JURISPRUDENCE, LAW AND SOCIETY MAJOR (B.A.)

Coordinator: Dr. Marilyn Tayler

The Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence, Law and Society provides a solid foundation for students aspiring to law school and other graduate study, as well as for work in many other careers that require analytic, conceptual, and communications skills. It provides an opportunity for the interdisciplinary study of law in the liberal arts. The major in Jurisprudence represents the confluence of law, theories of justice, humanistic studies and social issues.

Through this major, undergraduate students at Montclair State University have the opportunity to acquire the fundamental knowledge essential to understanding legal institutions and processes. Students in the major develop intellectual skills necessary to evaluate policies, practices, and philosophies within the context of nation and legal systems.

The major draws its essence from a core of Jurisprudence courses, while at the same time building upon the liberal arts focus of discipline-based courses at the university. The capstone experience of the major is a rigorous Senior Research Seminar. This two part, year-long course involves intensive research and writing in a seminar setting. Students prepare a scholarly interdisciplinary, law related, research paper, developed in consultation with a faculty advisor and designed to enhance the student's understanding of the field. Many law schools find the Senior Seminar particularly advantageous in student preparation.

Program objectives include:

1. To sharpen skills as readers and thinkers, as interpreters of culture, and as citizens.
2. To advance the ability to test ethical arguments and textual understandings in contexts where decisions must be made.
3. To understand legal materials, by further developing students' interpretive and analytical skills.
4. To study the role of law in the liberal arts by inviting an examination of a wide range of critical questions about people and the ways they live together, to raise issues traditionally linked to liberal inquiry.
5. To participate in a rigorous two-semester Capstone Research Seminar which encompasses intellectual preparation for thinking processes, expands the knowledge base and enhances preparation for law-related study.

In addition to the general criteria for admission to Montclair State University, all students must apply to and be admitted into Jurisprudence, Law and Society major. For entry into the program students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. Top twenty percent of high school graduating class.
2. An overall minimum GPA of 3.0 at the completion of a minimum of 24 credits at Montclair State University or transfer institution.
3. An overall minimum GPA of 3.0 in the student’s first three courses in the Jurisprudence major.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

JURI 210 Perspectives on Law 3
or LAWS 200 Introduction to Law

Other Requirements

JURI 300 Essentials of Jurisprudence 3
JURI 495 Senior Research and Writing Seminar in Jurisprudence I 3
JURI 496 Senior Research and Writing Seminar in Jurisprudence II 3
LAWS 302 Legal Research 3
JURI 324 Legal Reasoning 3
or PHIL 324 Legal Reasoning

Major Electives

Select two of the following: 6

JURI 316 Theories of Conflict
JURI/PHIL 376 Feminist Jurisprudence or WMGS 376 Feminist Jurisprudence
JURI 418 Seminar in Comparative Legal Systems
JURI 474 Human Rights Law
JURI 499 Selected Topics in Jurisprudence (May be taken twice for credit)
LAWS 362 Legal Writing
LAWS 388 Advocacy and Persuasion
POLS 101 American Government and Politics
POLS 320 Law in Society: Civil Law
POLS 322 American Constitutional Law: The Federal System
POLS 323 American Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
POLS 331 Animal Rights: Law, Politics and Culture
POLS 332 U.S. Immigration: Law and Politics
POLS 351 Comparative Legal Perspectives: Israel and the United States
POLS 363 Politics and Morality of War
POLS 430 International Law
POLS 431 Globalization and Security

Other Major Electives

Select one of the following: 3

PHIL 102 Ethics
PHIL 106 Logic
PHIL 206 Philosophical Issues in Law and Justice
PHIL 264 Critical Reasoning and Arguments
PHIL 316 Philosophy of Law

Select one of the following: 3

ENWR 204 Writing for Clarity and Style
ENWR 205 Creative Nonfiction
GNHU 182 English Vocabulary: Classical Roots
GNHU 202 General Humanities II (from 1400)
GNHU 282 Roman Civilization
LAWS/LNGN 290 Language of the Law
LAWS 473 Seminar in Law and Literature
LNGN 250 Language of Propaganda

Select one of the following: 3

CHAD 300 Forensic Interviewing of Children
HIST 212 Social History of the United States
HIST 218 Political History of the United States
HIST 411 Intellectual History of the United States
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAWS 497</td>
<td>Pre-Law Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 307</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLS 317</td>
<td>The American Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 324</td>
<td>American Public Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 330</td>
<td>Forensic Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 420</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
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Total Credits: 33