Courses

LGLS 211. The Legal Environment of Business. 3 Credit Hours.
This course emphasizes the nature of legal systems and processes. Topics include agency, contracts, the Uniform Commercial Code, debtor-creditor relationships, government regulation of business, and business structure (selection of a business entity).
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Session Cycle: Fall, Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 220. Global Legal Traditions. 3 Credit Hours.
This is an introductory course to the field of legal studies. This is a course for students who want to "think big" about the law. It combines the traditional disciplines of comparative law, legal history, and legal philosophy. The purpose is to introduce students to understanding contemporary U.S. law by studying what it has been, how it differs from the laws of other countries, and what it is tending to become. The course places national laws in the broader context of major legal traditions, those of chthonic (or indigenous) law, talmudic law, civil law, Islamic law, common law, Hindu law and Confucian law. Each tradition is examined in terms of its institutions and substantive law, its founding concepts and methods, its attitude towards the concept of change and its teaching on relations with other traditions and peoples.
Session Cycle: Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 351. Civil Rights and Liberties. 3 Credit Hours.
In this course students examine the legal principles and rules that define the nature and limits of American government and the rights of citizens under the Constitution. The course stresses analysis of Supreme Court decisions and their influence on American political and economic development.
Session Cycle: Fall, Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 354. Communications Law. 3 Credit Hours.
A study of the legal rights and privileges of communications media, this course emphasizes the following topics: written communications; the problems of right to know versus right of privacy; libel, defamation, copyright, and infringement; examination of regulatory agencies; and theories of the First Amendment.
Prerequisites: LGLS 211 or LGLS 220
Session Cycle: Fall
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 356. Law of the Internet. 3 Credit Hours.
In this course we examine the methods of governing behavior in cyberspace from the United States and a global perspective. We begin with a study of the infrastructure of the Internet and its regulation. The legal principles inherent in the First Amendment, intellectual property, privacy and commerce are examined. We then apply these traditional legal principles to activities in cyberspace.
Session Cycle: Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 357. Legal Philosophy and Reasoning. 3 Credit Hours.
There are numerous philosophies which underlie the law. They range from the view of law as morality discoverable through reason, to the perspective of law as a command by those in power. What does it mean to interpret a legal standard such as a statute or a case law? To what extent are judges legislating? Drawing connections between and among these issues will be the focus of this course.
Prerequisites: Sophomore standing
Session Cycle: Fall
Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

LGLS 360. Law and Society. 3 Credit Hours.
This course is an introduction to the field of law and society. Students examine the nature of law and what we can and cannot expect it to do for us; the manner in which law and legal categories shape society; the role of lawyers, judges and other legal actors in the legal system; the basic structure of the judiciary and how cases flow through the court system, and controversial legal issues in such areas as business, medicine, and gender. Emphasis is placed on issues that illustrate the interaction between law and social control and law and social change. The course draws from a variety of perspectives including sociology, political science, history and philosophy. A major goal of the course is to give students a practical foundation in the critical assessment of law and legal thinking as well as improving their ability to make arguments in writing and orally.
Session Cycle: Fall, Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 380. Sport and the Law. 3 Credit Hours.
Sport acts as a prism on society. Sport can reflect and forecast changes in our society on local, regional, national and international levels. These changes and their interrelationship with Sport are studied in this class.
Prerequisites: LGLS 211 or LGLS 220
Session Cycle: Spring
Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 381. Global Dimensions of Law. 3 Credit Hours.
This course will introduce students to the basic concepts and problems of international law and of the international legal system, and will cover the traditional major topics in this field such as the sources of international law, sovereignty, jurisdiction and responsibility of states, treaty law, non-intervention principles, the relationship between international law and national law, dispute resolution and international litigation. It will also address newer themes in international law such as the impact of international organizations and other "actors" in international law, human rights law, international criminal law, the use of force and terrorism, international environmental law, and the impact of religion and culture on international law. The course will review a number of important international law cases decided by both national and international tribunals, as well as treaties, resolutions and other international legal instruments of importance.
Prerequisites: Junior standing
Session Cycle: Fall
Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.
LGLS 382. Not for Profit Law and Governance. 3 Credit Hours.
This course explores law, governance and public policy issues surrounding the not-for-profit segment of the US economy. It concerns the life cycle of various forms of not-for-profit entities recognized and regulated by the United States Code and otherwise, e.g. USC Section 501(c) Corporations: Trusts, Private Foundations and Mutual Benefit Societies, from formation to dissolution, examining the relative merits of the relevant structures as well as the respective duties and liabilities of directors, officers and employees. Through readings in legal and management texts, questions of public policy and the ethics of special privileges these entities enjoy in American society are examined. Prerequisites: LGLS 211 or LGLS 220 or LGLS 360 or permission of the instructor Session Cycle: Fall Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 383. Health Law. 3 Credit Hours.
This course investigates how law regulates health and affects the health care industry, health care practitioners, patients, scientists, and other stakeholders. Each semester the topics included in the syllabus vary depending on what is currently debated. A list of topics for a past semester includes infectious disease, privacy, quarantine, FDA regulation, clinical trials, direct-to-consumer advertisement, medical tourism, reproductive health, rationing, abortion, end of life, and others. Prerequisites: Sophomore Standing Session Cycle: Fall Yearly Cycle: Alternate.

LGLS 386. History, Law, and the Holocaust. 3 Credit Hours.
This course will explore in depth the Holocaust and its impact on the development of international law after 1945. Topics will include anti-Semitism, the rise of Hitler, the Final Solution, minority rights, domestic legal actions against perpetrators, the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, Allied military courts, and subsequent national and international trials of accused Nazi war criminals. The course concludes with an examination of some of the leading post-Nuremberg topics in international human rights law today, including peremptory norms, transitional justice, hate speech prohibitions, and Holocaust denial. Prerequisites: 200 level History course and sophomore standing Session Cycle: Varies Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 391. Legal Studies Internship. 3 Credit Hours.
Legal Studies internships give students the opportunity for supervised employment in an area where they can apply legal studies theories and principles. Interns work at least ten hours a week, meet periodically with a supervising faculty member, do research on their field of employment, and prepare a substantive report on work experience and research. Approval required by a supervising faculty member and the department chair. Junior standing is required.

LGLS 411. Markets and the Law: The Uniform Commercial Code. 3 Credit Hours.
This course provides an advanced look at some of the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code. Topics include contracts, sales, negotiable instruments, and secured transactions. These topics are of particular concern to those who are interested in becoming accountants. Prerequisites: Junior standing Session Cycle: Fall Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 412. Law of Financial Institutions. 3 Credit Hours.
This course offers a study of the laws and regulations that govern U.S. financial institutions and the federal agencies that regulate those institutions. We analyze the creation and actions of the monetary system and capital markets. We examine the evolution of regulatory efforts and analyze current issues and challenges that face regulators and institutions going forward. In particular, we will examine the 2007-2008 meltdown of the mortgage, securities, banking and derivatives industries, and the federal actions legislative and regulatory undertaken in response to those crises, with a particular focus on the provisions of the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Prerequisites: Junior standing Session Cycle: Spring Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 443. Legal Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.
Thinking deeply about the nature of "the Good" is the starting point for investigating the purposes of law. To this end, Legal Ethics introduces the student to the leading ethical systems that have guided human thought about the Good. Using examples from both U.S. and international law, the course helps the student to integrate an understanding of ethical systems and theories of moral development into the study of law broadly considered. For qualified students, this course may be taken as a 500 level graduate content level course. Permission of the instructor is required. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing and one 300-level Legal Studies course or permission of the instructor Session Cycle: Spring Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 451. International Business Law. 3 Credit Hours.
This course will address both the broader issues of government control of international business and the process of doing business overseas. It will compare the unique culture and legal systems of the United States, Europe, Japan and the Middle East. In addition, the course will focus on the mechanics of doing business overseas under international agreements such as GATT, NAFTA and the European Union. Prerequisites: LGLS 211 or permission of the instructor Session Cycle: Fall, Spring Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 490. Seminar in Politics and Law. 3 Credit Hours.
This seminar is designed as an interdisciplinary capstone course for students in the Politics and Law major. It will include an in-depth examination of a selected theme in politics and law. Each student will work intensively with the instructor to complete a major research project on a topic of their choice, which will be presented to the entire seminar. This course is cross-listed with POLS 490. Prerequisites: Politics and Law major and senior standing Session Cycle: Fall Yearly Cycle: Annual.

LGLS 497. Directed Study in Legal Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
Under faculty supervision, students pursue a well defined area of interest in legal studies. Prerequisites: LGLS 211 or LGLS 220 and permission of the instructor.
LGLS ST300. Law, Religion and Society. 3 Credit Hours.
The intersections of law and religion in society continue to spark
discussion, dissent and conflict in the US and abroad. This course takes
a broad comparative perspective to investigate issues of American and
global concern where an understanding of the dynamics of religion,
belief, spirituality and the state are essential. Working with primary and
secondary sources from various jurisdictions, students learn about
theories, sources, and key concepts as well as contemporary debates
involving religious liberty in the US, under international law and in a select
number of foreign jurisdictions. Topics include protection of religious
freedom; religion and women’s rights; religion and the state; religion and
criminal justice; religion and education; religion in the workplace; religion
and health; religion and security; religion and business.
Session Cycle: Spring
Yearly Cycle: Alternate Years.

LGLS ST400. Special Topics in Legal Studies Corporations Devils or
Angels?. 3 Credit Hours.
“Corporations: Devils or Angels” is a special topic course designed to
analyze, in an empirically informed way, the relationship between law and
morality as well as law and the political, economic and cultural realms.
The course focuses on corporations, which are legal entities created and
regulated by state law: it traces their historical emergence, looks at the
rights under the Constitution and examine impact of these legal entities
on the economy, politics, and culture. One 300 level Legal Studies course
and sophomore standing.
Prerequisites: 300 or 400-level Legal Studies course.