LEGAL STUDIES
(LEGAL ST)

LEGAL ST/SOC 131 – Criminal Justice in America
3-4 credits.

Day-to-day functioning of the elements of the criminal justice system in the U.S. Nature of crime in the U.S., ideas about causes and solutions. Emphasis on the sociology of the components of criminal justice system—organization and roles of police, lawyers, court and correctional personnel.

Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/RP & SE 135 – Disability and the Criminal Justice System
3 credits.

Explores the interaction between the criminal justice system and disability. Explores common experiences of persons with disability such as limited access to community services, poverty, and homelessness and the connection of these experiences to mass incarceration. Explores federal disability rights laws and the implementation of these laws in education, legal, and incarceration settings. Introduction to criminal justice reform to address the experiences of persons with disabilities in this system.

Requisites: None
Course Designation: Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/JEWISH/RELIG ST 203 – Jewish Law, Business, and Ethics
3 credits.

Explores the development of Jewish law from antiquity to modernity, with a focus on legal questions related to business practices and ethics. Consider issues ranging from ethical practices in agriculture to how to run a modern multi billion-dollar kosher industry; from the ethics of Jews celebrating Thanksgiving to regulations governing the preparation, consumption, and sale of coffee.

Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/POLI SCI 217 – Law, Politics and Society
3-4 credits.

Introduction to the legal process. Examination of the various concepts of law, the perennial problems of the law, legal reasoning, and the nature and function of law and the courts.

Requisites: Freshman or sophomore standing only
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2023

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 261 – American Legal History to 1860
3-4 credits.

Surveys the development of American law down to the U.S. Civil War. Reviews the English historical background, and examines how law changed in colonial America, culminating in the framing of the U.S. Constitution. Explores how territorial expansion, democracy, and slavery shaped nineteenth-century American law. Emphasis is on how law interacts with political, social, and cultural change, with a focus on the origins of modern civil and constitutional rights.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 262 – American Legal History, 1860 to the Present
3-4 credits.

Surveys the development of American law from the Civil War to the early Twenty-First Century. After a review of the U.S. Constitution and its modification by the Civil War amendments, examine the legal dimensions of such topics as race relations and the Civil Rights movement, the growth of modern business, the New Deal, labor rights, the women's movement, the individual rights revolution of the postwar period, and the contemporary conservative reaction. Emphasis on how law interacts with political, social, and cultural change.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023
LEGAL ST 325 – Wrongful Convictions
3 credits.

Study of evidentiary causes of wrongful convictions, including eyewitness misidentifications, false confessions, the use of jailhouse informants, and flaws in forensic science. Procedural and institutional causes of wrongful convictions, and within this context, question whether constitutional rights adequately protect against illegitimate outcomes. Explore potential ways to broaden conceptions of wrongful convictions, looking at mass surveillance, mass prosecution, mass conviction, sentencing severity, and the system’s racially disproportionate impact at all intercept points.

Requisites: LEGAL ST/SOC 131 or 217
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2021

LEGAL ST 400 – Topics in Legal Studies and the Social Sciences
3-4 credits.

Addresses a variety of issues linking various social sciences perspectives to the central themes of law and legal institutions.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST 405 – Foundations of Field Education
2 credits.

Preparation for extensive, hands-on internship at a community criminal or juvenile justice agency.

Requisites: Declared in Criminal Justice certificate
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2017

LEGAL ST 407 – Jurisprudence and Social Issues
3 credits.

Examines fundamental questions about the nature and content of law, addressing both analytic and normative jurisprudence. Questions in analytic jurisprudence include: What does it mean for something to be the law? Why are some things a matter of law, while others are not? What is the relationship between law and morality? Is the law exhausted by the meaning of words in constitutions and statutes? Questions of normative jurisprudence concern the proper content of law, such as, what should the law permit, prohibit, and promote? These questions are examined by looking at a number of topics that are at issue in U.S. (and other nations’) laws. These will include interpreting criminal law statutes, policies promoting public welfare, and the justifications for property, especially intellectual property rights.

Requisites: SOC/LEGAL ST 131, POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217, or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

LEGAL ST 409 – Human Rights in Law and Society
3 credits.

Introduction to the theory, the politics and the sociology of human rights. Main themes: international human rights legal regime, questions of why human rights have become “legalized,” and what the consequences of this legalization are on the ground.

Requisites: LEGAL ST/SOC 131, POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217, or Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level – Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST/SOC 415 – The Legal Profession
3-4 credits.

History, structure, and functioning of legal professions in the United States and in other countries around the world.

Requisites: None
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level – Elementary
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2016
LEGAL ST/GEN&WS 422 – Women and the Law
3 credits.

Legal system, laws, and proposed legislation that have specific impact on the lives of women. Topics investigated in both the social and legal contexts.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2023

LEGAL ST/GEN&WS/SOC 425 – Crime, Gender and Justice
3 credits.

Focuses on the intersection between gender, crime and justice from a cross-cultural perspective. The gendered nature of the criminal justice system, female experiences of crime, prosecution and incarceration as well as the extent to which women are victims, offenders, and participants in the criminal justice system will be explored. Special emphasis will be placed on the theoretical implications of offending behavior and the intersection of gender with sexuality, race, ethnicity and class. The goal of this course is to provide a foundation for critically assessing the often controversial issues surrounding race, gender, crime, and criminal justice in society.

Requisites: SOC/LEGAL ST 131, GENS&WS 101, 102, 103 or graduate/professional standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 426 – The History of Punishment
3-4 credits.

Examines punishment across a vast range of historical traditions, examining how wrongdoing and punishment have been figured in law, literature, art and philosophy. Examines ancient, medieval and modern traditions.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/ENVIR ST/HISTORY 430 – Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
3 credits.

Explores environmental studies through a focus on law and legal history. Although its main concentration is on U.S. environmental law, the course will begin and end with broader historical and global perspectives. Topics include a survey of English, European, and early American legal approaches to land use, natural resources, and pollution through World War II as well as an examination of the development and practice of contemporary U.S. environmental law and consideration of the recent emergence of international environmental law.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Gen Ed – Communication Part B
Breadth – Either Humanities or Social Science
Level – Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST 435 – Civil Rights: Policing, Prisons, Voting, Housing, Employment
3 credits.

Exploration of civil rights. Question what it means to discriminate (on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, and disability), how we might investigate and detect acts of discrimination, and the legal constraints on governmental efforts to remedy discrimination in employment, housing, and voting. Explore the intersection of government power and civil rights. Examine how the government targets groups during times of national crisis. Consider what constitutes acceptable conditions of incarceration for prisoners. Finally, learn police use-of-force doctrine, and discuss the challenge of protecting both officer and civilian safety.

Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/CHICLA/SOC 440 – Ethnicity, Race, and Justice
3-4 credits.

An examination of ethnicity, race, and justice, with a specific emphasis on US Latinos, the largest minority group in the United States.

Requisites: SOC/C&GEO SOC 140, 210, 211, SOC 181, FOLKLORE/AFROAMER/AMER IND/ASIAN AM/CHICLA 102, CHICLA 201, CHICLA 210, CHICLA 230, POLI SCI/CHICLA 231, CHICLA/GEN&HISTORY/CHICLA/GEN&WS 245, LEGAL ST/SOC 131, or POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Social Science
Level – Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023
LEGAL ST/CHICLA/SOC 443 — Immigration, Crime, and Enforcement
3-4 credits.
A study of immigration, crime, and border enforcement, engaging both historical and present-day debates, focusing on Latino immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border.
Requisites: SOC/C&E SOC 140, 210, 211, SOC 181, FOLKLORE/AFROAMER/AMER IND/ASIAN AM/CHICLA 102, CHICLA 211, CHICLA 210, CHICLA 230, POLI SCI/CHICLA 231, CHICLA/GEN&HISTORY/CHICLA/GEN&W 245, LEGAL ST/SOC 131, or POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217
Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement
Breadth - Social Science
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST 444 — Law in Action
3 credits.
A review of the interaction of law (judicial decisions, legislation, administrative actions) with public policy by studying the approaches used to resolve a number of significant issues by use of law and examining the actual impact of such efforts.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST 450 — Topics in Legal Studies and the Humanities
3-4 credits.
Addresses a variety of issues linking various humanities perspectives to the central themes of law and legal institutions.
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 459 — Rule of Law: Philosophical and Historical Models
3-4 credits.
From the perspectives of history and political theory, examines the multiple meanings of the idea of the rule of law, and its uses in American history. Explore prominent critiques of the rule of law ideal.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2022

LEGAL ST/L I S 460 — Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers
3 credits.
Examines individual privacy and government information collection in law enforcement, security, public health, administrative law, and other contexts from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
Requisites: Junior standing
Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2016

LEGAL ST 473 — Health Impacts of Unmet Social Needs
3 credits.
Engage in service learning through direct work with patients in the Community Resource Navigator Program. Develop a better understanding of how social determinants of health equity affect peoples’ lives. Partner with patients to identify social and legal services, assist patients in connecting to needed resources, follow up with patients to be sure that the connection was made and evaluate the quality of the resources provided. Reflect on experiences in the clinic and further explore how social location impacts health, legal and social service delivery. Working directly in local primary care clinics will provide the opportunity to communicate directly with the health care team to problem solve barriers patients are facing in accessing resources for their social needs.
Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2023

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 476 — Medieval Law and Society
3 credits.
Introduction to the central historical developments of law and legal institutions in the European middle ages (400-1500).
Requisites: Sophomore standing
Course Designation: Level - Intermediate
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Summer 2023
LEGAL ST/HISTORY 477 – History of Forensic Science
3 credits.

Examines the diverse paths followed by forensic science (including medical jurisprudence or forensic medicine) in various times and places, focusing on the English-speaking world from the nineteenth century until the present. Explore the many ways that law and science have worked together—or at cross-purposes—to generate and assess evidence at the crime scene, in the lab, in the courtroom, and beyond.

Requisites: Sophomore standing and (LEGAL ST/HISTORY 261, SOC/LEGAL ST 131, or POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217), or graduate/professional standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2022

LEGAL ST/HISTORY 510 – Legal Pluralism
3 credits.

Historical and anthropological perspectives on non-state "law," or systems of rules generated by normative orders that lay beyond the state; case studies include the mafia, Tokyo tuna traders' court, orthodox Jewish diamond merchants, California gold miners' courts, Inuit song dueling.

Requisites: Sophomore standing and (LEGAL ST/HISTORY 261, SOC/LEGAL ST 131, or POLI SCI/LEGAL ST 217), or graduate/professional standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2022

LEGAL ST 600 – Special Topics in Legal Studies
1-3 credits.

Special seminars are designed for opportunities such as short international seminar courses, the summer forum, and other special opportunities.

Requisites: Junior standing

Course Designation: Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2019

LEGAL ST/LAW/SOC 641 – Sociology of Law
3-4 credits.

Theory and research on the social origins, processes and effects of law; examination of law-related behavior, legal institutions, law and social structure, and law and social change; linkage to contemporary theoretical and political debates.

Requisites: Junior standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST/L 1 S 645 – Intellectual Freedom
3 credits.

An examination of intellectual freedom in the United States including censorship, minors' rights, the Internet, privacy, and copyright with focus on theoretical questions related to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and historical developments.

Requisites: Junior standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST/L 1 S 663 – Introduction to Cyberlaw
3 credits.

The emphasis is on critical thinking about a broad variety of legal and policy problems that arise because of ever-changing information and communication technologies.

Requisites: Junior standing

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST 681 – Senior Honors Thesis
3-4 credits.

Individual study for majors writing theses for honors degree.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Summer 2022

LEGAL ST 682 – Senior Honors Thesis
3-4 credits.

Individual study for majors writing theses for honors degree.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2022

LEGAL ST 691 – Senior Thesis
3 credits.

Individual study for majors writing senior thesis (nonhonors).

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2022
LEGAL ST 692 – Senior Thesis
3 credits.

Individual study for majors writing senior thesis (nonhonors).

Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Spring 2023

LEGAL ST/SOC 694 – Criminal Justice Field Observation
2-3 credits.

Field placements and seminar sessions to develop sociological understanding of criminal justice processes. Placement in criminal justice agencies and lectures and discussions applying concepts and theories to field experience.

Requisites: Declared in Criminal Justice certificate and LEGAL ST/SOC 131
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Workplace - Workplace Experience Course
Repeatable for Credit: No
Last Taught: Fall 2023

LEGAL ST 699 – Directed Study
1-4 credits.

Directed study in legal studies.

Requisites: Consent of instructor
Course Designation: Level - Advanced
L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement
Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions
Last Taught: Fall 2023