

Law and Society

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Faculty

Allison L. Hurst
*Visiting Instructor of Sociology and
Legal Studies*

Marla H. Kohlman
*Associate Professor of Sociology
(on leave)*

Glenn M. McNair
Interim Director;
Assistant Professor of History

Ric S. Sheffield
*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 which 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). See the director for a list of approved courses.

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. This course may also serve as a foundation course in sociology. Enrollment limited.

Critical Legal Studies

LGLS 291 (.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, forerunners 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 StudyLGLS 293 (.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.

Individual Study (Intermediate)LGLS 393 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Individual Study (Advanced)LGLS 493 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Second-Semester Courses**Introduction to Legal Studies**◆ LGLS 110 (.5 unit)
Hurst

This class 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 course will serve as a general overview of U.S. law and international developments in the law. In an effort to make the course more meaningful and memorable, we will use (where possible) the “case” of Wal-Mart to explicate the three aspects of law, process, and agency. 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. The course is required for those students who intend to complete a Law and Society Concentration. Prerequisites: sophomore standing or higher and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Class Issues in the LawLGLS 292 (.5 unit)
Hurst

This is a mid-level course that looks at the law from a class-analytical perspective. We will explore particular class and classed issues in the law, from “welfare reform” to the law of inheritance. Other topics include criminal law (right to counsel, differential treatment between “white-collar” crime and “street” crime), tax law, funding of abortion, labor law, school desegregation and school funding, and recent changes in bankruptcy law. Prerequisite: LGLS 110 or one foundation course in sociology.

Individual StudyLGLS 294 (.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.

Individual Study (Intermediate)LGLS 394 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Senior Seminar in Legal StudiesLGLS 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. Each year, the senior seminar will be designed around a specific substantive theme or topic; the themes as well as the format and approach to the course will change from year to year, depending upon the faculty members teaching the course and their interests. This year the course topic will be intellectual property. This topic will be examined from both a national and a global perspective. As a final project, students will be expected to devise/revise domestic or international

policy related to creative works. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Individual Study (Advanced)LGLS 494 (.5 unit)
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

Additional courses available another year:

LGLS 276 Women, Law, and the Constitution

LGLS 277 Select Themes in U.S. Legal History

LGLS 283 African Americans, Crime, and the Law

SOCY 228 Women, Crime, and the Law

SOCY 231 Issues of Gender and Power

SOCY 257 Law and the American Family

Also check other departmental listings for courses granting law and society credit. This year, those courses include, but are not limited to:

HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era

PSCI 312 American Constitutional Law