

JUSTICE AND LAW STUDIES (Div II)

Chair: Lecturer in Humanities Alan Hirsch

Advisory Committee

- Melissa J. Barry, Professor of Philosophy
- Justin Crowe, Chair of Leadership Studies and Professor of Political Science; affiliated with: Political Science, Leadership Studies
- Sara Dubow, Professor of History; on leave 2023-2024
- William M. Gentry, Carl Van Dyne Professor of Economics
- Nimu Njoya, Lecturer in Political Science
- James L. Nolan, Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Sociology
- Cheryl Shanks, Professor of Political Science; on leave Fall 2023

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

[ECON 229\(F\) SEM Law and Economics](#)

Taught by: [William Gentry](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ENVI 269 / CAOS 269\(F\) LEC Environmental Law and Policy](#)

Taught by: Lindi von Mutius

[Catalog details](#)

[ENVI 319\(S\) LEC The Law and Policy of Climate Change](#)

Taught by: Lindi von Mutius

[Catalog details](#)

[HIST 152 / WGSS 152\(F\) SEM The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality](#)

Taught by: [Sara Dubow](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[HIST 158 / AFR 158 SEM North of Jim Crow, South of Freedom](#)

Taught by: [Tyrann Steward](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[HIST 376 / WGSS 376\(F\) SEM Sex, Gender, and the Law in U.S. History](#)

Taught by: [Sara Dubow](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[INTR 343 / AFR 343 / AMST 343 / WGSS 343 TUT Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation](#)

Taught by: [Joy James](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PHIL 119\(F, S\) SEM Why Obey the Law?](#)

Taught by: [Jana Sawicki](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PHIL 122 TUT Philosophical Approaches to Contemporary Moral Issues](#)

Taught by: [Julie Pedroni](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PHIL 228 / STS 228 / WGSS 228 LEC Feminist Bioethics](#)

Taught by: [Julie Pedroni](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PHIL 337 TUT Justice in Health Care](#)

Taught by: [Julie Pedroni](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 110\(F, S\) LEC Introduction to American Politics: Power, Politics, and Democracy in America](#)

Taught by: [Justin Crowe](#), [Matthew Tokeshi](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 216 / LEAD 216 LEC American Constitutionalism I: Structures of Power](#)

Taught by: [Justin Crowe](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 217 / LEAD 217\(S\) LEC American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties](#)

Taught by: [Justin Crowe](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 223\(F\) LEC International Law](#)

Taught by: [Cheryl Shanks](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 234 SEM Freedom](#)

Taught by: [Mark Reinhardt](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 236 / WGSS 236 SEM Feminist Legal Theory](#)

Taught by: [Nimu Njoya](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 332 TUT The Body as Property](#)

Taught by: [Nimu Njoya](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 334\(S\) SEM Theorizing Global Justice](#)

Taught by: [Nimu Njoya](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[REL 203 / JWST 101 SEM Judaism: Before The Law](#)

Taught by: [Jeffrey Israel](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[REL 243 / ARAB 243 / ASIA 243 / WGSS 243 / HIST 302\(F\) SEM Islamic Law: Past and Present](#)

Taught by: [Saadia Yacoub](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[RUSS 331 / COMP 331 / ENGL 371 TUT The Brothers Karamazov](#)

Taught by: [Julie Cassiday](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[SOC 218\(S\) LEC Law and Modern Society](#)

Taught by: [James Nolan](#)

[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 272 (S) Free Will and Responsibility (WS)

Cross-listings: PHIL 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? 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 key question, then, is whether, and how, agency 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.

Requirements/Evaluation: Six tutorial papers (5-6 pages in length) and five critiques (2-3 pages in length)

Prerequisites: one PHIL course (or permission of instructor; please email with any questions)

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: Students will write a tutorial paper (5-6 pages in length) every other week, and a peer critique (2-3 pages in length) in alternating weeks, evenly spaced throughout the semester. The instructor will provide timely comments on writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: JLST Theories of Justice/Law PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses

Spring 2025

TUT Section: T1 TBA Melissa J. Barry

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.

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

Distributions: (D2)

Not offered current academic year

JLST 398 (S) Independent Study: Legal Studies

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

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

Distributions: (D2)

Not offered current academic year

JLST 433 (S) Senior Seminar: Dignity

Cross-listings: PSCI 433

Secondary Cross-listing

Discredited over the centuries by skeptics of many ideological persuasions, dignity has nevertheless remained central to the vocabulary of political protest movements from the left and the right. In the post-WWII period, dignity has also served as the grounding principle for international human rights conventions and national constitutions. But what is the meaning of dignity? Does dignity belong specifically to the human species, or is it equally the property of all living beings? If everybody, or perhaps everything, has its own dignity, what could the concept possibly add to our understanding of social relations, political processes, and legal judgments? Course readings will be as wide-ranging as the concept is broad. Some of our touchstones will be: Kant's moral philosophy, writings from the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement, Marxist theories of the dignity of labor, international human rights conventions, and court cases from Germany, Namibia, South Africa and the United States.

Requirements/Evaluation: Regular class participation, short (1 pg) response papers, and drafts leading up to a 15-page final essay.

Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing required; in addition, JLST concentration or prior coursework in political theory/cultural theory/philosophy.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Senior political science majors with concentration in political theory; JLST concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 12

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

Unit Notes: Justice & Law Studies Senior Seminar

Distributions: (D2)

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

JLST 433(D2) PSCI 433(D2)

Attributes: PSCI Political Theory Courses

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Nimu Njoya

Winter Study -----

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

Not offered current academic year