Law, Letters, and Society

The Law, Letters, and Society major will resume in 2018–19. Students who matriculated in Autumn Quarter 2017 may apply in Spring Quarter of their first year to begin the program in Autumn 2018. See below for application details.

Application to the Program

Students must apply in Spring Quarter of their first year to enter the program in their second year. Autumn Quarter 2017 matriculants only are eligible to apply to begin the program in 2018–19. Students who entered the College prior to Autumn Quarter 2017 will not be considered.

Application forms may be obtained from the Office of the New Collegiate Division in Harper Memorial (HM) 235. Applications are available in HM 235 on Friday of tenth week of Winter Quarter and must be submitted to HM 235 by noon on Friday of the first week of Spring Quarter. No applications will be be distributed or accepted during spring break. Students are evaluated on the basis of the application statement and previous performance in the College. Because of the nature of the requirements of the program, no more than twenty-five students can be admitted per year.

Program of Study

The program in Law, Letters, and Society is concerned with law in civilian and customary legal systems, both historically and contemporaneously. The program is designed to develop the student’s analytical skills to enable informed and critical examination of law broadly construed. The organizing premise of the program is that law is a tool of social organization and control, not simply an expression of will or aspiration, and that it is best understood by careful study of both rhetorical artifacts and empirical consequences of its application. Program requirements are constructed to support the organizing premise, and, because of the nature of the requirements, transfer students are not eligible to register as Law, Letters, and Society majors.

The program requires course work in three areas, although there is a reasonably broad latitude both expected and permitted in satisfaction of the distributional requirement. There is a substantial writing requirement for all majors; majors are expected to produce substantial written work (sometimes called “the BA Paper”) under the close supervision of a faculty member whose area of scholarly concern is related to the broad objectives of the program.

Program Requirements

Course work is required in three areas. After successfully completing the Introductory Course, students must take two courses in Letters and two courses in Society. In addition, students must complete six other courses that, while not necessarily offered or listed formally under either rubric, are substantively supportive of the topics, areas, skills, or concerns of the two areas. Courses satisfying the additional requirement are identified on a quarterly basis, and final approval of additional required course work is made by consultation between the student and the program chairman.

The Introductory Course

The Introductory Course establishes the intellectual moorings of the program. The importance of the Introductory Course lies not in its content (indeed, its precise focus and scope may be different from time to time) but on its approach to the nature of law. Recently, for example, the Introductory Course has been LLSO 24200 Legal Reasoning, a study, based primarily on cases, of the classic conventions of legal argument in the Anglo-American legal system. In other years, the Introductory Course might be Roman Law or Greek Law, Medieval Law, or a text-based course on ancient legal philosophy, or a comparison of modern legal categories and policies with those of former societies and cultures. The objective is not so much to establish a historical foundation for modern studies as to demonstrate that legal systems are culturally rooted; that urgent, present concerns may obscure important characteristics of legal ideas and behavior; and that many recurrent themes in Western legal thought are shaped or driven by both common and uncommon features. Unlike many legal studies programs that attempt to orient study of the law primarily in contemporary debates, usually in the field of American constitutional law, the program seeks to organize its exploration of law as a system rather than as a forum or an instrument.

Other Course Work

Students must also take two courses each in the Letters and Society divisions of the program, plus six other courses complementary to the required work, as outlined previously (the other six courses may be ones cross listed in the program or may be from other disciplines). Letters and Society are not meant as fixed or self-defining fields, but instead as organizational categories emphasizing two fundamental modes of examining law in a systemic fashion. Courses under the rubric of Letters (whether based in the program or in English, philosophy, or political theory) tend to be based on the study of literary and historical artifacts, such as cases, tracts, conventional literature, or other texts, and emphasize the ways in which law formally constitutes itself. Questions of interpretative and normative theory, rhetorical strategy, and the like are central to such courses. Society serves to organize studies from a variety of different disciplines (including history, political science, economics, and sociology) that try to measure, with different techniques and at different times, the effect of law on society. The combined objective is to treat law as an intellectual activity and as a phenomenon, and to emphasize that both occur in contexts that help to shape them, whether ancient or modern.

Research

In addition to satisfying the course requirements, each student in the program must produce evidence of sustained research in the form of a substantial research paper during either the junior or senior year and obtain approval of a member of the faculty, although not necessarily a member of the program faculty. Papers may be written in conjunction with Law,
Letters, and Society courses, under the auspices of reading and research courses, or in a Research Seminar. (The paper is an independent requirement, however, and need not be accomplished in conjunction with enrollment in a specific course.) The scope, method, and objective of the paper, as well as its length, are subject to negotiation between the student and the instructor.

Summary of Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 24200</td>
<td>Legal Reasoning (Introductory Course)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Letters courses (List II)</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Society courses (List III)</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Six Complementary courses *</td>
<td></td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1100</strong></td>
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* Complementary courses are courses from other departments that support work done in the major. Some students prefer to concentrate their work on a specific issue or problem, e.g., urban politics and policy, historic societal discrimination, or the role of international institutions in policy implementation. Other students prefer to examine a series of discrete topics that are not directly related but that concern the operation of regimes of social control. Lists of Pre-Approved Complementary Courses are published quarterly, and students who believe that a course not so listed nonetheless supports work in the major may petition the program chair for approval at any time while enrolled in the course or within one quarter of completing the course. Courses taken in Autumn Quarter of the second year simultaneously with the Introductory Course may count as Complementary Courses.

Honors

Students who wish to be considered for honors must notify the program chairman and their faculty supervisor in writing no later than two quarters before the quarter in which they expect to receive their degree. Eligible students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.50 both overall and in the major, and they must write a distinguished research paper. The paper must be submitted by noon on Friday of fifth week in the quarter of proposed graduation (other papers must be submitted by noon on Friday of seventh week), and the student’s faculty supervisor and a second reader must agree that honors are merited. It should be noted that honors are awarded sparingly.

Reading and Research Courses

For students with a legitimate interest in pursuing study that cannot be met by means of regular courses, there is an option of devising a reading and research course to be supervised by a member of the faculty and taken for a quality grade. Such courses may not be used to satisfy the requirements of either the two-course Letters or two-course Society requirements, but may be used to satisfy part of the other six required courses, with the written permission of the program chairman obtained in advance of initiation of the work. Only two research courses may be used within the major. LLSO 29400 Research Seminar: LLSO may also be used as one of the six Complementary Courses.

Grading

Two of the six complementary courses required in the program may, with consent of instructor, be taken for Pass/Fail grading. Students who enroll in LLSO 29400 Research Seminar: LLSO, offered annually, beginning Autumn 2010, are graded on a P/F basis, and the seminar counts as one of the two P/F-graded complementary courses.

Advising

Students who wish to major in Law, Letters, and Society must register for LLSO 24200 Legal Reasoning in Autumn Quarter of their second year. This requirement is not negotiable. Students should note that, as an interdisciplinary major, the program has a strictly limited enrollment and that registration for the Introductory Course is determined during the preceding Spring Quarter. Upon deciding to major in Law, Letters, and Society, students should arrange to consult with the program chairman and the associate director on their course of study in the program. Students should continue to consult with their College advisers on general education degree requirements.

Course Distribution Lists

I. The Introductory Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 24200</td>
<td>Legal Reasoning</td>
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II. Letters

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 20019</td>
<td>Mesopotamian Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 20802</td>
<td>Machiavelli’s Literary Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 22401</td>
<td>Topics in Judicial Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 22403</td>
<td>Free Speech and the First Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 22612</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23008</td>
<td>Montesquieu’s “The Spirit of the Laws”</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23900</td>
<td>Introduction to Constitutional Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23910</td>
<td>Rulership Ancient and Modern: Xenophon’s Education of Cyrus and Machiavelli’s Prince</td>
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<td>Course Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23915</td>
<td>Plato's Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 24711</td>
<td>Lincoln: Slavery, War &amp; the Constitution</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 24900</td>
<td>Thucydides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 25411</td>
<td>Not Just the Facts: Telling About the American South</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 27950</td>
<td>The Declaration of Independence</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 28233</td>
<td>Machiavelli's Political Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 29133</td>
<td>Due Process</td>
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### III. Society

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 20019</td>
<td>Mesopotamian Law</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 21001</td>
<td>Human Rights: Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 21002</td>
<td>Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23100</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23262</td>
<td>International Human Rights</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 23313</td>
<td>Democracy and Equality</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 24102</td>
<td>Environmental Politics</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 24810</td>
<td>Politics of the U.S. Congress</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 24901</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Policy</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 25206</td>
<td>Digital Culture: Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, and the Web</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 25215</td>
<td>The American Presidency</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 25902</td>
<td>Contemporary African American Politics</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 25904</td>
<td>America in the Twentieth Century</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 26615</td>
<td>Democracy's Life and Death</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 26703</td>
<td>Political Parties in the United States</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 26802</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 27100</td>
<td>Human Rights II: History and Theory</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 27101</td>
<td>Democracy and the Information Technology Revolution</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 28710</td>
<td>Democracy and the Politics of Wealth Redistribution</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 29050</td>
<td>Youth Law and Policy: Child Welfare and Juv. Just. in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 29120</td>
<td>Poverty Law and Policy Reform</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLSO 29122</td>
<td>Comparative Law and the Welfare State</td>
<td>100</td>
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### IV. Research and Reading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLSO 29400</td>
<td>Research Seminar: LLSO</td>
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Please refer to the tables above and/or the quarterly Class Search (http://registrar.uchicago.edu/classes) for the most up-to-date list of course offerings.

**Law, Letters, and Society Courses**

**LLSO 20019. Mesopotamian Law. 100 Units.**

Ancient Mesopotamia--the home of the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians who wrote in cuneiform script on durable clay tablets--was the locus of many of history's firsts. No development, however, may be as important as the formations of legal systems and legal principles revealed in contracts, trial records, and law collections (codes), among which The Laws of Hammurabi (r. 1792-1750 BC) stands as most important for understanding the subsequent legal practice and thought of Mesopotamia's cultural heirs in the Middle East and Europe until today. This course will explore the rich source materials of the Laws and relevant judicial and administration documents (all in English translations) to investigate topics of legal, social, and economic practice, including family formation and dissolution, crime and punishment (sympathetic or talionic eye for an eye, pecuniary, corporal), and procedure (contracts, trials, ordeals).

Instructor(s): M. Roth Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): SIGN 26022, NEHC 20019, NEHC 30019
LLSO 20702. Colonial Autobiography. 100 Units.
The focus of this course will be the reading of works which deal, in one way of another, with "coming of age under colonialism" in Africa, the Caribbean, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Some are autobiographies in the normal sense, other are works of fiction, and many fall in between. Most are colonial but some are literally postcolonial. The focus will be upon themes of developing a personal identity in negotiation between a local culture and a dominant colonial one, with formal schooling as a major common site. There are obviously major issues of "postcoloniality" as stake her, in a mixture of political and cultural terms which we ourselves will need to negotiate. The two weekly session will normally(be not always) be divided between a lecture, which will introduce the historical context and author, and a discussion of the assigned text. Additional texts will be suggest both for background reading and potential paper topics.
Instructor(s): R. Austen Terms Offered: Spring

LLSO 20802. Machiavelli's Literary Works. 100 Units.
A reading of Machiavelli's plays, stories, and poems both as literary works and for what light they shed on his political thought. Familiarity with The Prince is presumed. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor required.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 32101, PLSC 20801, SCTH 31701, FNDL 20801

LLSO 21001. Human Rights: Contemporary Issues. 100 Units.
This interdisciplinary course presents an overview of several major contemporary human rights problems as a means to explore the use of human rights norms and mechanisms. The course addresses the roles of states, inter-governmental bodies, national courts, civil society actors including NGOs, victims, and their families, and other non-state actors. Topics are likely to include universalism, enforceability of human rights norms, the prohibition against torture, U.S. exceptionalism, and the rights of women, racial minorities, and non-citizens.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 39304, INRE 31801, HMRT 21001, HMRT 31001, HIST 29304, LACS 21001, LACS 31001

LLSO 21002. Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations. 100 Units.
Human rights are claims of justice that hold merely in virtue of our shared humanity. In this course we will explore philosophical theories of this elementary and crucial form of justice. Among topics to be considered are the role that dignity and humanity play in grounding such rights, their relation to political and economic institutions, and the distinction between duties of justice and claims of charity or humanitarian aid. Finally we will consider the application of such theories to concrete, problematic and pressing problems, such as global poverty, torture and genocide. (A) (I)
Instructor(s): B. Laurence Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 29319, HIST 39319, INRE 31602, HMRT 31002, PHIL 21002, HMRT 21002, MAPH 42002, PHIL 31002

LLSO 21210. Race and Twentieth-Century Social Science. 100 Units.
This course explores the role that social-science ideologies and methods have played in shaping our understanding of "race" and racial phenomena in the twentieth century. Beginning with the scientific racism that dominated the late-nineteenth century, we will examine the claims and methods of diverse "scientific" interventions over the first half of the twentieth century that both challenged and confirmed racist thinking, including intelligence testing and blood work during World War I, the work of Franz Boas and his students, the Chicago school of sociology, and state policies addressing the race question in the post-WWII era (including the United Nations' UNESCO reports). Our emphasis throughout will be on how social historical and political forces shaped and were shaped in turn by twentieth-century science.
Instructor(s): T. Holt Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open to upper-level undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 27412, HIST 27412

LLSO 21810. Global Justice. 100 Units.
What duties do states and societies have beyond their borders? Are obligations of justice global in scope? What is the moral standing of states? This course will examine theories of global distributive and political justice, controversies over cosmopolitan democracy, and theories of human rights, in light of global social structures and international inequalities.
We will consider contemporary arguments in political philosophy, sometimes in conversation with texts in the history of political thought. Authors will include Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Thomas Pogge, Amartya Sen, Thomas Nagel, Iris Marion Young. (A)
Instructor(s): J. Pitts Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 21810, HMRT 39000, PLSC 39000

LLSO 22210. Intro to Black Chicago, 1895-2005. 100 Units.
This course surveys the history of African Americans in Chicago, from before the 20th century to the near-present. In referring to the history, we treat a variety of themes, including; migration and its impact, origins and effects of class stratification, relation of culture and cultural endeavor to collective consciousness, rise of institutionalized religions, facts and fictions of political empowerment, and the correspondence of Black lives and living to indices of city wellness (services, schools, safety, general civic feeling). This is a history class that situates itself within a robust interdisciplinary conversation.
Students can expect to engage works of autobiography and poetry, sociology, documentary photography, and political science as well as more straightforward historical analysis. By the end of the class, students should have grounding in Black Chicago's history, as well as an appreciation of how this history outlines and anticipates Black life and racial politics in the modern United States.
Instructor(s): A. Green Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 27301, HIST 27301
LLSO 22401. Topics in Judicial Studies. 100 Units.
This seminar examines three topics in current judicial studies: the appointment process, judicial reputation, and ideological "drift." Two short papers are required. Seminar. Mr. Hutchinson. Autumn. Consent, limit 15.
Instructor(s): Dennis Hutchinson Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Consent only

LLSO 22403. Free Speech and the First Amendment. 100 Units.
This course will examine the Supreme Court's First Amendment jurisprudence, focusing on such issues as speech critical of the government, the hostile audience, classified information, libel, commercial advertising, obscenity, symbolic expression, campaign finance regulation and the freedom of the press
Instructor(s): Geoffrey Stone Terms Offered: Winter

LLSO 22612. Introduction to Political Philosophy. 100 Units.
In this course we will investigate what it is for a society to be just. In what sense are the members of a just society equal? What freedoms does a just society protect? Must a just society be a democracy? What economic arrangements are compatible with justice? In the second portion of the course we will consider one pressing injustice in our society in light of our previous philosophical conclusions. Possible candidates include, but are not limited to, racial inequality, economic inequality, and gender hierarchy. Here our goal will be to combine our philosophical theories with empirical evidence in order to identify, diagnose, and effectively respond to actual injustice. (A)
Instructor(s): B. Laurence Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 21601, PLSC 22600, PHIL 21600

LLSO 23008. Montesquieu's "The Spirit of the Laws" 100 Units.
From its publication in 1748, "The Spirit of the Laws" has been interpreted, among other things, as a foundational work of method in historical jurisprudence; a pean to the English constitution and an inspiration for that of the future United States; a precocious call for penal reform and the abolition of slavery; a monument to the Enlightenment's capacity for cultural relativism that laid the groundwork for the discipline of sociology; a historical treatise on the rise of globalized commerce and its political effects in Europe; and a manifesto for a reactionary feudal aristocracy. We will read "The Spirit of the Laws" with attention to these and other possible interpretations. This course is mainly an exercise in close reading, but we will also think about the contexts for the writing and reception of this landmark work of Enlightenment social and political thought.
Instructor(s): P. Cheney Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Completion of one of these Core sequences: "Classics of Social and Political Thought," "Power, Identity, Resistance" or "Self, Culture, and Society."
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 23008, FNDL 23008

LLSO 23100. Environmental Law. 100 Units.
This lecture/discussion course examines the development of laws and legal institutions that address environmental problems and advance environmental policies. Topics include the common law background to traditional environmental regulation, the explosive growth and impact of federal environmental laws in the second half of the twentieth century, regulations and the urban environment, and the evolution of local and national legal structures in response to environmental challenges.
Instructor(s): R. Lodato Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing, or consent of instructor
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 23100, PBPL 23100

LLSO 23262. International Human Rights. 100 Units.
This course is an introduction to international human rights law, covering the major instruments and institutions that operate on the international plane. It includes discussion of the conceptual underpinnings of human rights, the structure of the United Nations System, the major international treaties, regional human rights machinery, and the interplay of national and international systems in enforcing human rights. There are no prerequisites. Grading will be on the basis of a take-home exam at the end of the quarter. Students who wish to write, in lieu of the exam, a paper sufficient to satisfy the substantial writing requirement, may do so upon approval of the topic in advance.
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 37700, PLSC 56101

LLSO 23313. Democracy and Equality. 100 Units.
Democracy has often been celebrated (and often criticized) for expressing some kind of equality among citizens. This course will investigate a series of questions prompted by this supposed relationship between democracy and equality. Is democracy an important part of a just society? What institutions and practices does democracy require? Is equality a meaningful or important political ideal? If so, what kind of equality? Does democracy require some kind of equality, or vice-versa? The course will begin by studying classical arguments for democracy by Jean-Jacques Rousseau and John Stuart Mill, and then focus on contemporary approaches to these questions. The course will conclude with some treatment of current democratic controversies, potentially including issues of race and representation; the fair design of elections; the role of wealth in political processes; and the role of judicial review. The course aims to deepen participants' understanding of these and related issues, and to develop our abilities to engage in argument about moral and political life. This course is part of the College Course Cluster program, Inequality.
Instructor(s): J. Wilson Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 23313, PLSC 43301
LLSO 23510. The European Convention on Human Rights. 100 Units.
This course offers an introduction to the international human rights law as developed in Europe under the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights and under the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The European Convention represents the most developed mechanism of protection of human rights on a regional level and information on its practical operation may be relevant also for other regional and national systems. Prerequisites: Graduate or professional students: at least one Human Rights, Law, or European History course. College students: 3d and 4th year students + at least one Human Rights or European History course.
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 23510, HMRT 33510

LLSO 23600. The Environment in U.S. History. 100 Units.
This course examines human engagement with the natural world in what is now the United States. The promise of Edenic bounty, the threat of desolate wilderness, and the temptations of unprecedented affluence have each been seen as crucial to the formation of American identity. We explore the interaction of environmental change with human activities and ideologies that reflect broader themes in American culture.
Instructor(s): A. Gugliotta Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 23600, HIST 19000

LLSO 23900. Introduction to Constitutional Law. 100 Units.
This course is designed as an introduction to the constitutional doctrines and political role of the U.S. Supreme Court, focusing on its evolving priorities and its responses to basic governmental and political problems. Topics include the development of judicial power, the interaction of states and the federal government, judicial involvement in economic policy, and the Court's treatment of minority rights. The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the political history of the Court as well as some knowledge of doctrinal developments. Students should complete the course with an awareness of the political nature of much of what the Court does and with the ability to read, follow, and intelligently discuss Supreme Court decisions. It is not a law school course. No prior knowledge of the U.S. Supreme Court or its decisions is expected or required. There are no prerequisites.
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 48800, PLSC 28800

LLSO 23910. Rulership Ancient and Modern: Xenophon's Education of Cyrus and Machiavelli's Prince. 100 Units.
A reading of two of the classic treatments of political rulership: Xenophon's The Education of Cyrus and Machiavelli's Prince. We will consider the qualities needed to acquire, maintain, and increase political power, the relations between rulers and ruled, the relations between political and military leadership and more broadly between politics and war, the roles of morality and religion in politics, differences between legitimate and tyrannical rule, and differences between modern and ancient views of rulership. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 33910, PLSC 23910, SCTH 31713, FNDL 23910

LLSO 23915. Plato's Republic. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to reading and discussion of Plato's Republic and some secondary work with attention to justice in the city and the soul, war and warriors, education, theology, poetry, gender, eros, and actually existing cities.
Instructor(s): Nathan Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter 2013
Prerequisite(s): Undergrad course by consent
Equivalent Course(s): SCTH 31770, FNDL 29503, PLSC 43820

LLSO 24102. Environmental Politics. 100 Units.
This course examines the different theoretical underpinnings of environmental activism and elucidates the manner in which they lead to different ends. We explore several contrasting views of environmentalism, including the land ethic, social ecology, and deep ecology. Discussions are based on questions posed about the readings and the implications they suggest. Class participation is required.
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 24102, ENST 24102

LLSO 24200. Legal Reasoning. 100 Units.
This course introduces legal reasoning in a customary legal system. The first part examines the analytical conventions that lawyers and judges purport to use. The second part examines fundamental tenets of constitutional and statutory interpretation. Both judicial decisions and commentary are used, although the case method is emphasized.
Instructor(s): A. Hammond Terms Offered: Autumn
Prerequisite(s): Open only to second-year students who are beginning the LLSO major.

LLSO 24300. American Law and the Rhetoric of Race. 100 Units.
This course presents an episodic study of the ways in which American law has treated legal issues involving race. Two episodes are studied in detail: the criminal law of slavery during the antebellum period and the constitutional attack on state-imposed segregation in the twentieth century. The case method is used, although close attention is paid to litigation strategy as well as to judicial opinions. Undergraduate students registering in the LLSO, PLSC, HIST, AMER cross-listed offerings must go through the undergraduate pre-registration process. Law students do NOT need consent.
Note(s): Not Offered in 2018-2019
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22300, HIST 27116, AMER 49801
LLSO 24711. Lincoln: Slavery, War & the Constitution. 100 Units.
This course is a study of Abraham Lincoln's view of the Constitution, based on close readings of his writings, plus comparisons to judicial responses to Lincoln's policies.
Terms Offered: Autumn Spring
Note(s): In 2018-19 this course will be offered in Autumn and Spring
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 27102, FNDL 24411

LLSO 24810. Politics of the U.S. Congress. 100 Units.
This course examines Congress from the perspective of the 535 senators and representatives who constitute it. It examines congressional elections, legislators' relationships with their constituents, lawmakers' dealings in and with committees, and representatives' give-and-take with congressional leadership, the executive, and pressure groups.
Instructor(s): M. Hansen Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 24810

LLSO 24900. Thucydides. 100 Units.
course description not available
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 23900, FNDL 29315, SCTH 31780, PLSC 53900

LLSO 24901. U.S. Environmental Policy. 100 Units.
Making environmental policy is a diverse and complex process. Environmental advocacy engages different governmental agencies, congressional committees, and courts, depending on the issue. This course will examine how such differentiation has affected policy making over the last several decades.
Instructor(s): R. Lodato Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): ENST 24701, PBPL 24701

LLSO 25100. Human Rights I: Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights. 100 Units.
Human rights are claims of justice that hold merely in virtue of our shared humanity. In this course we will explore philosophical theories of this elementary and crucial form of justice. Among topics to be considered are the role that dignity and humanity play in grounding such rights, their relation to political and economic institutions, and the distinction between duties of justice and claims of charity or humanitarian aid. Finally we will consider the application of such theories to concrete, problematic and pressing problems, such as global poverty, torture and genocide. (V) (I)
Instructor(s): B. Laurence Terms Offered: Spring 2016
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30100, HMRT 20100, MAPH 40000, HIST 29301, INRE 31600, PHIL 21700, HIST 39301, PHIL 31600

LLSO 25206. Digital Culture: Artificial Intelligence, Algorithms, and the Web. 100 Units.
In contrast to print culture and electronic culture, yet embedded in them, contemporary digital culture engages us in human-computer systems empowered as media for mobile communication in the global network society. In our conjoined online and offline environments, we inhabit human-computer hybrids in which (for instance) we learn, imagine, communicate, pay attention, and experience affect. How can we understand and critique our theories, concepts, practices, and technologies of intelligence and information in relation to the capacities of these digital machines with which we co-evolve? For exploring this question, our case studies include comparing artificial and natural intelligences, as well as examining algorithms and their socio-political impacts, in current web functionalities such as search (Google) and social media (Facebook, Twitter).
Instructor(s): Browning, Margot Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HUMA 25206, HIPS 25206

LLSO 25215. The American Presidency. 100 Units.
This course examines the institution of the American presidency. It surveys the foundations of presidential power, both as the Founders conceived it, and as it is practiced in the modern era. This course also traces the historical development of the institutional presidency, the president's relationships with Congress and the courts, the influence presidents wield in domestic and foreign policymaking, and the ways in which presidents make decisions in a system of separated powers.
Instructor(s): W. Howell Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 35215, PBPL 25216, PLSC 25215, AMER 25215

LLSO 25411. Not Just the Facts: Telling About the American South. 100 Units.
The great jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. once observed: "The main part of intellectual education is not the acquisition of facts but learning how to make facts live." This course concerns itself with the various ways people have striven to understand the American South, past and present. We will read fiction, autobiography, and history (including meditations on how to write history). Main themes of the course include the difference between historical scholarship and writing history in fictional form; the role of the author in each and consideration of the interstitial space of autobiography; the question of authorial authenticity; and the tension between contemporary demands for truthfulness and the rejection of "truth."
Instructor(s): J. Dailey Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Open to upper-level undergraduates.
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 27006, HIST 27006
LLSO 25902. Contemporary African American Politics. 100 Units.
This course explores the issues, actions, and arguments that comprise black politics today. Our specific task is to explore the question of how do African Americans currently engage in politics and political struggles in the United States. This analysis is rooted in a discussion of contemporary issues, including the election of the first African American president, Barack Obama, the emergence of the Movement for Black Lives, the exponential incarceration of black people, and the intersection of identities and the role black feminism in shaping the radical freedom tradition in black politics. Throughout the course we attempt to situate the politics of African Americans into the larger design we call American politics. Is there such a thing as black politics? If there is, what does it tell us more generally about American politics?
Instructor(s): C. Cohen Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22150, CRES 22150

LLSO 25904. America in the Twentieth Century. 100 Units.
This is a thematic lecture course on the past 115 years of US history. The main focus of the lectures will be politics, broadly defined. The readings consist of novels and nonfiction writing, with a scattering of primary sources.
Instructor(s): J. Dailey Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): History Gateways are introductory courses meant to appeal to 1st- through 3rd-yr students who may not have done previous course work on the topic of the course; topics cover the globe and span the ages.
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 17805, AMER 17805

LLSO 26615. Democracy’s Life and Death. 100 Units.
How are democracies founded and maintained? What are their advantages and disadvantages with respect to stability, security, liberty, equality, and justice? Why do democracies decline and die? This course addresses these questions by examining democracies, republics, and popular governments in both the ancient and modern worlds. We will read and discuss primary texts from and social scientific analyses of Athenian democracy, the Roman Republic, the United States, and modern representative governments throughout the globe.
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 26615

LLSO 26703. Political Parties in the United States. 100 Units.
Political parties are a central feature of American government. In this course we will explore their role in contemporary politics and learn about their development over the course of American history. We will start by asking the following questions: What is a political party? Why do we have a two-party system, and how did that system develop? We will then proceed to study shifts in party coalitions, parties’ evolving structures, their role in policymaking, and trends in popular attitudes about parties. Although our primary empirical focus will be on parties in the United States, we will spend some time on comparative approaches to political parties.
Instructor(s): R. Bloch Rubin Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 26703

LLSO 26802. Public Opinion. 100 Units.
What is the relationship between the mass citizenry and government in the U.S.? Does the public meet the conditions for a functioning democratic polity? This course considers the origins of mass opinion about politics and public policy, including the role of core values and beliefs, information, expectations about political actors, the mass media, economic self-interest, and racial attitudes. This course also examines problems of political representation, from the level of political elites communicating with constituents, and from the possibility of aggregate representation.
Instructor(s): J. Brehm Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): CRES 22400, PLSC 22400

LLSO 27100. Human Rights II: History and Theory. 100 Units.
This course is concerned with the theory and the historical evolution of the modern human rights regime. It discusses the emergence of a modern “human rights” culture as a product of the formation and expansion of the system of nation-states and the concurrent rise of value-driven social mobilizations. It proceeds to discuss human rights in two prevailing modalities. First, it explores rights as protection of the body and personhood and the modern, Western notion of individualism. Second, it inquires into rights as they affect groups (e.g., ethnicities and, potentially, transnational corporations) or states.
Instructor(s): TBA Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30200, HMRT 20200, HIST 39302, INRE 31700, HIST 29302, CRES 29302

LLSO 27101. Democracy and the Information Technology Revolution. 100 Units.
The revolution in information technologies has serious implications for democratic societies. We concentrate, though not exclusively, on the United States. We look at which populations have the most access to technology-based information sources (the digital divide), and how individual and group identities are being forged online. We ask how is the responsiveness of government being affected, and how representative is the online community. Severe conflict over the tension between national security and individual privacy rights in the U.S., United Kingdom, and Ireland will be explored as well. We analyze both modern works (such as those by Turkle and Gilder) and the work of modern democratic theorists (such as Habermas).
Instructor(s): M. Dawson Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 23100
LLSO 27200. Human Rights III. 100 Units.
This interdisciplinary course presents an overview of several major contemporary human rights problems as a means to explore the use of human rights norms and mechanisms. The course addresses the roles of states, inter-governmental bodies, national courts, civil society actors including NGOs, victims, and their families, and other non-state actors. Topics are likely to include universalism, enforceability of human rights norms, the prohibition against torture, U.S. exceptionalism, and the rights of women, racial minorities, and non-citizens.
Instructor(s): S. Gzesh Terms Offered: Autumn 2015
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 30300, INRE 31800, HIST 29303, HIST 39303, HMRT 20300

LLSO 27601. Politics & Culture in African American History. 100 Units.
In this course we will explore historically the political implications of black cultural formations and expressions, focusing on the diverse ways in which culture has been explicitly invoked or deployed to political ends, has served as a means of political mobilization, and has marked African Americans as fit or unfit for citizenship rights. Through this debate, which has been sometimes explicit and at other times sub-rosa, we will probe the meanings and significance attributed to race, culture, and their interrelationship. Among the topics to be addressed in lectures and discussions are the debates on the relation between slave culture and resistance, the contrasting ways black and white performers have engaged the minstrel tradition, the social interpretations of black musical expression, the role to the state in promoting black cultural expression, and culture as a site of resistance. Each topic will be addressed through lectures and class discussions.
Instructor(s): T. Holt Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 30109, CRES 30109, HIST 20109, CRES 20109

LLSO 27725. Machiavelli’s Florentine Histories. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to a close reading of what is perhaps Niccolò Machiavelli’s most difficult work, the Florentine Histories. We will explore the extent to which the lessons of Machiavelli’s history of his native city conform with those that he earlier set forth in more famous works like The Prince and the Discourses. We will also examine the interpretive debates over the Histories that pervade the scholarly literature. Themes pertaining to the Florentine Republic to be considered include: liberty, patriotism, civic foundings, social conflict, partisan strife, religion and politics, tyranny, revolution, and corruption. (A)
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Advanced consent of instructor required.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 37725, PLSC 27725, FNDL 27725

LLSO 27950. The Declaration of Independence. 100 Units.
This course explores important intellectual, political, philosophical, legal, economic, social, and religious contexts for the Declaration of Independence. We begin with a consideration of the English Revolution, investigating the texts of the Declaration of Rights of 1689 and Locke’s Second Treatise and their meanings to American revolutionaries. We then consider imperial debates over taxation in the 1760s and 1770s, returning Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiography to its original context. Reading Paine’s Common Sense and the letters of Abigail Adams and John Adams we look at the multiple meanings of independence. We study Jefferson’s drafting process, read the Declaration over the shoulders of people on both sides of the Atlantic, and consider clues to contemporary meanings beyond the intentions of Congress. Finally, we briefly engage the post-revolutionary history of the place and meaning of the Declaration in American life. (1650-1830, 1830-1940) This is a 2018-19 College Signature Course.
Instructor(s): Eric Slauter Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): HIST 17604, SIGN 26039, HMRT 17950, ENGL 17950, FNDL 27950

LLSO 28100. Law and Society. 100 Units.
This seminar examines the myriad relationships between courts, laws, and lawyers in the United States. Issues covered range from legal consciousness to the role of rights to access to courts to implementation of decisions to professionalism. (B)
Instructor(s): G. Rosenberg Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): PLSC 28800 or equivalent and consent of instructor.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 22510

LLSO 28233. Machiavelli’s Political Thought. 100 Units.
This course is devoted to the political writings of Niccolò Machiavelli. Readings include The Prince, Discourses on Livy’s History of Rome, selections from the Florentine Histories, and Machiavelli’s proposal for reforming Florence’s republic, “Discourses on Florentine Affairs.” Topics include the relationship between the person and the polity; the compatibility of moral and political virtue; the utility of class conflict; the advantages of mixed institutions; the principles of self-government, deliberation, and participation; the meaning of liberty; and the question of military conquest.
Instructor(s): J. McCormick Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 52316, PLSC 27216, FNDL 28102
LLSO 28406. Nineteenth-Century Segment of the US Survey. 100 Units.
The nineteenth-century survey will examine the experiences and the conflicts that made up the history of modern American society, as it unfolded over the course of the 1800s. This is where modern America begins. Before there was a Great Recession or an Occupy Wall Street, there was the nineteenth-century roller coaster of prosperity and panic; the robber barons and newfound workers' unions of the Gilded Age; the passionate public debates over the central bank, monetary policy, and the national currency. Before the Tea Party, the Founders themselves debated the best ways to make their revolution realized, enduring, and meaningful in daily interactions as well as institutions. To understand the implications of Iraq War and its aftermath, we must return to the origins of American imperialism in the 1800s. To appreciate the significance and symbolism of the first African American president, we have to revisit the nation's long history of slavery, racism, and segregation. The immigration policy issues covered ad nauseam on the cable news channels have their roots in the ebbs and flows of global migrations that began over a century and a half ago. The American feminist movement for equal rights and opportunities began in the nineteenth century; yet in 2008, US women still earned only 77 cents on the male dollar, and in 2011, more than 40 percent of households headed by women lived in poverty. Returning to the contentious (and ongoing) history of Anglo-Indian relations is an essential component of contextualizing today's sobering statistics, when some reservations face unemployment rates of up to 80 percent, and one quarter of all Native Americans live in poverty. Course requirements include careful reading, active and thoughtful participation, and written assignments.
Instructor(s): A. Lippert Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): AMER 28406, GNSE 28406, AMER 38406, CRES 28406, CRES 38406, GNSE 28406, HIST 38406, HIST 28406

LLSO 28500. Plato's Laws. 100 Units.
An introductory reading of Plato's Laws with attention to such themes as the following: war and peace; courage and moderation; rule of law; music, poetry, drinking, and education; sex, marriage, and gender; property and class structure; crime and punishment; religion and theology; and philosophy. (A)
Instructor(s): N. Tarcov Terms Offered: Winter
Note(s): Enrollment limited. Open to undergraduates with consent of instructor.

LLSO 28604. Law & Social Movements in Modern America. 100 Units.
This course traces and examines the relationship of law and social movements in the United States since 1865. We examine how lawyers and ordinary citizens have used the law to support the expansion of social, political, and economic rights in America. We also look at how the state and civic organizations have shaped and deployed law to criminalize the strategies of social reform movements and stifle dissent.
Instructor(s): J. Dailey Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): GNSE 28604, HIST 28604, HMRT 28604

LLSO 28613. Politics and Human Nature. 100 Units.
This course explores commonalities among psychoanalytic theory, Buddhism, and studies of emotions and brain physiology, particularly as they relate to questions of the self and political life. In addition to exploring each of these theories, we investigate particular questions (e.g., inevitability of conflict, dynamics of obedience and authority, emotional power of ideology, and non-Western understandings of human consciousness). (A)
Instructor(s): E. Oliver Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Third- or fourth-year standing.
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 28615

LLSO 28710. Democracy and the Politics of Wealth Redistribution. 100 Units.
How do political institutions affect the redistribution of wealth among members of a society? In most democracies, the distribution of wealth among citizens is unequal but the right to vote is universal. Why then have so many newly democratic states transitioned under conditions of high inequality yet failed to redistribute? This course explores this puzzle by analyzing the mechanisms through which individual and group preferences can be translated into pro-poor policies, and the role elites play in influencing a government's capacity or incentives to redistribute wealth. Topics include economic inequality and the demand for redistribution, the difference in redistribution between democracy and dictatorship, the role of globalization in policymaking, and the effects of redistribution on political stability and change.
Instructor(s): M. Albertus Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 28710, LACS 28710

This course explores how legal institutions protect and punish children in the United States. We will spend the first part of the course exploring the child welfare system, which purports to protect children from abuse and neglect through various mechanisms including foster care and the termination of parental rights. We will spend the second part of the course exploring the juvenile justice system, which purports to prosecute and rehabilitate children for their criminal acts in a system separate from the criminal justice system. In the final part of the course, we will consider special topics in this area of law and policy including “cross-over youth” (i.e. children involved in both systems), unaccompanied immigrant children, homeless and runaway youth, and the so-called “school-to-prison-pipeline.” This course will place special emphasis on the judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers, and social workers that comprise these legal institutions.
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): HMRT 29050, PBPL 29050
LLSO 29120. Poverty Law and Policy Reform. 100 Units.
This seminar seeks to give students a comprehensive understanding of the major anti-poverty programs in the United
States with an emphasis on current challenges and reform proposals. We will spend the first half of the course exploring
the implementation and evaluation of the programs that make up the traditional safety net for poor Americans: income
supports, health insurance, and housing assistance. We will spend the rest of the quarter exploring topics that complicate
the traditional social policy regime, including how the safety net is more robust for some groups, such as the elderly and
veterans, than others. We will explore how the legal systems of immigration and incarceration hamper anti-poverty policy
and how safety net programs address the needs of rural and Native Americans. Finally, we will investigate two recent
developments in the field: social entrepreneurship and the critique of procedural rights.
Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): No first year students; attendance on the first day of class is required.
Note(s): Not Offered in 2018-2019
Equivalent Course(s): PBPL 29120, HMRT 29120

LLSO 29122. Comparative Law and the Welfare State. 100 Units.
How do welfare states, complex public systems of the twentieth century, respond to various challenges of the twenty-first?
Drawing on both comparative legal methods and social science, this course explores how contemporary societies manage
globalization, population aging and inequality through social welfare law. Specific areas of study may include old age
insurance, childcare, healthcare, labor market regulation and immigration law.
Instructor(s): Andrew Hammond
Note(s): Not offered in 2018/19.

LLSO 29133. Due Process. 100 Units.
This course will explore how courts interpret the due process clauses of the Fifth and Fifteenth Amendments of the
United States Constitution. Drawing predominantly on judicial opinions, topics may include protections for recipients of
government services, workers, parents, prisoners, and non-citizens.
Instructor(s): Andrew Hammond Terms Offered: Spring
Prerequisite(s): Not open to first year students.

LLSO 29201. Ethnic Rights. 100 Units.
The aim of this undergraduate course is to examine the emergence of cultural rights within the broader human rights
movement. Indeed, cultural or ethnic rights were part of a third generation of human rights which moves beyond purely civil
and political rights, to definitions that include social, economic and cultural rights. Among the many rights embedded in
the notion of cultural rights are the rights to political and cultural autonomy, natural resources, and territory, typically for
indigenous peoples. In this course, we analyze how these cultural rights emerged in international human rights institutions
and discourse, as well as how they have been translated back into, and transformed by, local political struggles around the
world. Throughout the course, the students will have the chance to learn from and engage with a number of organizations
and activists in Chicago that work on indigenous and cultural rights. (C)
Instructor(s): T. Paschel Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): PLSC 29201

LLSO 29400. Research Seminar: LLSO. 100 Units.
A seminar for students preparing BA papers in LLSO.
Instructor(s): D. Hutchinson Terms Offered: Autumn
Note(s): Not Offered in 2018-2019
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

- Times was used instead of Trajan.
- Times was used instead of Palatino.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.