

Legal Studies (LGLS)

Course information contained within the Bulletin is accurate at the time of publication in June 2025 but is subject to change. For the most up-to-date course information, please refer to the Course Catalog.

LGLS 0803. African Americans, Equality and the Law: Weapon or Tool?. 3 Credit Hours.

Learn about the experience of African Americans through the lens of the U.S. legal system. U.S. law, which first defined African Americans as less than human, eventually declared discrimination illegal, and remains both an expression and an instrument of change at the intersection of race and equality. As you study this evolution, you will reflect on relevant current events, and explore your own responses to the kind of everyday encounters that continually arise in our pluralistic society. Can race be used as a factor in hiring, in college admissions? Is race a factor for you in dating, marriage, adoption? We explore issues like these on both broad social and personal dimensions. NOTE: This course fulfills the Race & Diversity (GD) requirement for students under GenEd and Studies in Race (RS) for students under Core. Students who have already successfully completed LGLS 0903 or LGLS 1002 (R050) cannot earn credit for this course. Students who are under Core and take this course in fall 2008 or after will ONLY fulfill the Race requirement for Core. This course will NOT fulfill the American Culture Core requirement.

Course Attributes: GD, SF

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 0805. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and the Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Transgender rights. Marriage equality. LGBT+ and the military. Hate crimes. Discrimination. From the decriminalization of sodomy to the legalization of same-sex marriage to the implications of gender reassignment, sexual orientation and gender identity are some of the most rapidly changing subjects in society today. The progression (and regression) of societal attitudes toward differences based on sexual orientation and gender identity have led to legal developments that affect the lives of individuals in larger communities (LGBT+ and otherwise). This course will look at the intersections of law, psychology, sexual orientation, and gender identity to develop your understandings of the relationships between individuals and communities. It aims to teach you how to interpret human behavior and articulate your own point of view by examining the social and legal regulation of sexual orientation and gender identity. This course will look at issues involving sexual orientation, gender identity, social skills to evaluate social and legal responses to gender identity and sexual orientation. This course will address specific topics including employment discrimination, marriage equality, family formation, LGBT + youth (identity formation, bullying), military service, immigration, and cross-national comparisons. NOTE: This course fulfills the Human Behavior (GB) requirement for students under GenEd. Students who have already successfully completed LGLS 0905 cannot earn credit for this course.

Course Attributes: GB, SF

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 0856. Law and American Society. 3 Credit Hours.

An intruder rushes into class, hits the professor in the face with a pie, and runs out. You are asked to provide a description of the assailant--and now you realize this was a demonstration of the faultiness of human memory in making eyewitness identification. Develop your understanding of the historical, socio-political and ethical context of the U.S. legal system as you follow the misadventures of a fictional family that gets caught up in various legal problems. Current events inform every assignment; you might analyze, for example, the case against McDonalds brought on behalf of obese children, and then research legislation known as the "Cheeseburger Bill," prohibiting such lawsuits. An exciting, multimedia environment makes learning vivid. NOTE: This course fulfills the U.S. Society (GU) requirement for students under GenEd and American Culture (AC) for students under Core. Students who have already successfully completed LGLS 0956 or LGLS 1001 (C001) cannot earn credit for this course.

Course Attributes: GU

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 0956. Honors Law and American Society. 3 Credit Hours.

An intruder rushes into class, hits the professor in the face with a pie, and runs out. You are asked to provide a description of the assailant--and now you realize this was a demonstration of the faultiness of human memory in making eyewitness identification. Develop your understanding of the historical, socio-political and ethical context of the U.S. legal system as you follow the misadventures of a fictional family that gets caught up in various legal problems. Current events inform every assignment; you might analyze, for example, the case against McDonalds brought on behalf of obese children, and then research legislation known as the "Cheeseburger Bill," prohibiting such lawsuits. An exciting, multimedia environment makes learning vivid. NOTE: This course fulfills the U.S. Society (GU) requirement for students under GenEd and the American Culture (AC) requirement for students under Core. Students who have already successfully completed LGLS 0856, LGLS 1001 (C001) or LGLS 1996 (X091) cannot earn credit for this course.

Cohort Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Cohorts: SCHONORS, UHONORS, UHONORSTR.

Course Attributes: GU, HO

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 1101. Legal Environment of Business. 3 Credit Hours.

The legal system affects each of us on a daily basis. Educated citizens, no matter what career path they may choose, should be aware of the ways in which the law impacts their lives in a personal and business setting. This course will introduce students to the essential aspects of law with an emphasis on the legal environment of business. Students will learn the basics of contract, tort, property, and administrative law as well as international law. The law involving business would include a discussion of public policy and compliance, as well as employer and employee relations. The political, social and economic forces that affect change are also discussed thereby providing guidance as to the future direction of the law in both the United States and around the world. NOTE: This course is required for all Fox School freshmen admitted fall 2008 or later and transfers admitted fall 2010 or later.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 1102. Law of Contracts. 3 Credit Hours.

When you buy a car, rent an apartment, or take out insurance, you are entering into a contract. Whether as consumers or business professionals, our lives are frequently affected by our agreements with others. In this course, students will learn the basics of contract law including how contracts are negotiated and created, how they are enforced, and what happens when contractual promises are breached. Using the case method, students will also become familiar with the relevant portions of the Uniform Commercial Code that deal with the sale of goods, products, and services.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 1104. Ethical Reasoning in Business. 1 Credit Hour.

What would you do if your boss asks you to violate your ethical principles? How would you respond if you witnessed your coworker harassing another colleague? This course will help you clarify your own ethical positions, viewpoints, and value systems, and it will provide a framework for understanding and analyzing ethical matters as they apply to business. Ethical Reasoning in Business examines how ethical principles guide the decisions of business managers in their capacities as employees, supervisors, professionals, and individuals. It explores economic, and moral theories of the firm to help managers make ethical decisions, recognizing that some such decisions may not lead to short-term profits. The course provides analysis of useful tools and frameworks for managers that facilitate decision-making consistent with the rules of law, the rules of professional responsibility, expectations of stakeholders, and the policies and values of their firms. In the process of course engagement, you will develop your analytical skills, your written and oral communication skills, and your ability to think critically about some of the most pressing ethical issues in business and society today.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 1112. Law for Business. 3 Credit Hours.

Whether you plan to start a business or join one, this course provides practical legal basics applicable across business sectors. You will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of different business entities from formation through duration to dissolution from legal and managerial perspectives. You will also become familiar with consumer and environmental protection initiatives, creditor and debtor rights, as well as other legal topics that affect commerce and its stakeholders. NOTE: Transfer students who come in with the equivalent of LGLS 1102 will receive credit and be waived from the LGLS 1112 course.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C- in (BA 1103, BA 1903, LGLS 1101, or LGLS 1901)

LGLS 3501. Introduction to Corporate Compliance. 3 Credit Hours.

Compliance refers to the relationship between a business and the governing institutions under which it operates. A business is a legal entity that is endowed with certain rights and responsibilities under the law. As such, it is required to comply with certain policies and laws as stipulated by state and federal government entities. In this course, we will examine the development of this relationship between businesses and the government, endeavoring to identify the lines between smart ethical decision making and high-risk choices that may lead to legal and financial repercussions. By the end of the course, we will understand key statutes and regulations that affect most business entities, penalties for non-compliance, major cases highlighting the risks of careless behavior, and better understand how to put into place an effective code of compliance and ethics.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3509. Entertainment Law. 3 Credit Hours.

This course provides a survey of the legal, commercial and financial elements of the entertainment industry, including film, television, and music production and distribution. It highlights intellectual property, corporate, international and other law domains within this field. Students will practice critical thinking methods to analyze current, practical issues in the entertainment industry from a legal perspective.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3511. Environmental Law and Sustainability. 3 Credit Hours.

Water and air pollution. Hazardous waste. Loss of species. Climate change. This course begins with an historical overview of the legal response to environmental harm, looking at the transition from a common law approach to the creation, since the 1970's, of a network of federal statutes and regulations. It looks at questions like these: What are the different regulatory strategies for controlling pollution, and how do they compare? To what extent can market forces be harnessed to improve environmental outcomes? Can the law effectively provide incentives to prevent pollution from happening? What is environmental justice? What should be the response of environmental law to scientific uncertainty? You will learn about the interactions among the courts, Congress, the executive branch and industry interests as environmental law and policy have developed. You will also learn about efforts to address global climate change, and examine the role the U.S. has played in these negotiations.

Course Attributes: SE, SF, SP, SS

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3513. Public Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Product safety. Financial accountability. Environmental preservation. Protection from workplace discrimination. Government regulations - expressions of "public policy," are everywhere in the world of business. This course will introduce you to the way in which these laws are created. You will learn how administrative agencies, legislatures, the courts, interest groups, political parties, lobbyists, and the media all interact, shaping the policy-making process. As we explore these issues we will be addressing questions like these: Why do we need public policies? What kinds of problems are not likely to be solved in the private marketplace, and more appropriate for government intervention? How are public policy priorities decided? How can we determine whether public policies accomplish their goals? This course is designed to hone your writing, research and analytical skills.

Course Attributes: SI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3519. Tax, Estate and Trust Planning. 3 Credit Hours.

This course shows you how to properly inventory assets, tax and estate planning techniques such as how to properly plan for funding a college education, retirement, the future distribution of your assets, the requirements to establish a power of attorney, a Last Will and Testament, various Trust Instruments and an advanced Health Care Directive. This course will also cover life insurance funds, gifts and charitable donations. We will also examine the fiduciary duties of personal representatives of estates, lawyers and accountants and financial advisors.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C in (FIN 3101, FIN 3901, 'Y' in CRFI01, or 'Y' in CRFI07)

LGLS 3522. Technology, Privacy and Intellectual Property Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Who owns your genes? Who owns your memes? Is ownership affected by the fact that you express your ideas publicly on a social network that sells your personal data, or via private emails through an online service that you get for free? If your creative collaborators are around the world, working with you through an Internet service that resides in the "cloud," what does the law say about who owns the results? Which law should apply? This course explores the different mechanisms for protecting intellectual property in the U.S.--patents, copyrights, trade secrets, and trademarks--and the policy and ethical concerns as technological progress generates tectonic shifts in the global marketplace. It traces the evolution of privacy as expressed in philosophy, common law, Constitutional law, government policy, and modern practice in the digital age. We will look specifically at cyber-security and hacking, personal health and financial information, and surveillance, as well as the implications of international law upon your privacy rights.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3523. Detecting Financial Crimes. 3 Credit Hours.

From cuff-links to handcuffs, business executives face potentially harsh prison sentences for conducting business that violates federal and state laws. This course investigates white-collar crimes, their perpetrators, their punishment, and their impact upon business sectors and the larger community. White-collar crime refers to financially motivated nonviolent crime committed by business and government professionals. This course explores a vast array of these types of criminal offenses while examining government and judicial regulations of financial institutions, commercial entities, and their agents and employees in relation to economic and business crimes. The course will also address constitutional issues pertaining to investigations conducted by governmental and corporate entities.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3524. Legal and Policy Issues in the Workplace. 3 Credit Hours.

Social media and privacy rights. Trade secrets. Pay equity. Family-work conflict. Non-Compete Agreements. This course will explore the rights and responsibilities of workers and managers alike by examining the laws, regulations, court cases, and policies that govern the employer-employee relationship. It aims to teach you the basic principles of workplace law and policy while challenging you to question existing approaches to the employment relationship. The course will use cases and questions currently in the news and in the courts to examine the U.S. approach to the workplace: Should employers control employees' access to birth control or other medical care? Can a company perform criminal background or credit checks on applicants without violating race discrimination prohibitions? How would a mandate of paid time off to care for a new child or ill family member impact a business's bottom line? What role should the government play in setting a minimum wage and how does it affect workers and their employers? This course will ask questions like these to help you understand the way in which workplace laws and policy impact society in general and to help you articulate your own view of the employer-employee relationship. Note: Students who have taken HRM 3512 should not take this course.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3562. Legal Aspects of Global Business. 3 Credit Hours.

Today's economy is more globally connected than at any time in history. Transportation costs are a fraction of what they were in the recent past. Communication through email, chat services, and social networks has become seamless across borders. And of course, commerce has opened doors to products and services from all corners of the Earth. Businesses large and small are taking advantage of the cost savings of "going global" by outsourcing manufacturing, importing components, and exporting finished goods. Companies that fail to go global may instead go out of business. But going global is risky. And the risks that a company faces in concluding international contracts, export agreements, or joint ventures with foreign partners are unlike most risks faced in domestic transactions. This course introduces students to the world of global commerce, covering essential topics such as international sales, import and export regulations, dispute resolution on a global scale, and the public policy aspects of international trade, including multilateral institutions such as the World Trade Organization.

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

LGLS 3580. Special Topics - Law. 3 Credit Hours.

Special topics in current developments in the field of legal studies.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

LGLS 3581. Pre-Law Internship and Seminar. 2 to 3 Credit Hours.

Sit in on a trial, help prepare legal documents or observe a real estate closing. The first part of this course will provide classroom instruction on the practical side of the law. This internship will then provide students with the opportunity to see the law in action by providing an opportunity of working in a law firm, governmental agency or nonprofit entity offering counseling and legal advice.

Field of Study Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Majors: Legal Studies.

College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Business & Mngmnt, Fox School.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

LGLS 3582. Independent Study. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

This course is limited to Legal Studies majors and requires the approval of the department chair with the sponsorship of a faculty member from the department. The course requires a comprehensive legal analysis of a legal topic that culminates in the writing of a substantial research paper.

Field of Study Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Majors: Legal Studies.

College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Business & Mngmnt, Fox School.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

LGLS 3682. Independent Study. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.

This course is limited to Legal Studies majors and requires the approval of the department chair with the sponsorship of a faculty member from the department. The course requires a comprehensive legal analysis of a legal topic that culminates in the writing of a substantial research paper.

Field of Study Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Majors: Legal Studies.

College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Business & Mngmnt, Fox School.

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

LGLS 3900. Honors Special Topics. 3 Credit Hours.

This Honors course covers special topics in current developments in the field of legal studies.

Cohort Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Cohorts: SCHONORS, UHONORS, UHONORSTR.

Course Attributes: HO

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

LGLS 4596. Legal Reasoning in Action. 3 Credit Hours.

A corporate employee is fired after speaking up about what she thought were accounting irregularities. A big-box store must decide how to respond to reports that its subsidiary in Mexico has been paying bribes to hasten expansion. The religious beliefs of a company's CEO are violated by a federal law requiring that company to pay for employee birth control. As we discuss, research, and critically examine business law case scenarios like these, you will have several opportunities to practice legal discourse in both written and spoken form. Building on the knowledge and skills you have gained in prior Legal Studies courses, this capstone delivers hands-on learning at a deeper level. It is "Writing Intensive;" you will complete a series of assignments of increasing complexity involving case and statutory analysis. In addition, as part of a team, you will be actively involved in mock trials.

Field of Study Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Majors: Legal Studies.

College Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Colleges: Business & Mngmnt, Fox School.

Course Attributes: WI

Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

Pre-requisites: Minimum grade of C- in (BA 2196 or BA 2996)