This general introduction of the French Legal System provide an explanation on the word of codified law, its principles, underlying philosophy as distinct from that of the Anglo-Saxon system. We will provide also a brief overview of the history of French law, in particular the major upheavals caused by the French Revolution. This will be followed by a general introduction on French law, its major characteristics, its sources, and its branches. We will examine and explain some of the basic concepts of French law which dominate and characterise its philosophy and practical application.

I.- Law and Society

a) Ubi societas ubi iure : The Social Construction of Law

b) The two Main Families of Western Systems : Common Law and Continental Law

c) The French Law as Foundation of Other Continental Systems

d) Historical Overview of French Law :
   i) Pre-revolutionary Period
   ii) Revolution
   iii) The Codification and the Modern Law

e) The Place of French Law in the Construction of the European System

II.- Sources of French Law


b) Decision of the Courts
   i) Structure of French Courts : Ordinary Courts and Administrative Courts
   ii) Legal Personnel
c) The Doctrine and the French General Principles of Law

III.- Branches of French Law

a) Constitutional Law and Institutions of the Fifth Republic

b) Civil Law
   i) The Law of Persons
   ii) The Law of Property
   iii) The Law of Obligations
   iii) The Law of Family

c) Business Law
   i) Special Business Contracts
   ii) Companies

d) Criminal Law
   i) Classification of Criminal Offences
   ii) Criminal Sanctions

e) Administrative Law
   i) The Law of Administrative Organisation
   ii) Judicial Review of Administrative Action
   iii) The Administration and the Citizen

Bibliography


