
On leave Fall/Spring: Professor J. Nolan.
On leave Fall only: Associate Professor M. Barry.
On leave Spring only: Professor W. Gentry.

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

Four Electives
Four elective courses are required to complete the concentration. These courses must be taken from at least two departments. Other courses, not listed below, may be approved by the Chair.

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

AFR 132 Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy
AFR 164 Slavery in the United States
AFR 167 Let Freedom Ring? African Americans and Emancipation
AFR 257 Social Justice Traditions: 1960s to #Black Lives Matter
AFR 322/AMST 322/INTR 322/PSCI 313 Race, Culture, Incarceration
AFR 350 Organizing Resistance: Black Activism, Then and Now
AFR 381/HIST 381 From Civil Rights to Black Power
AFR 385 Civil War and Reconstruction
AFR 476/HIST 476 Black Radicalism (D)
AMST 311/HIST 368 Development of American Indian Law & Policy
AMST 343T/AFR 343T/INTR 343T/WGSS 343T Representations of Racial-Sexual Violence from Enslavement to Emancipation
AMST 352 Grassroots Organizing and Civil Resistance
ANTH 210/ENVI 210/JLST 210 Governing Nature
ANTH 220/ASST 318/INST 220 Law and Family in South Asia: Post-Colonial Dilemmas
ANTH 312/WGSS 314/GBST 313 Paradoxes of Human Rights and Humanitarianism (W)
ANTH 332/ENVI 332/JLST 332/GBST 332 Environmental Justice (D) (W)
CHEM 113 Chemistry and Crime: From Sherlock Holmes to Modern Forensic Science
ECON 229 Law and Economics
ECON 374T Poverty and Public Policy (W)
PSCI 236/WGSS 236 Sex, Gender, and Political Theory
PSCI 309/LEAD 309 Problems and Progress in American Democracy
PSCI 334 Theorizing Global Justice
PSCI 347 Law of the Sea
PSCI 359T The Body as Property (D) (W)
PSCI 420/JLST 401 Senior Seminar in Human Rights in International Politics and Law
PSYC 347 Psychology and Law
PSYC 361 Psychology of Nonviolence
REL 203/JWST 101 Judaism: Before The Law
REL 214/PSCI 271 Religion and the State
REL 358/GBST 358 Religion and Law (D)
RUSS 331T/COMP 331T/ENGL 371T The Brothers Karamazov (W)
SOC 202 Terrorism and National Security
SOC 215 Crime
SOC 218 Law and Modern Society
SOC 228 The Panopticon: Surveillance, Power, and Inequality
SOC 385 Breaking Apart
WGSS 405/HIST 458 Senior Seminar: Sexual Rights, Gender Equality, and Religious Liberty: Conflicts in Law, Culture, and Politics (W)

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 (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

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     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

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01  MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm  Alan Hirsch

JLST 402 (S) International and Transitional Justice  (WI)
Crosslistings: PSCI325 / JLST402

Secondary Crosslisting

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

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

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  (WI)
Crosslistings: PSCI420 / JLST403

Secondary Crosslisting

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

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Attributes: PSCI International Relations Courses;

Not offered current academic year