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 T(F)**
Poverty and Public Policy

  Taught by: Lara Shore-Sheppard
  
  Catalog details

**ECON 470(F)**
The Indian Economy: Development and Social Justice

  Taught by: Anand Swamy
  
  Catalog details

**ENGL 407 / COMP 407**
Literature, Justice and Community

  Taught by: Christopher Pye
  
  Catalog details

**HIST 152 / WGSS 152**
The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality

  Taught by: Sara Dubow
  
  Catalog details

**HIST 167 / AFR 167 / AMST 167(S)**
Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation

  Taught by: Gretchen Long
  
  Catalog details

**INTR 322 / PSCI 313 / AFR 322 / AMST 322**
Race, Culture, Incarceration

  Taught by: TBA
  
  Catalog details

**INTR 343 T / AFR 343 / AMST 343 / WGSS 343**
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 Justice, Democracy and Freedom: Plato with Footnotes
  Taught by: Jana Sawicki
  Catalog details

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

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

PSCI 217 / LEAD 217(S) American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties
  Taught by: Justin Crowe
  Catalog details

PSCI 223(F) International Law
  Taught by: Cheryl Shanks
  Catalog details

PSCI 332 T(S) The Body as Property
  Taught by: Nimu Njoya
  Catalog details

PSCI 334 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 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 101 (S) 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)
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: This tutorial will meet remotely by Zoom on a fixed weekly schedule agreed to by the instructor and participants.

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

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: 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: PHIL Contemporary Value Theory Courses

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)

Spring 2021

IND Section: R1 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, we will probe different ways of thinking about the supreme law of the land.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** three papers 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)

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Spring 2021

SEM Section: R1  MWF 11:45 am - 1:00 pm  Alan Hirsch

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

**Cross-listings:** JLST 403  PSCI 420  PSCI 422

**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?

**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)  PSCI 422 (D2)

**Attributes:** PSCI International Relations Courses

Not offered current academic year

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**Winter Study**

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**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