JUSTICE AND LAW STUDIES (Div II)
Chair: Lecturer in Humanities Alan Hirsch


On leave fall/spring: J. Crowe
On leave fall only: W. Gentry, C. Shanks

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* TEstablishment & Exercise: Religion and the Constitution in the United States
   Taught by: TBA
   Catalog details

*HIST 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 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
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
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)

Spring 2020

IND Section: 01 TBA Alan Hirsch

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

Requirements/Evaluation: two papers, a final exam, and class participation

Prerequisites: PSCI 216 or PSCI 217 (or consent of the instructor)

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Justice and Law Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 19

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

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Alan Hirsch

JLST 402 (S) International and Transitional Justice

Cross-listings: JLST 402 PSCI 325

Secondary Cross-listing

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

Requirements/Evaluation: four papers, longer final paper, class participation

Prerequisites: Political Science major or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 14

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science majors concentrating in International Relations

Expected Class Size: 14

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 402 (D2) PSCI 325 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses  PSCI Research Courses

Not offered current academic year

JLST 403  (S)  Senior Seminar in Human Rights in International Politics and Law

Cross-listings: JLST 403  PSCI 420

Secondary Cross-listing

The idea that all humans have rights simply because they are human-independent of anything they might do or achieve-has transformed local and international politics, probably permanently. This concept's place in international politics, its strengths and limitations, depend on how people use it. Beginning with the 18th-century's transatlantic movement to abolish slavery, we will examine international movements and institutions that have affected what human rights mean, to whom, and where. Readings draw on philosophy, history, sociology, and international relations, but as a political science class we emphasize politics. Who benefits from the idea of universal human rights? Who loses? How does this idea about individual value liberate and entrap? Does this idea ultimately reinforce American hegemony, or plant the seeds of a non-American order?

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: three lead essays, three critique essays, and one final essay

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