

Legal Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Department Office: 2240 Piedmont Avenue, (510) 642-4038

Department Chair: Calvin Morrill, PhD

Department Website: Legal Studies (<http://legalstudies.berkeley.edu>)

Overview

The Legal Studies major is under the academic supervision of the School of Law faculty.

Major Requirements

Legal Studies is an interdisciplinary, liberal arts major that engages the meanings, values, practices, and institutions of law and legality. The Legal Studies curriculum examines how law shapes and is shaped by political, economic, and cultural forces. The major is designed to stimulate critical understanding of and inquiry about the theoretical frameworks, historical dynamics, and cultural embeddedness of law. The Legal Studies faculty and students grapple with important questions of social policy within the framework of significant concerns in jurisprudence and theories of justice.

These concerns include individual liberty, privacy, and autonomy; political and social equality; the just distribution of resources and opportunities within society; the relationship between citizens and the state; democratic participation and representation; the moral commitments of the community; and the preservation of human dignity. The major's course offerings examine law and legality from both humanist and empirical perspectives. Courses are organized into interdisciplinary topical areas or "neighborhoods" that transcend disciplinary boundaries in the interest of collaborative inquiry.

Lower Division Requirements

One term of coursework is required in each of the following four areas: Statistics, Philosophy, Social/Behavioral Sciences, and History. Students may declare the major after completing coursework from two of the four areas. These courses must be taken for a letter grade; the cumulative grade point average (GPA) must be 2.0 or better. A list of courses offered at UC Berkeley that satisfy these prerequisites is listed on the Legal Studies website. (<http://legalstudies.berkeley.edu>)

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 32 upper division units is required for completion of the major. All of these units must be taken for a letter grade and the cumulative GPA must be 2.0 or better.

Core Requirements

Take four courses from the list below, including at least one course designated as Humanities (H) and at least one course designated as Social Sciences (SS). Students are strongly encouraged to take LS 100 early in pursuing the major as it provides a foundation for the Legal Studies curriculum. The four courses taken for core requirements cannot also be counted toward the distribution requirements.

- LS 100: Foundations of Legal Studies (H or SS)
- LS 103: Theories of Law & Society (H or SS)
- LS 107: Theories of Justice (H)
- LS 138: The Supreme Court & Public Policy (SS)
- LS 145: Law & Economics I (SS)
- LS 160: Punishment, Culture & Society (H or SS)
- LS 177: American Legal & Constitutional History (H)
- LS 182: Law, Politics & Society (SS)
- LS 184: Sociology of Law (SS)

Distribution Requirements

Take two courses* in one of the following areas and one course each in two additional areas for a total of four courses.

1. Area I Crime, Law & Social Control
2. Area II Law & Culture
3. Area III Law & Markets
4. Area IV Law, Rights & Social Change
5. Area V Law & Sovereignty

* LS H195B Honors Thesis or LS 199 Independent Study (for four units) may substitute for one of the two courses.

Law-Related Courses

You may use up to two law-related courses from outside the Legal Studies Program to count towards the Distribution Requirements, for a maximum of eight units. This is an option, not a requirement. Outside courses should normally be drawn from the pre-approved list of law-related Berkeley courses, but may be approved from other four-year institutions, or from study abroad programs. If a law-related course you are considering is not on the pre-approved list, you must submit a syllabus and description to the Legal Studies Academic Advisor for approval.

Capstone Experience

Legal Studies students are strongly encouraged to enroll in one Legal Studies seminar course (LS 190), preferably in their senior year, to complete their remaining units. Alternatively, students who meet eligibility requirements are strongly encouraged to enroll in LS H195A & B, the Honors Program, for their Capstone Experience. Students who have a faculty mentor and a desire to do a research project, but do not meet the eligibility requirements for Honors, may enroll in 4 units of LS 199 for their Capstone Experience provided that they meet the eligibility requirements for Independent Study. Details for Independent Study can be found on the Legal Studies website. (<http://legalstudies.berkeley.edu>)

Honors Program

With consent of the major adviser, a student majoring in legal studies with an overall UCB GPA of 3.5 and a GPA of 3.5 in legal studies courses by the end of the spring semester junior year, may be admitted to the Honors Program. The honors student is required to first enroll in LS H195A Honors Seminar during the fall semester, then in LS H195B the following spring to prepare an honors thesis. Details can be found on the Legal Studies website. (<http://legalstudies.berkeley.edu>)

Please note that only some of the courses listed in the Berkeley Bulletin are offered in any given semester. Consult the online Schedule of Classes (<http://schedule.berkeley.edu>) for up-to-date information on course offerings.

LEGALST R1A Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution 4 Units

Department: Legal Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

This course is designed to fulfill the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement. Students will learn to identify an author's point of view and main arguments; evaluate an author's credibility and the merits of his or her argument, write a unified essay with intro, thesis statement, transitions between paragraphs, a concluding paragraph and develop an argument about an issue related to the course.

Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

LEGALST R1B Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution 4 Units

Department: Legal Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall, spring and summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks. 8 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

This course is designed to fulfill the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement. Students will develop their skills at critical reading, writing, and analysis, and will complete a series of essays culminating in a research paper relating to law, legal actors, and legal institutions. Emphasis will be placed on the process of writing, including developing research questions, constructing an argument, and revising for content and style.

Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Instructor: Bruce

LEGALST 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Department: Legal Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: Seminar format.

Prerequisites: Priority given to freshmen and sophomores.

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

LEGALST 39D Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Department: Legal Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: Seminar format.

Prerequisites: Priority given to freshmen and sophomores.

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

LEGALST 39E Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Department: Legal Studies

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.