**CL2353/3353 Greek law and lawcourts**

**Vacation reading**

I recommend that you buy and read MacDowell's book \*The Law in Classical Athens\*, Thames and Hudson 1978 (with many reprints since then). Although it's nearly 40 years old, it's still one of the most accessible introductions available (and I confess to also having a soft spot for this book, as it was the one that got me really hooked on Athenian law when I was an undergraduate). You should be able to get a second-hand copy fairly cheaply; try the site abebooks www.**abebooks**.co.uk, which is excellent in my experience. It will be a good investment also for the purposes of essay writing. Another book which I recommend very highly, but which is so expensive that I would not ask my students to buy their own copy is S.C. Todd, *The Shape of Athenian Law*, OUP 1993 (hardback) or 1995 (paperback).

In addition to MacDowell, I suggest that you read some of the actual law court speeches in translation. You will find excellent collections of speeches in C. Carey \*Trials from Classical Athens\* (Routledge 2012) and M. Gagarin \*Speeches from Athenian Law\* (University of Texas Press 2011). Again, if you can find copies of these that are not too expensive, it might be a good idea to buy your own, but I am very much aware of the financial constraints that students are under, so please don't feel under any pressure. The advantage of these collections is that each of them contain some excellent introductions to and comments on the speeches, which makes it easier to get into them. But if you read any of the speeches in advance of the course, do try not to get bogged down in details. Read the speeches as the stories they are: one of the fascinating things about the texts is that they are first-person accounts, where we hear the voices of individual Athenians talking about their personal concerns and opinions across the millennia...