Justice and Law Studies is an interdepartmental program designed to give students a background in and framework for understanding the ways that philosophers, government officials, and others think about justice, and the related ways in which societies marshal power and implement law. This liberal arts program provides tools for thinking critically and arguing about what justice might entail, how it works in practice, and how rules, aspirations, laws, and norms evolve over time and in different parts of the world.

The Concentration

The concentration in Justice and Law Studies consists of six courses: an interdisciplinary introductory course, four electives taken from at least two departments, and a senior seminar. Electives are listed below. Other courses, not listed below, may be approved by the Chair.

Students may declare a program concentration at any point during their academic career.

Senior Seminar

In 2018-19, the senior seminar will be The Unwritten Constitution taught by Professor Hirsch.

Electives

AFR 132 / AMST 132 / PSCI 132 Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy
  Taught by: Neil Roberts
  Catalog details
AFR 476 / HIST 476 CAPSTONE: Black Radicalism
  Taught by: Shanti Singham
  Catalog details
ECON 374 TPoverty and Public Policy
  Taught by: Lara Shore-Sheppard
  Catalog details
ECON 470(S) The Indian Economy: Development and Social Justice
  Taught by: Anand Swamy
  Catalog details
ENGL 407 / COMP 407(F) Literature, Justice and Community
  Taught by: Christopher Pye
  Catalog details
ENVI 328 / PSCI 328 Global Environmental Politics
  Taught by: Pia Kohler
  Catalog details
HIST 152 / WGSS 152(S) The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality
  Taught by: Sara Dubow
  Catalog details
HIST 153 T Establishment & Exercise: Religion and the Constitution in the United States
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
HIST 167 / AFR 167 / AMST 167(F) Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation
  Taught by: Gretchen Long
  Catalog details
INTR 322 / PSCI 313 / AFR 322 / AMST 322(S) Race, Culture, Incarceration
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
INTR 343 T / AFR 343 / AMST 343 / WGSS 343(S) Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation
  Taught by: TBA
  Catalog details
PHIL 114 Freedom and Society
  Taught by: Justin Shaddock
  Catalog details
PHIL 119(S) Justice, Democracy and Freedom: Plato with Footnotes
   Taught by: Jana Sawicki
   Catalog details

PHIL 228 / STS 228 / WGSS 228(F) Feminist Bioethics
   Taught by: Julie Pedroni
   Catalog details

PHIL 337 T Justice in Health Care
   Taught by: Julie Pedroni
   Catalog details

PSCI 223 International Law
   Taught by: Cheryl Shanks
   Catalog details

PSCI 334(S) Theorizing Global Justice
   Taught by: Nimu Njoya
   Catalog details

REL 203 / JWST 101 Judaism: Before the Law
   Taught by: Jeffrey Israel
   Catalog details

REL 214 / PSCI 271 Religion and the State
   Taught by: Jeffrey Israel
   Catalog details

REL 243 / ARAB 243 / WGSS 243 / HIST 302 Islamic Law: Past and Present
   Taught by: Saadia Yacoob
   Catalog details

RUSS 331 T / COMP 331 / ENGL 371 The Brothers Karamazov
   Taught by: Julie Cassiday
   Catalog details

WGSS 376(S) Sex, Gender, and the Law in U.S. History
   Taught by: TBA
   Catalog details

STUDY ABROAD
   Students who study abroad should consult with the program chair to ensure that they can complete the requirements. Courses abroad may qualify as JLST electives if appropriate.

JLST 14 (W) Mock Trial
   In the Mock Trial course, students are divided into two teams in which they play the roles of attorneys and witnesses during their preparation for and participation in a simulated civil trial. They are given a series of witness statements and pleadings together with various documents and other data that they must evaluate for potential use as evidence as they plan to present their case as either the plaintiff or the defendant. Team members must prepare and deliver Opening Statements and Closing Arguments as well as handle direct and cross-examinations of the witnesses who testify for both sides. The "final exam" consists of two trials with the two teams switching sides on the second day such that they must evaluate the case from both sides. At the two trials, an experienced attorney plays the role of judge, and volunteer jurors from the community listen to the evidence and render their "verdict" based on the presentations. Adjunct Instructor Bio: David Olson '71 has practiced as a civil trial attorney for 40 years with a firm currently with over 500 attorneys handling cases in state and federal courts. He has taught Mock Trial on 6 previous occasions, receiving strong reviews for the course. Adjunct Co-Instructor Bio: After graduating from Villanova Law School where he was Editor in Chief of the Law Review, Steve Brown has been a litigator and trial lawyer for 40 years concentrating his practice in white-collar criminal defense and civil rights. He was a partner at Dechert LLP from 1991 to 2016, when he retired and became Civil Rights Counsel to the firm. He has spent much of his career doing pro bono work including representing Guantanamo Bay detainees and people and prisoners whose constitutional rights have been violated, and supervising Dechert associates in 40 trials in federal courts.
   Class Format: Monday and Tuesday 10-1:30
   Requirements/Evaluation: final project
   Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: preference to upperclass students
Grading: pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee: $16
Distributions: (D2)

JLST 99 (W) Independent Study: Legal Studies
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.
Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01 TBA Alan Hirsch

JLST 101 (F) Introduction to Justice and Law
This course will examine various aspects of America's legal system, including its historical and constitutional underpinnings; the processes of resolving disputes, e.g., trials, plea-bargaining, and civil settlement; and the roles of diverse participants in the system, e.g., judges, jurors, litigants, lawyers, and legislators. The course will emphasize the deeply interdisciplinary nature of law, exploring the law's intersections with politics, history, economics, anthropology, statistics, psychology, philosophy, art, sports, science, religion, and cyberspace.
Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: three papers, a final exam, and class participation; attendance is mandatory; Williams' honor code applies to all assignments
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: first-years and sophomores
Expected Class Size: 40
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Alan Hirsch

JLST 272 (F) Free Will and Responsibility (WS)
Cross-listings: PHIL 272 JLST 272
Secondary Cross-listing
Our practice of holding people responsible seems justified as long as their choices are free. But when does a choice qualify as free? Must it be unaffected by any outside influences? If so, freedom may seem impossible since we're all deeply influenced by factors ranging from the general laws of nature to specific features of our genetic endowment and social environment (including religion, political ideology, and advertising). These affect not only our particular choices but also, more fundamentally, who we are and what we value. The real question, then, seems to be whether, and how, free choice is possible amidst all of these influences. We'll attempt to answer this question by examining recent philosophical work on the nature of free will and responsibility.
**Class Format:** tutorial; students meet with the instructor in pairs for roughly an hour each week

**Requirements/Evaluation:** five 5-page papers and five 2-page papers

**Prerequisites:** one PHIL course

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** current and prospective Philosophy majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

PHIL 272 (D2) JLST 272 (D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Five 5-page papers and five 2-page papers, evenly spaced throughout the semester. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

**Attributes:** PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses

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**JLST 397 (F) Independent Study: Legal Studies**

Legal Studies independent study. Open only under the supervision of a member of the Legal Studies Advisory Committee.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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**JLST 398 (S) Independent Study: Legal Studies**

Legal Studies independent study. Open under the supervision of a member of the Legal Studies Advisory Committee.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

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**JLST 401 (S) The Unwritten Constitution**

"The eight thousand words of America's written constitution only begin to map out the basic ground rules that actually govern our land." So begins Akhil Amar’s book *America's Unwritten Constitution*. Amar recasts the debate over whether America has a "living Constitution," a debate usually revolving around whether change in constitutional meaning requires resort to the formal amendment process or can be achieved through judicial interpretation. Amar supports the latter view, but proposes something far-reaching: history itself effectively amends the Constitution. Thus, for example, he argues that speeches by Martin Luther King and precedents set by George Washington, as well as the daily activities and assumptions of ordinary Americans, have become constitutional subtext requiring consideration when we interpret the Constitution. Is that notion convincing? Preposterous? A healthy way of understanding the inevitable intersection of law, history, and politics? A transparent excuse to read one’s own views into the Constitution? Through a careful reading of Amar, and other important constitutional theorists (including Antonin Scalia, Robert Bork, Laurence Tribe, Ronald Dworkin, and Richard Posner), we will probe different ways of thinking about the Supreme Law of the Land.

**Class Format:** seminar
Before the 1990s, the world saw only occasional, discrete war crimes trials after major-power cataclysms. In the last two decades, trials expanded dramatically in number, scope, and philosophy. Separate Ad Hoc Tribunals for crimes in Yugoslavia and those in Rwanda, in Sierra Leone and in Cambodia are giving way to a permanent International Criminal Court, which has begun to hand down indictments and refine its jurisdiction. The UN Security Council, alongside national governments, decides on legitimacy and punishment. At the same time, worries about residual impunity or the effect that punishment might have on societies’ futures has led to the development of national and social courts, as well as national military tribunals, to complement those at the international level. Meanwhile, national activists look to international apologies and reparations for models of what to demand. Examples of internationalized transitional justice abound. This research seminar examines the intent, process, meaning and consequence of these new practices, particularly in terms of national constitutions, international law, and principles of justice.

Class Format: seminar

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JLST 402 (D2) PSCI 325 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year
Prerequisites: PSCI 202, senior standing, permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 18

Enrollment Preferences: PSCI majors, senior JLST concentrators; seniors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JLST 403 (D2) PSCI 420 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses

Not offered current academic year