

Requirements: Law and Society

Interdisciplinary

In order to understand the relationship between law and society, students will focus their study on the intersecting fields of law and human behavior, law as a social institution, and law and government. This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, coherent curricular structure within which to examine a variety of law related issues that emerge across disciplines and, if not to find the correct answers, to ask appropriate questions. The program also prepares students to undertake directed research in socio-legal studies under the mentorship of Kenyon faculty.

The Kenyon College faculty voted to change from Kenyon units to semester hours. This change will go into effect for all students who start at the College in the fall of 2024. Both systems will be used throughout the course catalog with the Kenyon units being listed first.

The Curriculum

Students begin their exploration of law in society with LGLS 110 (Introduction to Legal Studies) and conclude it with LGLS 410 (Senior Seminar in Legal Studies), which encompasses a directed research project within a selected theme or topic.

"Introduction to Legal Studies" is a survey course that exposes 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. In lieu of the introductory course, concentrators may substitute a first-year seminar or another such course when approved by the chair or director of the program. 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).

Requirements for the Concentration

The Law and Society Concentration requires students to complete five courses of specified law and society coursework. These courses comprise the following:

LGLS 110: Introduction to Legal Studies or a first-year seminar

Three courses in at least two different departments examining law as a social institution from the course list.

LGLS 410: Senior Seminar in Legal Studies

Like many interdisciplinary programs that offer a relatively limited number of cognate courses each year, the majority of courses taken to satisfy the law and society requirements will be offered through one or more contributing majors and programs at the College. The division or department in which the courses are offered isn't important; whether the course will count will depend solely upon whether there is sufficient content about law-related, law-based, or related phenomena to justify its inclusion. Similarly, courses taken while studying off campus must meet this threshold. No more than two such courses taken off campus can be considered. The program encourages its students to study abroad and recommends that students take courses that explore and reflect upon international and global legal institutions and cultures.

Courses approved for fulfilling the requirements of the concentration can be found on the program's webpage or by contacting the program director.

Courses in Law and Society

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Introduction to Legal Studies

LGLS 110 CREDITS: 0.5/4

This course examines the law, legal profession and legal institutions from a variety of traditional social-science perspectives. The primary frames of reference are 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 interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. This is required for the law and society concentration. No prerequisite. Sophomore standing. Offered every fall.

Crimmigration Law

LGLS 310 CREDITS: 0.5/4

“Crimmigration law” refers to the intersection between criminal and immigration law.

Assumptions, myths and misinformation about U.S. immigration and immigrants lead to routine and increasingly criminalizing forms of "othering" in political debates, news stories and daily conversations. At the same time, U.S. immigration and immigrants have been, are and will continue to be an essential and vibrant part of this country's experience.

The aim of this course is to promote an accurate, holistic and empathetic understanding of U.S. immigration and immigrants while also understanding how legal systems punish, detain, and deport immigrants based on their legal status. We begin by discussing introductory terminology and background related to crimmigration law. Afterward, this course is broken down into three main parts: enforcement, detention, and deportation.

First, we consider who migrates, how the state functions as an exclusionary gatekeeper, and how incremental changes to immigration law enforcement converge with the broader history of immigrants' criminalization, surveillance and racialization. Second, we turn to domestic and global practices of immigrant detention, comparing them to practices of criminal incarceration as well as arguments for abolition. Third, we look at the origins and current practices of deportation in the U.S., with specific attention paid to immigration court procedure, substantive justice and avenues for reform and resistance. There is no exam in this course; instead, students will write a five-page midterm paper and 10-12-page final paper. This counts toward the course requirement for the Law & Society concentration “examining law as a social institution.” Prerequisite: LGLS 110. Offered spring semester of every year.

Exploring Law: Understanding Socio-legal Methods

LGLS 371 CREDITS: 0.5/4

This course has been designed as a discussion course with a series of mini-research assignments. The course focuses on the role and contributions of sociology and the social sciences to the conceptualization of law and legal policymaking. Course materials will draw upon research performed primarily within the context of the American civil and criminal justice system. We also will examine some prevalent notions about what law is or should be, legal behavior and practices, and justifications for resorting to law to solve social problems. Through the use of mini-research assignments, students will gain an appreciation for the complexity and far-reaching impact that the social sciences have upon social policymaking and legal policymaking as well as the difficulty of determining or measuring law and its impact. This course is highly recommended for students participating in the John W. Adams Summer Scholars Program in Socio-legal Studies. This counts toward the methods requirement for the sociology major as equivalent to SOCY 271. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Sophomore standing. Offered every other year.

Individual Study

LGLS 393 CREDITS: 0.25/0.5

The Law & Society Program's approach to the individual study course (IS) option is to emphasize flexibility while maintaining the academic integrity of the program's curriculum. The specific details of an IS course plan are to be negotiated between and among the students, faculty members and the program chair. IS courses may be offered within the Law & Society Program upon the request of a qualified student, depending primarily upon faculty interest and availability to supervise the student applying to take such a course.

Individual Study courses taken within the Law & Society Program convene for one semester in duration and will constitute 0.25 or 0.50 units. As such, there is a general expectation that students will devote to the individual study, at a minimum, a number of hours substantially equivalent to that one would spend attending and preparing for a regular course.

Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester

before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement.

Senior Seminar Legal Studies

LGLS 410 CREDITS: 0.5/4

This year's senior seminar explores the intersection of law, technology, and society, with a focus on how technological advancements shape legal frameworks and vice versa. Drawing on key sociological theories, students will critically examine how new forms of surveillance, data collection, and algorithmic management challenge traditional legal structures and social norms. Students will engage in discussions, case studies, and written work that emphasize the sociological implications of law and technology in both contemporary and future contexts. Topics include artificial intelligence, worker privacy rights, bias and discretion in policing, and regulatory frameworks for big tech. This counts toward the requirement for Kenyon's Law & Society concentration. Junior or senior standing. Prerequisite: two courses examining law as a social institution and LGLS 110. Offered spring semester of every year.

Individual Study

LGLS 493 CREDITS: 0.25-0.5/2-4

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Concentration

Courses that meet the requirement for this concentration:

CLAS 220	Illegal Antiquities
HIST 209	History of North American Indians
HIST 312	Blacks in the Age of Jim Crow
HIST 322	Human Rights in Latin America
HIST 411	The Civil Rights Era
HIST 413	Race, Crime and Criminal Justice
HIST 458	Gandhi and Civil Disobedience
PHIL 115	Practical Issues in Ethics
PHIL 235	Philosophy of Law

PSCI 200	Liberal Democracy in America
PSCI 200D	Liberal Democracy in America
PSCI 300	The United States Congress
PSCI 314	American Constitutional Law
PSCI 328	The Bill of Rights
PSCI 355	Immigration, Citizenship and National Identity
PSCI 447	Inequality and Democracy
PSCI 449	Democracy in Crisis
PSCI 450	Human Rights in World Politics
PSCI 470	Power, States and Markets: The Making of Modern Social Order
PSCI 471	Politics of Transitional Justice
PSYC 221	Adult Psychopathology and Social Suffering

PSYC 233	Psychology and the Law
PSYC 343	Children, Psychology and the Law
SOCY 226	Sociology of Law
SOCY 231	Gender, Power, and Policy
SOCY 232	Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
SOCY 240	Sociology of Crime and Deviance
SOCY 243	Social Justice: The Ancient and Modern Traditions
SOCY 244	Race, Ethnicity and American Law
SOCY 255	Women, Crime and the Law
SOCY 291	Special Topic
SOCY 421	Gender Stratification