



Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies



LEGAL STUDIES COURSES

Introduction to Law

A general introduction to law and the legal system, including a survey of substantive law in both civil and criminal arenas. Students learn how the legal system operates and the basic categories of law, and discuss controversial issues in each area of law.

Western Legal Tradition

From the biblical era to the American experiment, the Western legal tradition encompasses primitive, divine, natural, canon, secular, and common law. This course examines the key legal documents and issues of the tradition including the Code of Hammurabi, the Ten Commandments, the trials of Socrates and Jesus, the Magna Carta, the Rule of Law, and Common law.

Introduction to Legal Studies Research

This course introduces a wide array of methodologies employed in legal studies related to the humanities and social sciences. It provides the knowledge and skills necessary to design, conduct, and present a scholarly research project. The research questions that motivate scholars in legal studies, as well as the different methods used to collect and analyze the evidence systematically and logically are discussed.

Philosophical Problems in the Law

This course provides an introduction to the philosophical perspective of the law. Issues discussed include the nature of law and judicial decision making, criminal responsibility, the justification of punishment, and the moral basis of property rights.

SPA's **BA in Legal Studies** explores the fundamental nature of law and justice. Students will critically analyze and think about the life and impact of law from the perspectives of the social sciences and humanities. These insights will be applied to contemporary and relevant social questions, as well as allow for deeper reflection about the origins, evolution, function and effects of the law as a social, historical, and normative phenomenon.

Read on to find out how this SPA program can help you establish the path to achieve your career goals.



Students are able to hear from and converse with well-known speakers.
(Pictured: Rep. Jamie Raskin and Senator Elizabeth Warren at Kerwin Hall)

SPA 391 Leadership Internship: Bringing Theory to Practice

- Students may study abroad between their second semester of sophomore year through their senior year.
- Legal Studies majors can count up to 6 credit hours of preapproved courses taken abroad toward their upper-level major course requirements.
- It is strongly recommended that students complete the majority of their university requirements before studying abroad.
- Some popular study abroad destinations are:
 - » Australia » China » Canada » Denmark
 - » England » Netherlands » New Zealand

Internship Opportunities

- Students can earn up to 12 credits from internships toward their degree.
- Students can apply a maximum of 6 credits to their major requirements.
- Students must complete at least 30 credit hours at AU before registering an internship for credit.
- Sample internships include: » National Institute of Justice » FBI » American Bar Association » D.C. Courts » U.S. Customs » Public Defender Service » Secret Service » Department of Homeland Security

Scholarly Research Opportunities

Take Introduction to Legal Studies Research before moving into more advanced upper-level courses.

Students learn research design, qualitative analysis, and how to apply analytical techniques to contemporary problems.

Students have opportunities to work with faculty mentors on their original research projects.

Students will present their original research through research symposiums on campus or at national conferences.

WE KNOW SUCCESS

Graduates from Public Affairs have gone on to employers and graduate/law schools like:

- Campaign Legal Center
- Goldman Sachs
- Public Defenders
- NJI Media
- The Washington Post
- U.S. Department of Defense
- American Gaming Association
- NBCUniversal, Inc.
- National Wildlife Federation
- U.S. Department of Justice
- National Republican Congressional Committee
- D.C. Public Schools
- American University Washington College of Law
- Columbia University
- Fordham University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- London School of Economics
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Chicago
- University of Virginia

QUESTIONS?

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