

Law and Society

Interdisciplinary

Kenyon's concentration in law and society is an acknowledgment of the increasing importance within the best liberal arts institutions of programs that emphasize the study of law, legal institutions and the legal profession. This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, coherent curricular structure within which to examine a plethora of law-related issues that emerge across disciplines and, if not to find the correct answers, to ask appropriate questions.

Students pursuing a concentration in legal studies ponder the relationship between law and human behavior, and the role of law in society. They focus their work in three primary areas: philosophies of law, law as a social institution, and law and government. The program prepares students to undertake directed research in socio-legal studies under the mentorship of Kenyon faculty.

The Curriculum

Students begin their exploration of law in society with LGLS 110 (Introduction to Legal Studies) and conclude it with LGLS 410 (Senior Seminar in Legal Studies), which encompasses a directed research project within a selected theme or topic.

"Introduction to Legal Studies" is a survey course that exposes students to a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of law and legal phenomena. It is intended ordinarily for students who have attained at least sophomore standing and have had some exposure to the social sciences, usually through an introductory course. In lieu of the introductory course, concentrators may substitute a first-year seminar or another such course when approved by the chair or director of the program. The "Senior Seminar in Legal Studies" is open to juniors and seniors who have taken "Introduction to Legal Studies" and at least two other courses counting toward fulfillment of the concentration requirements (or to students with permission of the director).

Requirements for the concentration

The Law and Society Concentration requires students to complete five courses of specified law and society coursework. These courses comprise the following:

- LGLS 110: Introduction to Legal Studies or First Year Seminar
- One semester course in a philosophy-of-law subject area (philosophy, political science or history offerings)
- Two courses in two different departments examining law as a social institution
- LGLS 410: Senior Seminar in Legal Studies

Like many interdisciplinary programs that offer a relatively limited number of cognate courses each year, the majority of courses taken to satisfy the law and society requirements will be offered through one or more contributing majors and programs at the College. The division or department in which the courses are offered isn't important; whether the course will count will depend solely upon whether there is sufficient content about law-related, law-based, or related phenomena to justify its inclusion. Similarly, courses taken while studying off campus must meet this threshold. No more than two such courses taken off campus can be considered. The program encourages its students to study abroad and recommends that students take courses that explore and reflect upon international and global legal institutions and cultures.

Courses approved for fulfilling requirements of the concentration can be found on the program's web page or by contacting the director.

Courses in Law and Society

Introduction to Legal Studies

LGLS 110 CREDITS: 0.5

This course examines the law, legal profession and legal institutions from a variety of traditional social-science perspectives. The primary frames of reference are sociological and social psychological. The objective of the course is to expose students to a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives on law and to encourage the examination of law-related phenomena through the literature of multiple disciplines. Topics to be covered include law as a social institution, law as a social-control mechanism, a history of law in the United States, the U.S. criminal justice system, philosophies of law, law and psychology, comparative legal cultures, and law and social change. This survey course is intended to encourage and facilitate a critical study of law in society and serve as a foundation from which to pursue the study of law and legal issues in other curricular offerings. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. This is required for the law and society concentration. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every fall.

Media and the Law

LGLS 220 CREDITS: 0.5

This is a mid-level lecture/discussion course intended to expose students to the intersection of media and the law within various social institutions and cultural contexts. Students enrolled in this course examine the significant role that the media play in the American justice system as well as the critical socio-legal issues that journalists and other media figures face in pursuing their craft. Central to the course is an exploration of the meaning of the speech and press clauses of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Topics to be explored include government censorship, libel, invasion of privacy, obscenity, the impact of press coverage upon the right to a fair trial, and law and linguistics. A portion of this course focuses on understanding the media in relation to crime and criminal justice, particularly through the advent of new

technologies. Given pervasive depictions and representations of law in popular culture, students research and examine society's perception of law and justice in both traditional and modern art forms (e.g., literature, film, humor). This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered occasionally.

Exploring Law: Understanding Socio-legal Methods

LGLS 371 CREDITS: 0.5

This course has been designed as a discussion course with a series of mini-research assignments. The course focuses on the role and contributions of sociology and the social sciences to the conceptualization of law and legal policymaking. Course materials will draw upon research performed primarily within the context of the American civil and criminal justice system. We also will examine some prevalent notions about what law is or should be, legal behavior and practices, and justifications for resorting to law to solve social problems. Through the use of mini-research assignments, students will gain an appreciation for the complexity and far-reaching impact that the social sciences have upon social policymaking and legal policymaking as well as the difficulty of determining or measuring law and its impact. This course is highly recommended for students participating in the John W. Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-legal Studies. This counts toward the methods requirement for the sociology major as equivalent to SOCY 271. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Offered every other year.

Individual Study

LGLS 393 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

The Law & Society Program's approach to the individual study course (IS) option is to emphasize flexibility while maintaining the academic integrity of the program's curriculum. The specific details of an IS course plan are to be negotiated between and among the students, faculty members and the program chair. IS courses may be offered within the Law & Society Program upon the request of a qualified student, depending primarily upon faculty interest and availability to supervise the student applying to take such a course.

Individual Study courses taken within the Law & Society Program convene for one semester in duration and will constitute 0.25 or 0.50 units. As such, there is a general expectation that students will devote to the individual study, at a minimum, a number of hours substantially equivalent to that one would spend attending and preparing for a regular course.

Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement.

Senior Seminar Legal Studies

LGLS 410 CREDITS: 0.5

This upper-level seminar offers students in the concentration an opportunity to integrate the various topics and approaches to which they were exposed in the law-related courses they have taken. Each year, the senior seminar is designed around a specific substantive theme or topic. The themes as well as the format and approach to the course change from year to year, depending upon the faculty members teaching the course and their interests. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Offered spring semester every year.

Individual Study

LGLS 493 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

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Courses that meet the requirement for this concentration:

CLAS 220	Illegal Antiquities
HIST 209	History of North American Indians
HIST 322	Human Rights in Latin America
HIST 411	The Civil Rights Era
HIST 458	Gandhi and Civil Disobedience
PHIL 115	Practical Issues in Ethics
PHIL 235	Philosophy of Law
PSCI 300	Congress and Public Policymaking
PSCI 314	American Constitutional Law
PSCI 328	The Bill of Rights

PSYC 221	Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 233	Psychology and the Law
PSYC 343	Children, Psychology and the Law
SOCY 226	Sociology of Law
SOCY 231	Issues of Gender and Power
SOCY 232	Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
SOCY 243	Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions
SOCY 244	Race, Ethnicity and American Law
SOCY 255	Women, Crime and the Law
SOCY 291	Special Topic
SOCY 421	Gender Stratification