

# Law and Society

Interdisciplinary

## Faculty

Marc W. Bragin  
Hillel Director

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Visiting Instructor of Sociology and  
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Associate Provost; Associate Profes-  
sor of Sociology and Legal Studies

Those faculty members who teach courses approved for credit in the Law and Society Concentration constitute the program's extended faculty. Consult the director for a list.

Kenyon's Law and Society Concentration 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 for which these various disciplines seek, if not to find the correct answers about law, to ask appropriate questions.

Students pursuing this area of study will ponder the relationship between law and human behavior and the role of law in society. They will focus their work in three primary areas: philosophies of law, law as a social institution, and law and government.

## The Curriculum

Students will begin their exploration of law in society with the Introduction to Legal Studies and conclude it with a Senior Seminar in Legal Studies, which will encompass a directed research project within a selected theme or topic.

Introduction to Legal Studies is a survey course that attempts to expose 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. 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).

## Concentration Requirements

The Law and Society Concentration requires students to complete 2.5 units of specified "law and society" coursework. These units comprise the following: Introduction to Legal Studies (LGLS 110, .5 unit); a semester's work in a philosophy of law subject area (philosophy, political science, or history offerings, .5 unit); two courses in two different departments examining "law as a social institution" (1 unit); and the Senior Seminar in Legal Studies (.5 unit).

## First-Semester Courses

### Introduction to Legal Studies

LGLS 110 (.5 unit)  
Sheffield

This course examines the law, legal profession, and legal institutions from a variety of traditional social-science perspectives. The primary frame of reference will be 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 course is required for those students who intend to complete a law and Society Concentration and may also serve as a foundation course in sociology. Enrollment limited.

### Special Topic: From Hard Time to Hard Times: The Law of Prisons and Welfare Reform

LGLS 291 (.5 unit)  
Hurst

This mid-level course addresses the regulation of the poor, from the criminal justice system to the welfare system. The connections between the criminal justice system, workfare programs, and welfare "reform" will be examined from a sociological and sociolegal perspective. Prerequisite: Introduction to Legal Studies (LGLS 110) or permission of instructor.

### Special Topic: Critical Legal Studies

LGLS 391 (.5 unit)  
Hurst

This course serves as an introduction to critical legal studies (CLS), a theory that challenges and overturns accepted norms and standards in legal theory and practice. Proponents of this theory believe that logic and structure attributed to the law grow out of the power relationships of the society. The basic idea of CLS is that the law is politics and it is not neutral or value-free. This course will review major theorists in this area, forerun-

ners such as Marx and Gramsci, and subgroups such as critical race theory and feminist legal theory. Although CLS is very theory-driven, the readings for this class will be of an introductory nature and will include many examples of CLS thinking applied to a wide range of substantive areas of the law. Prerequisite: LGLS 110 or one foundation course in sociology.

#### **Individual Study**

LGLS 493 (.5 unit)  
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and program director.

## **Second-Semester Courses**

### **Introduction to Legal Studies**

◆ LGLS 110 (.5 unit)  
Hurst

This course serves as a broad introduction to the area of legal studies, with emphasis on three areas: the law itself (substance), process (courts and other institutions), and agency (lawyers, litigants, and other social actors). The primary frame of reference will be sociological and socio-legal. The objective of the course is 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 course is required for those students who intend to complete a law and Society Concentration. Enrollment limited.

### **Senior Seminar Legal Studies: Law and Social Movements**

LGLS 410 (.5 unit)  
Hurst

This is an upper-level seminar that 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. This year the course topic will be law and social movements. A wide variety of historical social movements, which may

include the Civil Rights Movement, the Women's Rights Movement, and the Labor Movement, will be examined from a sociological perspective. For example, what was the place of the "law" in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s? How crucial was the very concept of law to those engaging in civil disobedience? Did the Civil Rights Act of 1964 reflect and embody the aims and ideals of those engaged in the social movement? Students will then apply these insights to a current social movement of their choice and create a final project and presentation on the topic. Prerequisite: Senior standing and law and Society Concentration, or permission of instructor.

#### **Individual Study**

LGLS 494 (.5 unit)  
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and program director.

## **Approved Courses**

The following courses for 2007-08 have been approved for credit toward fulfilling the requirements for a Law and Society Concentration:

### **First Semester**

HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era  
PHIL 115 Practical Issues in Ethics  
PHIL 208\* Contemporary Political Philosophy  
PSCI 312\* American Constitutional Law  
PSCI 392 Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity  
SOCY 232 Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions

### **Second Semester**

HIST 322\* Human Rights in Latin America  
PHIL 270\* Classical Political Philosophy  
SOCY 226 Sociology of Law

\*Courses appearing with an asterisk satisfy the concentration's "philosophy of law" requirement; any of the remaining courses may be used to fulfill the "law as social institution" requirement. For more information about the content and/or approach of any particular course listed in Section II., you are encouraged to consult the Course of Study and/or the instructor teaching the course.