

LAW AND AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



WHY MAJOR IN LAW AND AMERICAN CIVILIZATION?

The Law and American Civilization Program introduces students to the study of the law within the context of American history, culture and society. As an interdisciplinary major, it covers four disciplines and includes course work in three others. Towson University students will study with experts in a variety of fields in the law as well as faculty whose interests are deeply and broadly rooted in the liberal arts.

Each faculty member who teaches in the program gives great attention to students' individual interests and needs.

- Academic and career advising are such essential elements in the program that all students have individual faculty members to turn to for guidance.
- Students have a wide array of choices to make for their course selections.
- Students may engage in internships and practicums in a variety of legal environments, if they so choose.
- The faculty focuses particular attention on students' communication skills in writing and speaking.
- The faculty emphasizes critical and analytical thinking skills in the course work of each department participating in the program.
- The faculty is intent on enriching the lives of its students to help them achieve a successful undergraduate career.
- Academic and career planning are essential elements in the program as a cooperative effort between students and faculty.

CAREERS IN LAW

For those students who wish to earn a law degree after graduation from college, several opportunities are available in the practice of law as well as in legal education. Our recent graduates have held the following positions:

- Faculty Member—University of Michigan School of Law
- Assistant Attorney General of Maryland
- Counsel—Maryland Disabilities Law Clinic
- Staff Attorney—Maryland Court of Appeals, Public Defender's Office
- Partner—Local and National Law Firms
- Associate—Local and National Law Firms
- Administrator—Maryland Circuit Court

Not all students majoring in Law and American Civilization plan to attend law school. They may choose to enter business and industry, government or public affairs, or journalism, all fields deeply marked by law and American civilization.

CURRICULUM AND COURSE OFFERINGS

The curriculum consists of 54 credits of interdisciplinary studies. Students will enjoy a wide range of choices in each of the participating fields.

Required Courses (18 credits)

Introductory Courses (6 credits)

- PHIL 204 Race, Class and Gender (3)
POSC 209 Introduction to Law (3)

Core Courses (12 credits)

- COMM 331 Advocacy and Argument (3)
ENGL 310 Writing Argument (3)
PHIL 111 Logic (3)
POSC 384 The Judicial System (3)

Electives (30 credits)

Two courses in each of the following topics, although no student may take more than five law-related courses, so designated by an asterisk; students will need to fulfill each department's individual prerequisites in advance of taking these courses.

Accounting

- LEGL 225* Legal Environment of Business (3)
LEGL 226* Business Law (3)

or

Communication Studies

- COMM 304 Persuasion (3)
COMM 420* Communication in the Legal Process (3)

or

Mass Communication

- MCOM 350* Media Law (3)

English

(Strongly recommended are ENGL 221 and ENGL 222 as prerequisites)

- ENGL 361 Literary Research and Applied Criticism (3)
ENGL 425 Chaucer (3)
ENGL 427 Shakespearean Comedy (3)
ENGL 428 Shakespearean Tragedy (3)
ENGL 429 Milton and the Humanist Tradition (3)
ENGL 433 The American Short Story (3)
ENGL 435 The Development of the American Novel: 19th Century (3)
ENGL 436 The Development of the American Novel: 20th Century (3)
ENGL 461 History of Literary Criticism (3)
ENGL 476 Topics in Multiethnic Literature (3)
ENGL 477 Topics in Black American Literature (3)

History

- HIST 331 American History 1898-1945 (3)
HIST 345 The American Colonies (3)
HIST 346 The American Revolutionary Period (3)
HIST 347 The Early National Period (3)
HIST 348 The Jacksonian Era (3)
HIST 349 The Civil War (3)
HIST 350 The Era of Reconstruction (3)
HIST 351 The U.S. 1865-1901: Age of Enterprise (3)
HIST 352 The U.S. 1892-1920: Age of Reform (3)
HIST 359 The F.D.R. Era (3)
HIST 360 Recent American History (3)
HIST 367* The Development of the U.S. Constitution: 1787-1941 (3)
HIST 368* The Bill of Rights and the Constitution, 1941 to the Present (3)
HIST 370 American Diplomatic History (3)
HIST 385 American Labor History (3)

Philosophy

- PHIL 311 Symbolic Logic (3)
PHIL 319 Science, Technology and Values (3)
PHIL 321* Philosophy of Law (3)
PHIL 324 Modern Philosophy (3)
PHIL 326 American Philosophy (3)
PHIL 331 Concepts of Woman: An Historical Approach (3)
PHIL 332 Feminist Philosophy (3)
PHIL 341 Ethics (3)
PHIL 353 Philosophy of Religion (3)
PHIL 361 Ethics of Medicine (3)
PHIL 371 Business Ethics (3)
PHIL 380 Ecophilosophy (3)

Political Science

- POSC 305 Urban Government and Politics (3)
POSC 375 Public Administration (3)
POSC 381 The Presidency (3)
POSC 383 Congress (3)
POSC 417 Political Parties (3)
POSC 418* Constitutional Law I (3)
POSC 419* Constitutional Law II (3)
POSC 420* Constitutional Law III (3)
POSC 422* The Supreme Court (3)
POSC 424* Law Online (3)
POSC 425* Legal Theory (3)
POSC 427 Political Theory I (3)
POSC 428 Political Theory II (3)
POSC 450 Group Politics and Public Opinion (3)
POSC 467 Politics and the Budgetary Process (3)
POSC 478* Courts and Public Policy (3)
POSC 479* Women and the Law (3)

Seminar and/or Capstone Experience (6 credits)

Students have five options to fulfill this stage of the Law and American Civilization Program. In all cases, students must research and write a major essay under the direction of a professor from one of the participating departments with the approval of the director of the Law and American Civilization Program.

Option 1

POSC 482 Seminar: Law and Society (3)

or

POSC 486 Seminar: Law and Justice (3)

and

LWAC 491 Thesis Seminar in Law and American Civilization (3)

Option 2

LWAC 497 Practicum in Law and American Civilization (3)

and

LWAC 491 Thesis Seminar in Law and American Civilization (3)

Option 3

LWAC 497 Practicum in Law and American Civilization (3)

and

POSC 482 Seminar: Law and Society (3)

Option 4

LWAC 497 Practicum in Law and American Civilization (3)

and

POSC 486 Seminar: Law and Justice (3)

Option 5

LWAC 498 Honors Thesis I: Directed Readings in Law and American Civilization (3)

and

LWAC 499 Honors Thesis II: Thesis in Law and American Civilization (3)

INTERNSHIPS

Students will have the opportunity to engage in internships, which are available through local law firms and the Maryland District and Circuit Courts. These may include the following:

- Maryland District Court for Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- Maryland Circuit Court for Baltimore City and Baltimore County
- Victim/Witness Program, Baltimore County Circuit Court
- Consumer Affairs Division, Maryland State Attorney General's Office
- ACLU, Public Justice Center and other agencies
- Major Baltimore area law firms

Students typically devote 15 to 20 hours per week working at their internships for college credit. Those interested should see the director of the program at an early stage of their academic career.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

All students may participate in the activities of the Towson University Prelaw Society even if they do not plan to attend law school after graduation. In addition, students may also submit commentary to the Towson University Prelaw Journal on any legal or constitutional issue that interests them.

RESOURCES

Computer facilities are abundant at Towson University. Each student may choose to use the Social Science Computer Laboratory and each student may acquire an e-mail account. The university has arranged for the dormitory rooms to be connected to the Internet and the World Wide Web.

FACULTY

Eric A. Belgrad

Professor of Political Science

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Political Theory and International Humanitarian Aid

Linda Bishai

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Ph.D., London School of Economics, J.D., Georgetown Law Center; International Law

Cynthia Cates

Associate Professor of Political Science

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park; Public Law and Judicial Politics

Rose Ann Christian

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; Religious Studies, Women in Religions of the World and Wittgenstein

Don-John Dugas

Assistant Professor of English

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; Shakespeare

Edwin Duncan

Professor of English

Ph.D., University of Texas; History and Structure of the English Language and Medieval English Literature

Laura R. Eldridge

Assistant Professor of History

M.A., Bryn Mawr College; Colonial American History and the American Revolution

Jack Fruchtman Jr.

Professor of Political Science, Director

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Constitutional Law and Legal Theory

H. George Hahn

Professor of English

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park; 18th Century British Literature, Research Methods in Literary Criticism and Writing Argument

Carolyn Hill

Professor of English

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park; Rhetoric and Composition

Jack Isaacs

Lecturer in Political Science

Ph.D., University of Maryland, College Park; J.D., University of Maryland; Introduction to Law and Public Administration

Michael Korzi

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany; American Political Thought, Congress

Martha J. Kumar

Professor of Political Science

Ph.D., Columbia University; The Presidency and Politics and the Media

Karl G. Larew

Professor of History

Ph.D., Yale University; American and European Military History and Historiography

John J. Murungi

Professor of Philosophy

Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University; J.D., University of Maryland; Philosophy of Law and Modern Philosophy

Benjamin A. Neil

Associate Professor of Accounting

J.D., University of Baltimore; Business Law and Principles of Accounting

Florence Newman

Professor of English

Ph.D., Cornell University; Chaucer, Renaissance Literature

Jo-Ann Pilardi

Professor of Women's Studies

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Feminist Philosophy and Race, Class and Gender

Stephen Scales

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Ph.D., University of California, San Diego; Ethics and Freedom and Autonomy

W. Michael Seganish

Associate Professor of Accounting

J.D., University of Baltimore; Business Law and Legal Studies

Richard E. Vatz

Professor of Communication Studies

Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh; Rhetoric and Persuasion

Mark Whitman

Professor of History

Ph.D., Harvard University; American Constitutional History and Civil Rights

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact:

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