



# Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies

## SAMPLE LEGAL STUDIES COURSES

### Introduction to Law

A general introduction to law and the legal system, including a survey of substantive law in both civil and criminal arenas. Students learn how the legal system operates and the basic categories of law, and discuss controversial issues in each area of law.

### Western Legal Tradition

From the biblical era to the American experiment, the Western legal tradition encompasses primitive, divine, natural, canon, secular, and common law. This course examines the key legal documents and issues of the tradition including the Code of Hammurabi, the Ten Commandments, the trials of Socrates and Jesus, the Magna Carta, the Rule of Law, and Common law.

### The American Constitution

Students will explore the major aspects of American constitutional law and development: the separation of powers in the American political system; the distribution of power between the federal government and the states; government power to regulate economic and property interests; and development of civil rights and liberties.

### Philosophical Problems in the Law

This course provides an introduction to the philosophical perspective of the law. Issues discussed include the nature of law and judicial decision making, criminal responsibility, the justification of punishment, and the moral basis of property rights.

SPA's **BA in Legal Studies** explores the fundamental nature of law and justice. Students will critically analyze and think about the life and impact of law from the perspectives of the social sciences and humanities. These insights will be applied to contemporary and relevant social questions, as well as allow for deeper reflection about the origins, evolution, function and effects of the law as a social, historical, and normative phenomenon.

Read on to find out how this SPA program can help you establish the path to achieve your career goals.



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, DC



Students are able to hear from and converse with well-known speakers (pictured: Senator Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Jamie Raskin at Kerwin Hall).

## STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

- Students may study abroad between their second semester of sophomore year through their senior year.
- Legal Studies majors can count up to 6 credit hours of pre-approved courses taken abroad toward their upper-level major course requirements.
- It is strongly recommended that students complete the majority of their university requirements before studying abroad.
- Some popular study abroad destinations are: » Australia » China » Canada » Denmark » England » Netherlands » New Zealand

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Students can earn up to 12 credits from internships toward their degree.
- Students can apply a maximum of 6 credits to their major requirements.
- Students must complete at least 30 credit hours at AU before registering an internship for credit.
- Sample internships include: » National Institute of Justice » FBI » American Bar Association » D.C. Courts » U.S. Customs » Public Defender Service » Secret Service » Department of Homeland Security

## SCHOLARLY RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Take Introduction to Legal Studies Research before moving into more advanced upper-level courses.

Students learn research design, qualitative analysis, and how to apply analytical techniques to contemporary problems.

Students have opportunities to work with faculty mentors on their original research projects.

Students will present their original research through research symposiums on campus or at national conferences.

## WE KNOW SUCCESS

Graduates from Public Affairs have gone on to employers and graduate/law schools such as:

- » Campaign Legal Center
- » Goldman Sachs
- » Public Defenders
- » NJI Media
- » The Washington Post
- » U.S. Department of Defense
- » American Gaming Association
- » NBC Universal, Inc.
- » National Wildlife Federation
- » U.S. Department of Justice
- » National Republican Congressional Committee
- » DC Public Schools
  
- » American University Washington College of Law
- » Columbia University
- » Fordham University
- » George Washington University
- » Georgetown University
- » Harvard University
- » Johns Hopkins University
- » London School of Economics
- » Pennsylvania State University
- » University of Chicago
- » University of Virginia

## QUESTIONS?

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