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: 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

Not offered current academic year

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)
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)

Spring 2021
SEM Section: 01 TBA 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

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