Lecture 1: groundwork for the comparative study of law

Definitions of law, its nature and functions; difficulties of comparing legal systems, formalist, substantivist, etic and emic; some attempted solutions to provide a comparative framework; the ‘reasonable man’ as an answer; the great divide, status and contract (embedded and separated); some implications of the great divide; separation and rule of law; equality before law; individual rights.

Lecture 2: correlations and implications of socio-legal structures

Aims of justice; role of judge; finality of decisions; enforcement of decisions; relevance and separation of spheres; evidence and witnesses; truth and fact; the role of juries.

General:

Bohannan, P. *Social Anthropology* (1969) (sections on law)
Geertz, C. ‘Fact and Law in Comparative Perspective’ in *Local Knowledge* (1983)
Maine, Henry. *Ancient Law* (various edns from 1861).
Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. *Structure and Function in Primitive Society* (1952), chs. 11,12

Some classic case studies

Bohannan, P. *Justice and Judgment among the Tiv* (1957).