Faculty

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Chair, Department of Sociology

Those faculty members who teach courses approved for credit in the Law and Society Concentration constitute the program's extended faculty. Consult the director for a list.

Kenyon's Law and Society Concentration is an acknowledgment of the increasing importance within the best liberal-arts institutions of programs that emphasize the study of law, legal institutions, and the legal profession. This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, coherent curricular structure within which to examine a plethora of law-related issues that emerge across disciplines and for which these various disciplines seek, if not to find the correct answers about law, to ask appropriate questions.

Students pursuing this area of study will ponder the relationship between law and human behavior and the role of law in society. They will focus their work in three primary areas: philosophies of law, law as a social institution, and law and government. Students will begin their exploration of law in society with the Introduction to Legal Studies and conclude it with a Senior Seminar in Legal Studies, which will encompass a directed research project within a selected theme or topic.

Introduction to Legal Studies is a survey course which attempts to expose students to a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of law and legal phenomena. It is intended for students who have attained at least sophomore standing and have had some exposure to the social sciences, usually through an introductory course. 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).

The Law and Society Concentration requires students to complete 2 1/2 units of "specified" law-and-society coursework. These units comprise the following: Introduction to Legal Studies (LGLS 110 or 111, 1/2 unit); a semester's work in a philosophy-of-law subject area (philosophy, political science, or history offerings, 1/2 unit); two courses in two different departments examining "law as a social institution" (1 unit); and the Senior Seminar in Legal Studies (1/2 unit). See the director for a list of approved courses.

First-Semester Courses

**Introduction to Legal Studies**  
LGLS 110 (1/2 unit)  
Sheffield

This course examines the law, legal profession, and legal institutions from a variety of traditional social-science perspectives. The primary frame of reference will be 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 course is required for those students who intend to complete a Law and Society Concentration. Prerequisites: sophomore standing or higher and permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

**Individual Study (Junior)**  
LGLS 393 (1/2 unit)  
Staff

Prerequisites: permission of instructor and concentration director.

**Senior Seminar in Legal Studies**  
LGLS 410 (1/2 unit)  
Sheffield

This is an upper-level seminar that offers students in the concentration an opportunity to integrate the various topics and approaches to which they were exposed in the law-related courses they have taken. Each year, the senior seminar will be designed around a specific substantive theme or topic; the themes as well as
the format and approach to the
course will change from year to year,
depending upon the faculty members
teaching the course and their
interests. The topic of this year’s
senior seminar will be “Crime and
Punishment.” Prerequisite: permission
of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Individual Study (Senior)
LGLS 493 (1/2 unit)
Staff
Prerequisites: permission of instructor
and concentration director.

Second-Semester
Courses

Media and the Law
LGLS 220 (1/2 unit)
Sheffield
This lecture and discussion course
will introduce students to the law,
legal profession, and legal systems as
they are portrayed, presented,
affected, and utilized by the media.
The primary frames of reference from
which to examine both issues and
legal phenomena will be sociological
and social psychological. Students
will examine the significant role that
the media play in the American
justice system as well as the critical
legal issues that the media face in
pursuing their craft. Central to the
foundation of this course is an
exploration of the meaning of the
speech and press clauses of the first
amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
Topics to be explored include
government censorship, libel,
invasion of privacy, obscenity and
pornography, impact of press coverage
up on the right to fair trial, and hate
speech. A portion of this course will
focus on understanding the role of
the media in relation to crime and
criminal justice, particularly through
the advent of new technologies.
Another segment will examine the
public’s perception of law and justice
in popular culture, using examples in
literature, film, and television.
Prerequisites: sophomore standing or
higher. Enrollment limited.

Sociology of Law
SOCY 226 (1/2 unit)
See course description in sociology
section.

Individual Study (Junior)
LGLS 394 (1/2 unit)
Staff
Prerequisites: permission of instructor
and concentration director.

Individual Study (Senior)
LGLS 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff
Prerequisites: permission of instructor
and concentration director.

Additional courses
available another
year:

LGLS 276 Women, Law, and the
Constitution
LGLS 277 Select Themes in U.S.
Legal History
LGLS 283 African Americans,
Crime, and the Law
SOCY 229 Women, Crime, and the
Law
SOCY 257 Law and the American
Family

Also check other departmental
listings for courses granting law and
society credit. In previous years, such
courses have included:

PHIL 115 Practical Issues in Ethics
PSCI 302 Supreme Court and
American Politics
RELN 380/SOCY 243 Ethics and
Social Justice