Law and Social Thought

Program of Study*

The Program in Law and Social Thought is designed to enhance student participation in the experience of learning. We have designed an innovative curriculum involving outstanding faculty members from many disciplines in the arts and sciences.

The Gateway Course: An Introduction to themes and ideas of the LST program. Grounded in the interdisciplinary field of Law and Society, the Gateway course approaches the study of law from many perspectives. (3 hours)

Pro-seminar: The pro-seminar gives students and faculty the opportunity to discuss particular issues concerning the interdisciplinary aspect of the study of law and social thought. It also is an opportunity to engage in mutual exploration of issues of concern to students in the classroom and beyond. The pro-seminar group does event planning and program development. (3 hours)

LST Electives and Cross-listed Courses: Course work in LST consists of core courses and courses that are cross-listed with the major. These courses are arranged into "paths" that will help a student with a minor or a major in LST focus more narrowly and explore related ideas across disciplinary boundaries. In order to encourage a truly interdisciplinary approach, students are permitted to take no more than two courses in a given path in the same department. (18 hours)

The “Paths”:

Law, History and Theory—the historical development of the law and the philosophical or theoretical struggles surrounding its formation, transmission, transgression, and enforcement.

Law, Difference and Social Practice—The effect of law on racial, ethnic, national, gender, cultural, physical and/or cognitive differences and the institutions that think about and manage them, and the role these differences play in the formation, interpretation, and enforcement of law.

Law, Institutions, and Public Policy—The political, economic, and scientific struggles and decisions that produce law and its relations to the populations governed by it and the way those populations are articulated in and by legal institutions.

Comparative Law—Questions of alternatives to our legal system, of cross-cultural understandings that form and transcend law, of legal systems and the rule of law as it is understood in non-Western and emerging countries.

Upper Division Seminars: Students majoring in LST enroll in at least three seminars designated as LST Upper Division Seminar in their third or fourth years.
Advanced seminars, taught in and for existing departments are designated as LST Upper Division Seminars by the program directors in consultation with LST students, faculty and department chairs.

**The Capstone Seminar**: Brings LST students together to examine a topic, problem, concept, or historical phenomenon in depth from many different disciplinary perspectives. Guest speakers from on and off campus, field trips, student presentations, and interactive learning exercises are highlights of the Capstone seminars. Students have the opportunity to bring their otherwise diverse sources of learning together to study a topic in common.

**Field Experience**: We regard field experience—consisting of community activism and outreach, service learning, cross-cultural dialogue, travel or internship—as fundamental to a university education. Students are encouraged to think of field experience as an opportunity to study and advance their area of specialization. (3 hours)

**Concentrations**: in Women’s and Gender Studies: Questions of gender are everywhere in the study of law. Students wishing to study gender and law are encouraged to pursue this concentration. Recognizing the importance of the experience of disability to contemporary law, LST also offers a concentration in Disability Studies. Please see Dr. Van Hoy or Dr. Heberle for details as to requirements.

**Portfolio**: Every LST student is required to turn in a graduation portfolio. Requirements are listed under program forms.

*Program of study is subject to change. Please consult the department for up-to-date information. For more detailed program requirements go to catalog.utoledo.edu.*