

Römische Grundlagen europäischer Privatrechte (Römische Rechtsgeschichte)

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For more than a millennium, Roman law has shaped the legal systems of continental Europe. From the 11th century onwards, it found its way into legal scholarship and practice, and continued to live on in the modern 19th and 20th century codifications.

The German BGB too can be regarded as a branch grown from the stem of Roman law. Therefore, insight into its Roman foundations can help develop a deeper understanding of modern German law, in particular private law. However, there is not such a thing as ‘the’ Roman law. In this course, the different stages of development of Roman law will be studied and discussed. Travelling through the four periods of Roman history (the Monarchy, the Roman Republic, the Principate, and the Dominate), the development of Roman law from the Law of the XII Tables (510 BCE) until Justinian’s codification of Roman law (c. 530 CE) will be outlined.

In contrast to the course *Römisches Privatrecht (Römisches Vermögensrecht)/Roman private law*, our focus will not be on substantive private law, but rather on Roman society, its governmental institutions and constitutional law, the sources of Roman law and Roman legal practice. In addition, some attention will be given to the law of (civil) procedure, and some aspects of material law, notably the law of delict and the transfer of ownership.