About the Legal Studies Minor

The Legal Studies Minor provides students with an interdisciplinary curriculum that engages them in critical analysis of the connections between legal issues and social justice, both from a contemporary and historical perspective. Students enrolled in the Legal Studies Minor can take courses on law and society, constitutional law and civil liberties, courts and society, civil rights, law and economics, environmental law, drugs and society, media law and ethics, professional and business ethics, philosophy of law, American legal history, and other related subjects.

Upon successful completion of the Legal Studies Minor, students will develop a deeper understanding of the impact of legal practices and institutions on economics, politics, education, international relations, and other justice related areas.

Examples of Careers in This Field

The Legal Studies Minor exposes students to interdisciplinary perspectives on major social issues. The minor’s broad curriculum allows students to familiarize themselves with the fields of law, social justice, international relations, public policy, environmental justice, and mass communications. Graduates with a minor in Legal Studies can explore a wide range of justice related careers, and are also well prepared to pursue postgraduate education in justice studies research, law, and public policy studies. Careers in the field include professional positions within the criminal justice and civil justice systems, mediation, juvenile, family, and immigration courts; and legal investigation, research, and advocacy in NGOs, public institutions, and other justice related organizations.

Legal Studies minor Curriculum

In order to graduate with a Legal Studies Minor, students are required to complete 18 units, comprised of one required course and five elective courses selected from five disciplinary areas: Perspectives in Law; Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice; Legal History; Law and Ethics; Law and Courts. In order to ensure a broad and interdisciplinary education, students are encouraged to take one course from a separate department for each of the five areas.

The course requirements, areas, and choices are as follows:

- Required upper division course (3 units)
  - POLS 120

A) Perspectives in Law (3 units)
  - ECON 141, ENVS/POLS 124 or PHIL 155

B) Contemporary Issues in Law and Justice (3 units)
  - AFAM 142, JS 101, JS 122, JS 132(s), JS 123, MAS 127 or SOCI 151

C) Legal History (3 units)
  - AFAM 134, HIST 171, MDES 108, POLS 121A, or POLS 121B

D) Law and Ethics (3 units)
  - MCOM 101, COMM 133F, or BUS 186

E) Law and Courts (3 units)
  - JS 103, POLS 122, or COMM 147P
About the Department of Justice Studies

The Department of Justice Studies provides students with an interdisciplinary, research-based understanding of justice-related issues in a global society. JS Students acquire analytical skills, critical thinking, and communication much needed in a complex and multicultural society. Our students are prepared to undertake graduate studies at the master’s and doctoral level, and to take positions of responsibility in justice related public agencies and non-profit organizations. Our full-time faculty hold advanced degrees in the social sciences, humanities, law, and life sciences and are leaders in their respective academic specialties. JS Faculty are recognized experts and scholars in the areas of punishment and penal politics; law and society; sociolegal theory and jurisprudence; prison, policing and law enforcement policy; immigration and human rights; sexual aggression; drug policy; ethnicity, gender and justice; DNA and forensic science; family violence, mediation and restorative justice. Our faculty publish their research in a wide range of leading academic journals and law reviews, books, and edited volumes.

Social Media

- http://twitter.com/SJSUJustice
- https://plus.google.com/118247111798142749648

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