Daliah’s Justinian Code Classwork (transcription)

**Inheritance**

Institutes, Book II:

1. *Law Summary:* Everyone is entitled to inheritance, regardless of whether it came from the mother or father and you are also entitled to all of it and this applies to all of your descendants.
2. *Impact on Women:* This is good because it prevents a woman’s money from being absorbed into her husband’s estate, so she can do what she wants with it, and financial security is very important to being an independent person. But it does not say that a daughter’s inheritance should be equal to the son’s, so it might be unfair there.

**Incest**

Institutes, Book V:

1. *Law Summary:* Incestuous marriages are not allowed, and any that occurred before are no longer legal.
2. *Impact on Women:* This is good for everybody because incest is a) gross and b) not good for the gene pool. And also helps prevent women from being trapped in her family.

**Rape**

Institutes, Book V:

1. *Law Summary:* People who take a woman’s virginity outside of marriage, regardless of who the woman is, deserve death, especially if they were nuns. Also, the men of her family can kill the rapist without due process.
2. *Impact on Women:* It is sort of good because it guarantees that an attacker can never attack again. But because it’s limited to virgins (which we assume means not married) it could be damaging to women who want to have premarital sex and the law allows her family to murder the guy without finding out what happens. And that’s a limitation of sexual freedom for women while not limiting it for men, which is not fair at all. It also doesn’t extend to marital rape. So it could be a better law, but it was a good attempt to get rid of rapists.