Legal Studies (LGS)

Legal Studies (LGS) Courses

LGS 2013. Introduction to Legal Studies. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. An introduction to legal studies from an interdisciplinary perspective, exploring historical and contemporary aspects of the content, operations, and effects of law in societies.

LGS 3013. Legal Research and Writing. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. Provides students with the opportunity to explore the modes and sources of legal research, both traditional and electronic. (Credit cannot be earned for both LGS 3013 and CRJ 3613. CRJ 3613 may be substituted for LGS 3013 in the LGS minor.).

LGS 3113. Minorities and the Law. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines the litigation, case law, legislation, and legal literature associated with African Americans and Mexican Americans in the United States. (Formerly titled “Blacks, Chicanos, and the Law.”).

LGS 3213. Law School Studies. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. Basic introduction to the primary subject areas covered in American law schools. Topics generally include Property, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Family Law, Constitutional Law, and Professional Ethics. Topic coverage may extend to corporations, oil and gas, tax, or other more specialized topics. The course will better prepare students for the anticipated coursework and subject matter for the transition to law school.

LGS 3323. Constitutional Analysis I. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. An analysis of constitutional cases, issues, and modes of interpretation focusing on governmental powers. Provides students the opportunity to hone analytical, critical reading, and writing skills and to increase substantive knowledge of constitutional law. (Same as POL 3323. Credit cannot be earned for both LGS 3323 and POL 3323.).

LGS 3333. Constitutional Analysis II. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. An analysis of constitutional cases, issues, and modes of interpretation focusing on the Bill of Rights, individual freedoms, and equal protection. Provides students the opportunity to enhance analytical, critical-reading, and writing skills and to increase substantive knowledge of constitutional law. (Same as POL 3333. Credit cannot be earned for both LGS 3333 and POL 3333.).

LGS 3413. Regulatory Law and Enterprise. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course examines federal, state, and local administrative and regulatory engagement with Texan, American, and international enterprise. Students have the opportunity to explore law and policies affecting economic development, property, oil and gas, international trade, the Internet, and the environment.

LGS 4013. Issues in Law and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013 or LGS 2013. Provides students with the opportunity to conduct research on selected issues associated with the law and society. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, with permission of the Director of the Institute for Law and Public Affairs.

LGS 4123. Legal and Philosophical Reasoning. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. An intensive analysis of selected philosophical texts focusing on law and justice. Students are challenged to develop critical reading and thinking skills by studying the texts of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Dworkin, Hart, and/or others who outline difficult arguments and unfamiliar ideas. Emphasis is placed on drawing reasoned conclusions, advocating positions, and expressing oneself in oral and written forms. (Same as POL 4123. Credit cannot be earned for both LGS 4123 and POL 4123.).

LGS 4133. Analytical Reasoning, Logic, Argumentation, and Law School Admission. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop and master techniques of focused reading, analytical reasoning, logic, argumentation, and the drawing of reasoned conclusions, placed in the context and modes of questioning appropriate to law school admission and education. Skills learned are relevant not only to law school, but also to developing and assessing arguments throughout college, career, and life.

LGS 4223. Torts. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze American tort law. Topics may include negligence, intentional torts, affirmative defenses, and legal damages, as well as vicarious products and strict liability. Students should be prepared to read, brief, and discuss case law.

LGS 4233. The Federal Judiciary. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisite: POL 1013. An examination of the operations, procedures, holdings, and opinions of federal courts, designed to provide students with the opportunity to gain a sophisticated understanding of the role of the federal judiciary in our constitutional system.

LGS 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisites: POL 1013; consent of internship coordinator. Supervised experience relevant to legal studies within selected community organizations. A maximum of 3 semester credit hours may be applied to the minor.

LGS 4933. Internship in Legal Studies. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours. Prerequisites: POL 1013; consent of internship coordinator. Supervised experience relevant to legal studies within selected community organizations. A maximum of 3 semester credit hours may be applied to the minor.