Comparative Law 2025
Benjamin Saunier

General Bibliography

I. Classics

David R and Brierley JEC, *Major Legal Systems in the World Today: An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law* (3rd edn, Stevens 1985)

Gutteridge HC, *Comparative Law: An Introduction to the Comparative Method of Legal Study & Research* (2nd edn, University Press 1949)

Zweigert K and Kötz H, *Introduction to Comparative Law* (Tony Weir tr, 3rd edn, Clarendon Press ; Oxford University Press 1998)

These books have long been regarded as standard references in comparative law. They are included here because two, David's and Zweigert & Kötz's, are translations or adaptations—from French in the case of David's book (which continues to be revised by new contributors), and from German in the case of Zweigert & Kötz, widely cited in studies of functionalism. Gutteridge's book has also been translated into French. While these works are not my main sources for this course, they represent well what traditional or mainstream comparative law has been.

II. More recent treatises

Gordley J, Jiang H and von Mehren AT, *An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Private Law. Readings, Cases, Materials* (2nd edn, Cambridge university press 2021)

Kischel U, *Comparative Law* (Oxford University Press 2019)

Siems M, *Comparative Law* (3rd edn, Cambridge University Press 2022)

Uwe Kischel's *Comparative Law*, originally published in German and now available in translation, is my principal reference in preparing this course. It is authoritative and adopts a refreshingly straightforward approach, which I appreciate. Gordley, Jiang, and von Mehren's work is also a classic, but its recent revision makes it more current than the texts listed above. Siems' *Comparative Law* deals extensively with new methodologies and provides a thorough examination of comparative law outside the predominant European context.

III. Handbooks, encyclopaedias

Association internationale des sciences juridiques, *International Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (Nijhoff 1971-)

Reimann M and Zimmermann R (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law* (Oxford University Press 2019)
<http://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198810230.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198810230> accessed 19 December 2021

Siems M and Yap PJ (eds), *The Cambridge Handbook of Comparative Law* (Cambridge University Press 2024) <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-handbook-of-comparative-law/4A8AE948DE282BB5E73BF9B0519C9B19> accessed 1 September 2025

Smits JM and others (eds), *Elgar Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (Edward Elgar Publishing 2023)

These are the first resources to consult for anyone seeking information on a particular topic in comparative law.