



Law and Society (B.A.)

Department Website: <http://www.american.edu/spa/djls/>

1. Learning Outcomes

1. Analytical thinking
2. Provide examples of early legal and pre-legal systems and identify differences from contemporary US legal system
3. Describe US legal system and explain basic legal and constitutional concepts and key legal controversies
4. Compare and contrast US legal system with at least one other historical and one other contemporary legal system
5. Accurately describe main tenets of important legal theories and theories of justice; identify ethical issues in US legal system
6. Accurately describe main tenets of at least three classical social theories

2. Assessment Plan

Measures	Targets	Learning Outcomes	Cycle and reviewers
Papers, Legal Theory cluster, using grading rubric items	80% of students achieve “Good” on analytical thinking items	Analytical thinking	Survey 2009; other items to be prioritized based on survey results
Grading rubric for papers, JLS 402 Survey of graduating seniors	80% of students achieve “Good” on relevant items	Provide examples of early legal and pre-legal systems and identify differences from contemporary US legal system	Every 5 years; priority determined by survey
Sample of tests from JLS 307; survey of graduating seniors	80% of students correct on 80% of items	Describe US legal system and explain basic legal and constitutional concepts and key legal controversies	Every 5 years; priority determined by survey
Grading rubric for papers, JLS 402 Survey of graduating seniors	80% of students achieve “Good” on relevant items	Compare and contrast US legal system with at least one other historical and one other contemporary legal system	Every 5 years; priority determined by survey
Sample of tests from Legal Theory cluster using grading rubric; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students achieve “Good” on relevant items	Accurately describe main tenets of important legal theories and theories of justice; identify ethical issues in US legal system	Every 5 years; priority determined by survey
Sample of papers from JLS 203 using grading rubric; survey of graduating seniors; faculty meeting	80% of students achieve “Good” on relevant items	Accurately describe main tenets of at least three classical social theories	Every 5 years; priority determined by survey