

# LEGAL STUDIES (LS)

## LS 223 LAW AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY3 Credits

A study of the nature and function of the American legal system and its interrelationship with our social, political and economic institutions. This course examines the nature, functions, and limits of law and its impact on economic, political, and social institutions. Emphasis will be placed on debates of current legal issues.

**Cross-Listed:** LS223/SS223

## LS 231 INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES3 Credits

A study of the American legal system and the people who make it work. First introduces the role of legal professionals (lawyers and paralegals) and provides a general knowledge of the legal system structure and dispute resolution processes. Students then explore major substantive areas of law, examine the ethical rules governing legal work and learn basic legal skills such as case briefing, legal analysis, and legal research.

## LS 232 LITIGATION/CIVIL PROCEDURES3 Credits

A study of the process used to resolve legal disputes. Will examine the federal and state rules of civil procedures, including the drafting of complaints, answers, pre-trial motions, interrogatories, depositions and other documents, discovery, jurisdiction, and the aspects of trial practice.

## LS 233 LAW OF PERSONAL INJURY3 Credits

An overview of basic personal injury and property damage law within the American legal system. Actual cases and hypothetical examples are used to illustrate the law of intentional torts, negligence, strict liability and tort defenses. Emphasis is placed on developing a working knowledge of substantive tort law through the development and analysis of facts, the construction and evaluation of alternative arguments, and the drafting of a variety of documents that are the basis for trial preparation.

**Prerequisites:** LS 231

## LS 235 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW3 Credits

A study of the role and function of administrative agencies in contemporary society. This course focuses on the law governing agency discretion, rulemaking, enforcement, and decision-making powers. Special emphasis is given to administrative procedures and public rights.

## LS 236 FAMILY LAW3 Credits

A study of the law governing families. Exploring the substantive law of marriage, divorce, legal separation, child support and custody, property division, alimony, decree modification and enforcement, and adoption. Special emphasis is placed on the drafting of documents necessary in family law cases.

## LS 237 INTRODUCTION TO LAW3 Credits

A study of the American legal system, legalism in society and the relationship between law and justice. This course examines the structures of our legal system, and considers the economic, social, and political implications as they influence the development of a rule of law. Historical and contemporary legal controversies will be examined.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ237/LS237/PS237

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

## LS 238 LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING I3 Credits

A study of basic legal research and legal analysis. Focusing on how to locate and analyze legal resources including constitutions, statutes, administrative rules and regulations, and cases. The fundamentals of legal writing, including legal citation, will be introduced. Special emphasis will be given to online legal research.

## LS 331 CRIMINAL LAW3 Credits

A study of the general principles of criminal law and the specific elements of particular crimes. This course examines the sources of criminal law, the constitutional limitations on criminal law, the basic proof requirements for specific crimes, and the various defenses to criminal liability.

**Cross-Listed:** LS 331/CJ 331

**Prerequisites:** LS 231 or CJ 101 and Sophomore or above status

## LS 332 THE LAW OF CONTRACTS3 Credits

The study of privately created obligations and duties through agreement. This course introduces the law of contracts, including the elements of a contract, the formation of contracts, contract interpretation, obligations, third-party contract relationships, breach of contract, and remedies available. Emphasis is placed on the drafting and evaluation of contracts.

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

## LS 333 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW3 Credits

A study of the development of the American governmental system through judicial interpretation of the Constitution. This class is rooted in the conviction that constitutional interpretation is an intricate blend of politics, economics, history, and competing values. This class will emphasize the institutional development of the Court, the evolving role of the judiciary, legislative and executive branches, the dominant theories of constitutional interpretation, the politics of judicial selection, and the ongoing relevance of constitutional interpretation.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ333/LS333/PS333

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

## LS 334 CRIMINAL PROCEDURES3 Credits

A study of the rule of law in action. Students will examine procedural limitations in processing an individual through the criminal justice system with special emphasis on arrest, search and seizure, interrogation, identification and exclusion of evidence.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ334/LS334

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

## LS 338 LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING II3 Credits

A study of advanced legal research and writing principles. This course focuses on case synthesis, the creation of factual and policy arguments, and counteranalysis. Emphasis is placed upon completion of legal research projects including preparation of interoffice memoranda, court briefs and legal correspondence.

**Prerequisites:** LS 238 and Sophomore or above status

## LS 343 COMMERCIAL LAW3 Credits

The course is split into two halves. In the first half students will understand and analyze the Uniform Commercial Code articles, its related laws, and their applicability to the law office environment and commercial business practice. Emphasis will be placed on the sale of goods, negotiable instruments, bank deposits and collections, and secured transactions. The second half will be the study of business forms: sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, and limited liability companies. Students will understand and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of such different business entities, including their formation, function, and ownership structure.

**LS 390 INTERNSHIP IN LEGAL STUDIES1-12 Credits**

The student will gain practical experience in a law office, court, judicial office, or other law related agency. Open to upper division students majoring in the area of legal studies.

**Add Consent:** Department Consent

**Notes:** Interested students should contact the Internship and Career Services office to secure application materials; application should be made prior to the semester the internship will be started; the amount of credit will be based on the availability of a suitable work position, the qualifications of the applicant, and the work hours.

**LS 400 INDEPENDENT STUDY OR RESEARCH1-3 Credits**

Faculty-guided research in an area of mutual interest to the student and instructor. Students are responsible for selecting the area of inquiry prior to contacting the instructor.

**Prerequisites:** 15 hours of Legal Studies courses

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**Requirements:** Permission of Dean, and Academic Vice President.

**LS 401 AGRICULTURAL LAW3 Credits**

This Course focuses as a study of legal issues that affect agriculture. Legal issues covered will include agricultural real estate contracts and leases, secured lending in agriculture, bankruptcy rights, income tax approaches to agricultural equipment and commodities, agricultural cooperative formation and function, tort and employment liabilities, water regulation and rights, state and federal environmental protection laws, animal welfare regulations, and state-level restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural land.

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or above status

**LS 431 ESTATE PLANNING3 Credits**

A study of the ownership of assets and planned distribution. Students will explore the procedures, techniques, and law governing the administration of estates and trusts. Special emphasis will be placed on the drafting of wills, simple trusts, probate documents and advanced healthcare directives.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**LS 432 JUVENILE LAW3 Credits**

A study of the rights and duties of children, parents, and the state in both private and criminal arenas. This course examines the development of the legal status of children, constitutional rights of minors, the role of the state in relation to the family, state power to intervene in the lives of parents and children, and juvenile offenders in the justice system. Emphasis is placed on the juvenile justice process as it has developed in the United States.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ432/LS432

**LS 433 RULES OF EVIDENCE3 Credits**

A study of evidence and the rules governing its use. This course examines what, how, and why certain objects or testimony should be admitted into, or excluded from, evidence in court. Topics include the problems of relevance, authentication, burdens of proof, presumptions, hearsay, opinion, and expert testimony.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ433/LS433

**Prerequisites:** CJ 101 or LS 231 and Junior or above status

**LS 434 LAW OF REAL ESTATE3 Credits**

A study of the substantive law of real property, including legal descriptions, real estate finance, types of ownership, mechanics of transferring ownership, abstracts, title insurance, legal forms, and contract drafting.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**LS 435 LAW OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS3 Credits**

A study of sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies. This course will examine the advantages and disadvantages of different business entities and the formation and financial structure of each.

**LS 436 ETHICS/PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY3 Credits**

An overview of ethical considerations in the legal profession, including canons of ethics and ethical standards governing lawyers and legal assistants. The course examines client confidentiality, unauthorized practice of the law, conflicts of interest and disqualification, attorney-client privilege, the work product rule, financial matters, zealousness within the bounds of the law, and competence.

**LS 438 TOPICS IN LAW3 Credits**

Topics selected to meet the needs of students in a special area of interest in law.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ438/LS438

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**LS 442 HONORS IN LEGAL STUDIES3 Credits**

Selected courses and topics designed for upper division students with a grade point average of 3.25 or above in all course work.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ442/LS442

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent

**Notes:** May be repeated up to a maximum of twelve (12) semester hours.

**LS 443 CORRECTIONAL LAW3 Credits**

A study of major legal issues surrounding sentencing, incarceration, probation, parole, pardon, and related topics. This course provides a general overview of the law relating to persons in prison, jail or within the corrections system. Also investigates how civil and criminal law affects facilities, community-based corrections, and personnel working in the correctional system.

**Cross-Listed:** CJ443/LS443

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**LS 444 TOPICS IN TRANSACTIONAL LAW3 Credits**

Topics selected to meet the needs of students in a special area of interest in transactional law.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**LS 447 APPLIED ISSUES IN LEGAL STUDIES1-9 Credits**

Projects, workshops, field experiences and seminars that focus on a specialized area of Legal Studies.

**Prerequisites:** Junior or above status

**Add Consent:** Instructor Consent