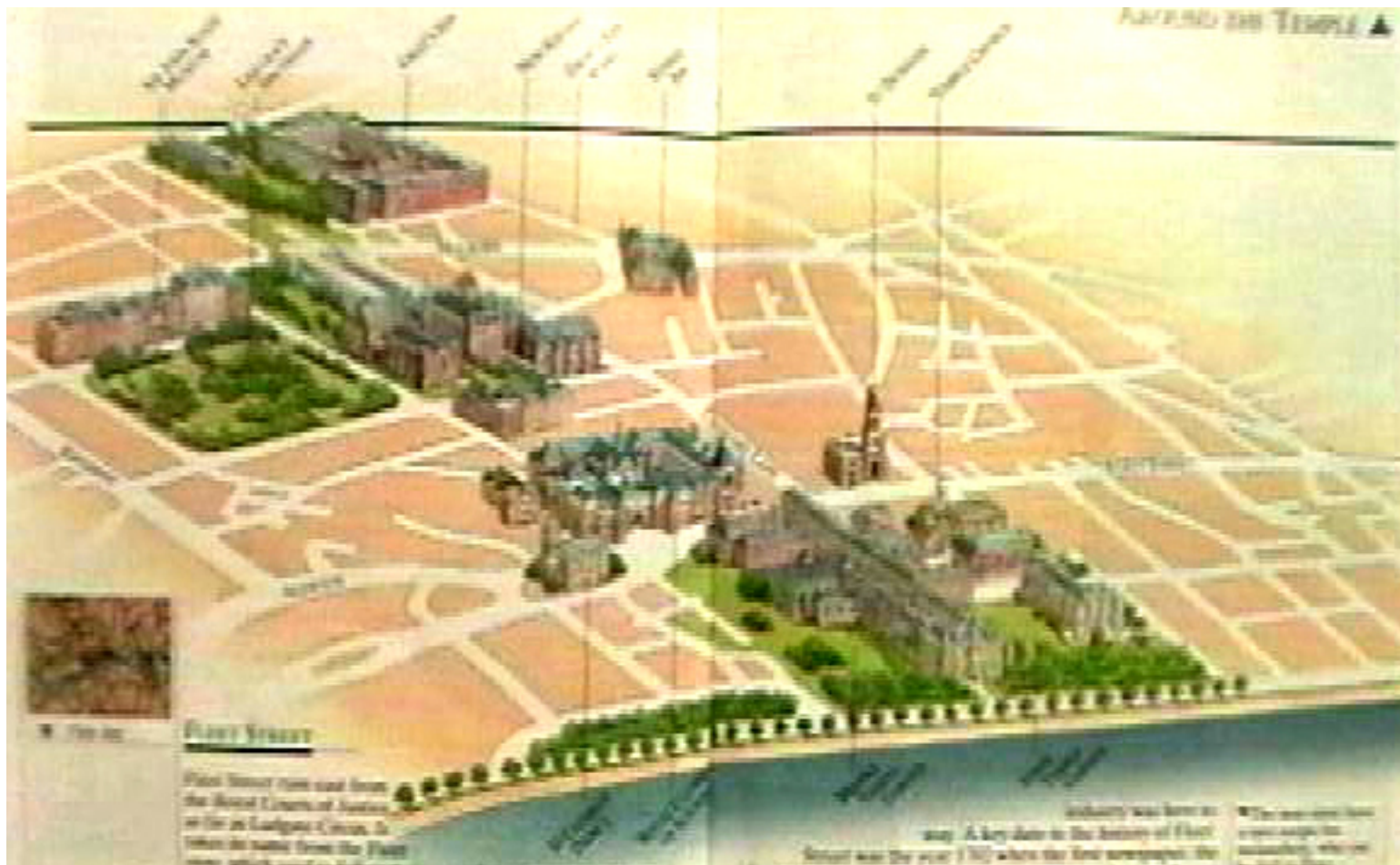
Central London



Inner Temple Inn of Court



All Four Inns of Court



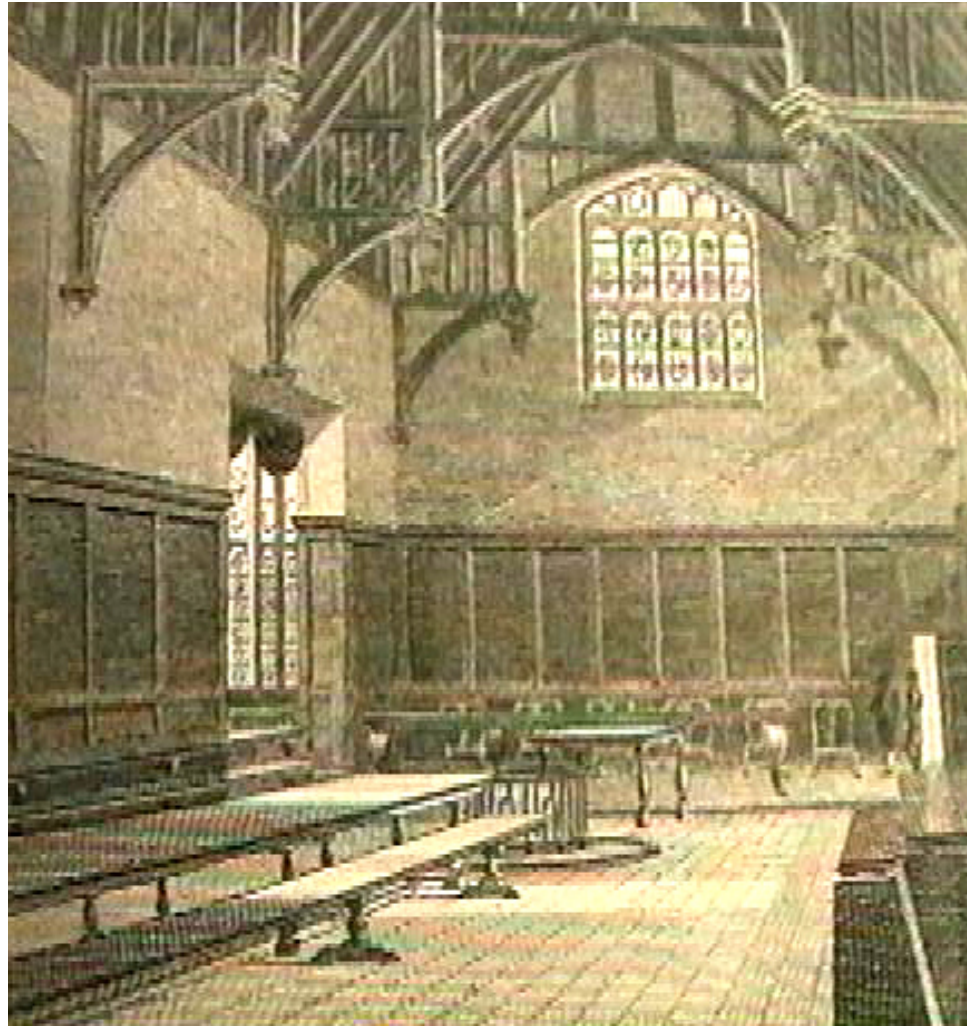
Grey's Inn



Hogwarts



Inn of Court: “The Bench”



US law schools are part of but
separate from rest of university
Georgia State College of Law



19th Century - Harvard

- Christopher Columbus Langdell
- Law school deserves to be part of university
– not a “trade school”
- Law as science, library as laboratory
- Studying cases like classifying biological specimens

19th Century - Harvard

- Case method: students were compelled to use their own reasoning powers to understand how the law might apply in a given case
- Spread of Harvard method



Faculty: Creating a Collaborative Environment

[In the News](#)



US legal education is active learning



Georgia State Classroom



US legal education is active learning



US legal education is active learning



The Paper Chase

- 1973 movie set at Harvard Law School
- OneL published in 1977
- Movie opens on first day
- Contracts class – Professor Kingsfield
- “Classic” example of Socratic teaching
- Socratic teaching” by repeated questioning
- like and unlike Inns of Court “moots”

Active education in this class

- Team-based learning – what I use to teach legal ethics
- The class will be organized into 8 “law firms” assigned alphabetically by last name.
- Students will be required to sit with the other members of their law firm according to a seating chart.

Class Participation by Firm

- 5 bonus points will be added to the quiz total for every student in a firm that provides excellent contributions to class discussion.
- 3 bonus points for good contributions to class discussion.
- Suggested discussion topics in syllabus
- You are encouraged to develop additional discussion topics.

Encouraging good team work

- 2 bonus points for turning in peer evaluation
- 5 bonus points added for 1 or 2 students identified as providing most to the firm.
- 2 points subtracted for students identified as making no meaningful contribution.

Grading – Final Exam

- 40% based on final exam
- Multiple choice
- Limited open book
- Only printed course materials and
- handwritten or printed class notes
- No laptops or other internet-connected device
 - for example, no smartphones

Grading – Daily Quizzes

- 60% based on cumulative quiz score
- Starting Day Two
- Short graded quizzes will be given at beginning of each class to test class preparation; some sample questions are given in advance on the syllabus.
- Short graded quizzes will also be given at end of each class to test comprehension of material covered.

Quiz – No Cheating

- Students must not look at another student's quiz answers
- or fill out a quiz for another absent student.
- The first occasion will result in a zero score on the quiz. A second occasion will result in a failing grade for the course.

Missed Quizzes

- University allows 2 skipped classes
- Therefore, I will count the best quizzes for 6 out of the 8 days
- In addition to two allowed skip days
 - Students will be allowed to take a make up quiz if the student provides a written explanation showing good cause for 3rd absence
 - the explanation can be provided by email.