

LEGAL STUDIES

legalstudies.northwestern.edu

The Legal Studies program promotes the interdisciplinary study of law, legal institutions, and legal processes from social science and humanities perspectives. It is not a “prelaw” program; instead, it examines how legal institutions, actors, and processes fit within a broader social context. In this conception, the law is a social institution that warrants study in its own right and provides an excellent lens through which students may critically examine a variety of themes central to other disciplines (such as race and ethnicity, class, gender, inequality, social change, governance, politics, and culture). The program also prepares students to conduct empirical research and theoretical inquiries across a broad range of contemporary and historical subjects that implicate law.

Programs of Study

- Legal Studies Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/legal-studies/legal-studies-major/>)
- Legal Studies Minor (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/legal-studies/legal-studies-minor/>)

LEGAL_ST 101-7 College Seminar (1 Unit) Small, writing and discussion-oriented course exploring a specific topic or theme, and introducing skills necessary to thriving at Northwestern. Not eligible to be applied towards a WCAS major or minor except where specifically indicated.

LEGAL_ST 101-8 First-Year Writing Seminar (1 Unit) Small, writing and discussion-oriented course exploring a specific topic or theme, and focused on the fundamentals of effective, college-level written communication. Not eligible to be applied towards a WCAS major or minor except where specifically indicated.

LEGAL_ST 206-0 Law and Society (1 Unit) Introduction to the role of law in American society and the influence of society on law. Courts, the legal profession, law enforcement, inequality, and social change. Taught with SOCIOL 206-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Disciplin U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 207-0 Legal Studies Research Methods (1 Unit) Introduction to research methodologies used in interdisciplinary legal studies, including jurisprudence and legal reasoning, qualitative and quantitative social science methods, and historical and textual analysis. SOCIOL 227-0 and LEGAL_ST 207-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 206-0 or SOCIOL 206-0. *Advanced Expression Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Disciplin*

LEGAL_ST 221-0 Famous American Trials (1 Unit) Course explores several famous American trials to examine key themes in American political, legal, social, economic, and cultural history. We will focus largely on the twentieth century—a period of multiple “Trials of the Century” — to see how each trial crystallized broader political and social tensions over ethnicity, gender, race, religion, politics, sexuality, and social status. LEGAL_ST 221-0 and HISTORY 221-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 248-0 Global Legal History (1 Unit) This course examines four aspects of global legal history: 1) the imperial roots of international legal regimes and global governance; 2) the transnational history of laws on corporations and intellectual property; 3) the evolution of ideas about

personhood and citizenship, including slavery, indigeneity, and artificial intelligence; and 4) the role of state borders and military monopolies. HISTORY 248-0 and LEGAL_ST 248-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both. *Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Disciplin*

LEGAL_ST 276-0 Introductory Topics in Legal Studies (1 Unit) May be repeated for credit with different topics.

LEGAL_ST 305-0 American Immigration (1 Unit) Themes in history of immigration, especially from Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Law, racial formation, acculturation, transnational and international contexts, competing notions of citizenship. HISTORY 305-0 and LEGAL_ST 305-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: Course is reserved to undergraduates only. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 308-0 Sociology of Law (1 Unit) Sociological analysis of legal institutions such as courts, the police, and lawyers. Law, inequality, and social change. Taught with SOCIOL 318-0; may not receive credit for both courses. *Advanced Expression Ethical and Evaluative Thinking Foundational Disciplin Ethics Values Distro Area Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Disciplin U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 309-0 Political Theories of the Rule of Law (1 Unit) Key documents and debates in the development of theories of law and jurisprudence. From Aeschylus to contemporary democratic and legal theories and major court cases on topics ranging from torture to Title IX. POLI_SCI 309-0 and LEGAL_ST 309-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Ethical and Evaluative Thinking Foundational Disciplin Ethics Values Distro Area*

LEGAL_ST 315-0 Corporation in US Law and Culture (1 Unit) Tracing the evolution of the corporate person in the United States from the colonial era to the present: both the evolving legal rights and responsibilities of the corporation and the role that corporations have played in the American cultural imagination. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Disciplin*

LEGAL_ST 318-1 Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: Colonial Period to 1850 (1 Unit) Colonial period - 1850. Development of legal institutions, constitutionalism, law and social change, law and economic development. Taught with HISTORY 318-1; may not receive credit for both courses. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 318-2 Legal and Constitutional History of the United States: Since 1850 (1 Unit) 1850 - present. Law in industrial society: administration, race relations, corporations, environmental protection, civil liberties. Taught with HISTORY 318-2; may not receive credit for both courses. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 320-0 The Fourteenth Amendment (1 Unit) The Fourteenth Amendment’s role in defining and protecting citizenship, privileges and immunities, due process, and equal protection from its nineteenth-century origins to the present. HISTORY 320-0 and LEGAL_ST 320-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 331-0 Politics of the Supreme Court (1 Unit) Operation of appellate courts, with emphasis on the US Supreme Court. Decision making by appellate courts and the development of public policy.

Prerequisite: POLI_SCI 220-0 or POLI_SCI 230-0. LEGAL_ST 331-0 and POLI_SCI 331-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses.

LEGAL_ST 332-0 Constitutional Law I (1 Unit) Introduction to interpretation of the US Constitution by the Supreme Court. Judicial review, federalism, congressional and executive authority, separation of powers. Taught with POLI_SCI 332-0; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: POLI_SCI 220-0 or POLI_SCI 230-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

LEGAL_ST 333-0 Constitutional Law II: Civil and Political Rights (1 Unit) Consideration of US Supreme Court decisions dealing with civil and political rights, including equality, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. LEGAL_ST 333-0 and POLI_SCI 333-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: POLI_SCI 220-0 or POLI_SCI 230-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 340-0 Gender, Sexuality, and the Law (1 Unit) Examination of the changing role of law in governing gender and sexual relations in America. Legal definitions of gender and sexuality in the household, the marketplace, and the state. GNDR_ST 340-0 and LEGAL_ST 340-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Historical Studies Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro* - See Rules (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext>) *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 342-0 International Organizations (1 Unit) An examination of the politics, law, and history of international organizations from the 20th century to the present. Emphasis on the main inter-governmental organizations including the United Nations, the WTO, the WHO, and international courts. POLI_SCI 342-0 and LEGAL_ST 342-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: POLI_SCI 240-0 or consent of instructor. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

LEGAL_ST 347-0 Comparative Race & Ethnicity (1 Unit) Comparative history of Latinos, Asian Americans, African Americans, and white ethnics in the 20th century United States; role of law, politics, and society in shaping and being shaped by racial and ethnic categories. *Historical Studies Distro Area Historical Studies Foundational Discipline U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 348-0 Race, Politics, and the Law (1 Unit) Current role of race and racism from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Application to contemporary legal and political issues. How law deals with racial inequality. LEGAL_ST 348-0 and SOCIOL 348-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 206-0, SOCIOL 206-0, SOCIOL 208-0, LEGAL_ST 308-0, or SOCIOL 318-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 350-0 Psychology and the Law (1 Unit) Examines the application of psychology to law, including topics such as the insanity defense, criminal profiling, eyewitness testimony, and interrogation. Taught with PSYCH 340-0; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: PSYCH 110-0. *Ethical and Evaluative Thinking Foundational Disci Ethics Values Distro Area Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 356-0 Constitutional Challenges in Comparative Perspective (1 Unit) Constitutional controversies and resolutions in liberal

democracies. Constitutional traditions and governance, rule of law, legitimacy and authority in diverse societies, human rights, social transformation. POLI_SCI 356-0 and LEGAL_ST 356-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. *Global Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

LEGAL_ST 360-0 Animal Law (1 Unit) Survey of laws, regulations, and cultural norms regarding nonhuman animals and animal ownership in the United States. History of animal protection movement, wildlife regulation, hunting and fishing rights, livestock care and slaughter, animal experimentation, anti-cruelty legislation, and companion animal law. ENVR_POL 360-0 and LEGAL_ST 360-0 are taught together; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 206-0 or POLI_SCI 230-0, or instructor approval. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl*

LEGAL_ST 376-0 Topics in Legal Studies (1 Unit) May be repeated for credit with different topics.

LEGAL_ST 381-0 Children and the Law (1 Unit) Examines from a developmental perspective research on children's involvement in the legal system as decision makers, witnesses, victims, and perpetrators. Taught with PSYCH 381-0; may not receive credit for both courses. Prerequisites: PSYCH 205-0, PSYCH 244-0. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area*

LEGAL_ST 383-0 Gender, Sexuality and The Carceral State (1 Unit) Traces the rise of the carceral state in the United States from the 1970s to the present through the lens of gender and sexuality. Topics include policing, incarceration, social services, criminal law, and social change. No Prerequisites. *Social Behavioral Sciences Distro Area Social and Behavioral Science Foundational Discipl U.S. Perspectives on Power, Justice, and Equity*

LEGAL_ST 394-LK Professional Linkage Seminar (1 Unit) Varied legal topics taught by practitioners. May be repeated for credit with different topics.

LEGAL_ST 398-1 Advanced Research Seminar 1 (1 Unit) Exposure to theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of law and legal institutions in society; preparation of original thesis. Consecutive enrollment required in LEGAL_ST 398-2. Prerequisites: LEGAL_ST 206, LEGAL_ST 207-0 and acceptance to program as major. *Advanced Expression*

LEGAL_ST 398-2 Advanced Research Seminar 2 (1 Unit) Preparation and presentation of original thesis. Prerequisite: LEGAL_ST 398-1 within the same academic year. *Advanced Expression*

LEGAL_ST 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) Readings and conferences on special subjects for students pursuing a specific area of interest in legal studies.