DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND LAW STUDIES

LAW STUDIES COURSES

LAWS-101. INTRODUCTION TO LAW.
This course introduces students to the sources of law in the United States, the differences between civil and criminal law, and the United States Legal System including federal and state judicial systems. Students will learn about several areas of substantive law such as constitutional law, criminal law, tort law, and contract law. Credit, three hours

LAWS-200. LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING.
This course introduces legal research, analysis and writing. Students will learn about fundamental principles of the U.S. legal system including sources of law, federalism, court systems, precedent and stare decisis, as well as various types of primary and secondary legal authority. The course will emphasize finding, analyzing, and applying legal authority, particularly statutory and case law. Other topics include legal citation, case briefing, using the IRAC method, and legal ethics. While print-sources are discussed, students primarily use electronic sources to conduct their research. Credit, three hours

LAWS-210. FAMILY LAW.
This course studies the basic legal principles of marriage, divorce, support, juvenile law, and parent/child relationships. In this course, we will discuss the difficulty of legally governing the personal nature of families as well as ethical issues in this area of the law. Students will draft legal documents in several areas of domestic relations such as a prenuptial agreement, separation agreement, petition for divorce and child support/custody agreement. Credit, three hours

LAWS-211. CONTRACT LAW.
This course examines the law of contracts including the six basic requirements for every valid contract: offer, acceptance, consideration, legality of submit matter, contractual capacity, and contractual intent. Topics include formation and interpretation of contract, categories of contracts, the state of frauds, the uniform commercial code, legal remedies for breach of contract, and ethics in this area of law. Students will learn how to conduct research in this area of the law, to read contract and to draft basic contracts. Credit, three hours

LAWS-215. ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH & WRITING: This course is a continuation of Legal Research and Writing, and will focus on legal writing including legal reasoning, legal correspondence, case briefs, and trial briefs. Students will learn advanced research techniques as well as how to write more advanced legal documents. Legal ethics will also be discussed. Credit, three hours

LAWS-300. TORT AND PERSONAL INJURY LAW.
This course surveys the law of torts (civil wrongs) and personal injury. Unlike crimes, which are prosecuted by the state tort lawsuits are brought by private parties to compensate them for harm suffered to their person and/or property as a result of actions by another. Topics include negligence, such as automobile accidents and falls, as well as intentional torts such as battery,

and other torts such as defamation and products liability, and ethical issues surrounding tort law. The course also includes practical assignments such as conducting legal research and drafting legal documents. Credit, three hours

LAWS-301. CIVIL LITIGATION.
This course introduces students to the process of civil litigation from investigating and filing a civil lawsuit through pleadings, discovery, ADR and concluding with trial and post-trial practice. The course examines the basic principles of pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures including: complaints, responsive pleadings, motions, discovery and trial preparation as well as the ethical requirements in civil litigation practice. Drafting litigation documents is the primary focus of the course. Credit, three hours

LAWS-310. WILLS, TRUST, AND ESTATE ADMINISTRATION.
One of the most important things an individual can do is to plan how and to whom his/her wealth will transfer upon death; yet many people will die without a will or other estate planning tools, thereby leaving state statutes to determine who receives their property. This course examines the ways by which a person's property passes at death, the creation of wills, trusts, and other estate planning tools, what happens when a person dies without a will, and the ethical issues surrounding this area of the law. Students will learn interviewing skills as well as how to draft basic estate planning documents. Credit, three hours

LAWS-311. PROPERTY LAW.
Real estate, or real property, is the biggest purchase that many people will make in their lives. This course examines the various aspects of property law with a focus on real property (real estate). Topics covered include the differences between personal and real property, various ways of owning real estate both individually and with others, deeds, mortgages and other real estate documents, the real estate closing, landlord tenant law, and ethical issues in real estate law. Students will prepare basic real estate documents. Credit, three hours

LAWS-313. LAW OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS.
This course provides an overview of the law of business organizations such as sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. Topics include learning which law governs business entities, how to create business organizations, and drafting documents to create businesses. Credit, three hours

LAWS-350. EVIDENCE & TRIAL ADVOCACY.
This course examines evidentiary principles and court procedures. It focuses on the application of the federal rules of evidence, trial preparation, and exhibits for trial, information, gathering and investigation. Additionally, this course is designed to provide the student with a working understanding of the relationship between the federal and state Rules of Evidence. Students will gain an understanding of the function of rules of evidence, objections to be anticipated, and the preparation of a case for trial based on application of those rules. Credit, three hours

LAWS-400. SENIOR CAPSTONE.
This course serves as the senior capstone experience for Law Studies Majors. It requires students to demonstrate that they have met the program learning goals through the creation of a portfolio and demonstrate proficiency in the Legal Technologies Program software. Credit, three hours

LAWS-450. LAW STUDIES INTERNSHIP.
This course offers Law Studies majors the opportunity to pursue experiential learning in the field of law studies. Students must work 150 hours in an approved internship site, create a professional resume, maintain a weekly journal describing activities and skill development, obtain three evaluations from the site supervisor, create a portfolio exhibiting production of sample documents and write a reflective essay upon completion of the internship. Credit, three hours