

## ***LPS 001: Introduction to Law, Politics, and Society***

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M/W 8:00 – 9:15

### ***Introduction***

The Law, Politics, and Society (LPS) major entails the interdisciplinary study of legal systems and practices, and their interaction with political and social life. LPS majors learn to tease out the different strands of “social,” “political,” and “legal” in investigating things as diverse as courts, international organizations, social movements, interpersonal communications, and popular culture. And they approach their study and understanding of these things from a varied set of academic perspectives within the social and natural sciences, as well as the humanities: political science, philosophy, cultural studies, anthropology, sociology, economics, and even biology!

Because the LPS major covers so many potential systems, institutions, and actors – and from such a wide variety of disciplinary lenses – an introductory course in the field is both absolutely necessary, and slightly daunting!

In this course you will learn such basic information as the structure of the US legal and political systems, the identities and interests of actors within those systems, and the history of American legal consciousness. You will also learn about the foundational and critical academic theories and approaches that scholars have used to study these systems, actors, and histories. And, most importantly, you will begin to envision ways that you might further your study of Law, Politics, and Society. You will be given the opportunity to discover the particular intersections of law, politics, and society that interest you the most – to help you form a coherent and interesting focus in your major.

### ***Goals for the Course***

In this course, we will work on developing the following skills: reading and understanding case law; analytical thinking and writing; thinking critically about intersections of law, politics, and society; evaluating media representations of those intersections; doing basic legal and governmental research on-line. We will work to understand the interdisciplinary nature of the Law, Politics, and Society Program, and begin to be able to articulate the consequences and implications of such Interdisciplinarity. You will learn the structure of the US legal and political systems, and the processes by which law is made judicially, administratively, and legislatively. And, you will be able to articulate some of the major academic critiques of those systems and processes.

### *Responsibilities of the Instructor*

As a professor, I bring knowledge and experience to the classroom, as well as a love and passion for the topic. I view my responsibilities to you, as a class, as four-fold.

I will be accessible to students. I encourage you to see me during my office hours (and I will make reasonable accommodation if you cannot make my scheduled hours) – we can use that time to extend our discussion of topics beyond what was covered in the class period, answer questions you might have about the reading, or talk about careers related to the coursework (law, journalism, teaching, fiction writing, public service, etc.). I also encourage all students with documented disabilities to see me as soon as possible so that I can make reasonable accommodations for your differing abilities. Second, I have assigned readings that I find lively and informative; and I will bring to the classroom additional films, internet activities, and assignments that will help focus the material and our study of it, as well as offer broader perspectives on the topics at hand. I will give the class ample opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of these materials and make suggestions for change for future courses. I will also provide opportunities for evaluating my performance as a professor, and solicit suggestions for improvement.

Third, I will provide detailed and clear instructions for the completion of the homework assignments and examinations, as well as detailed information on my grading standards. I will gladly discuss students' exams and grades with them. Finally, I will come to class prepared, awake, and enthusiastic; I will respect the thoughtful contributions of all class-members, and encourage an atmosphere of collegial sharing and debate.

### *Responsibilities of the Students*

Students, similarly, have four areas of responsibility.

You will come to class prepared (having done the reading far enough in advance to think about it), and ready to participate by answering and asking questions, offering opinions, and bringing in relevant outside materials for class discussion. Students will act respectfully towards each other and the professor, and will operate in this classroom with tolerance, compassion, and curiosity.

Second, students will complete each homework assignment on time. ***Late assignments will lose 10 points per day late – an assignment is considered late at the end of the class period for which it was due, and I do not accept assignments electronically.*** If students must miss an in class exam due to a documented medical emergency, they are responsible for scheduling a make-up exam with me within a week of their return to classes. Third, you will carefully attribute all quotations, paraphrases, or summarization of others' scholarship -- if you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me, and refer to the statements on plagiarism and cheating located in the Drake University course catalog . Please do your own work. ***The Drake University policy on academic dishonesty applies. At a minimum, students who cheat or plagiarize will receive a zero for the assignment; at my discretion, such students may fail the course and be referred for disciplinary action.*** Finally, students are expected to use outstanding etiquette in class: ***I won't tolerate texting or web surfing.*** Students must be on time, and refrain from leaving early. Feel free to bring food and beverages.

### ***Policy on Absences and Withdrawals***

You are expected to attend class, and to consistently participate in a productive manner, by asking and answering questions, and contributing to class discussions. Students who attend class, and participate regularly, not only find greater rewards in the course, they gain the respect and appreciation of professors and peers alike, and are able to form meaningful relationships with others in the course.

Students who must miss a class period are responsible for getting notes from their peers. It is not my responsibility to provide notes for missed classes, nor review missed material. Students who have long-term, unanticipated medical or familial disruptions are responsible for making arrangements with me. Additionally, those students who will miss an exam or homework assignment due date because of a religious observance must provide me with a written notice anticipating that fact within the first three weeks of the semester, so that I can schedule a make-up examination should that be necessary. The University policy on Withdrawals applies. Please refer to the current Drake University class schedule/catalog for detailed information and deadlines regarding drop/add/withdrawal policies.

### ***Grading and Schedule of Assessments***

You will earn a grade in this class based on several factors: quizzes, exams, essays, and participation. The (pop) quizzes will cover factual material found in our readings and class discussions (**if you miss class on the day of a quiz, you will not be permitted to make it up**); the mid-term and final exams will ask you to expand upon your knowledge of that material, and to analyze what we have studied by drawing comparisons, making predictions, offering your informed opinion, and explaining outcomes. The final exam is cumulative. The three papers will give you a chance to experiment with some of the concepts we are exploring in the course this semester.

Your participation score will be calculated based on several factors: your consistent presence in class, and appropriate participation in our discussions; engagement in several out-of-class opportunities to learn more about law, politics, and society; and participation on our class blog. Participation points, up to 100, will accrue throughout the semester. You can lose participation points by being frequently absent, or frequently unprepared. ***I do not allow students to earn extra credit.***

Here is a summary of the assessments, their due dates, and the points available:

Paper 1	September 26	100 pts possible
First Draft Paper 2	October 8	
Mid-Term Exam	October 8	100 pts possible
Final Draft Paper 2	November 14	100 pts possible
Paper 3	December 12	100 pts possible
5 quizzes	25 pts each	125 pts possible
Notebooks	25 pts each	75 pts possible
Participation	Throughout	100 pts possible
Final Exam	December 12	200 pts possible
	Total Possible	900 pts

### ***Required Texts***

Altman, Stuart and David Shachman. 2011. *Power, Politics, and Universal Health Care*. New York City: Prometheus Books.

Friedrichs, David O. 2012. *Law in Our Lives: An Introduction*. New York City: Oxford University Press.

Greenhouse, Linda. 2012. *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction*. New York City: Oxford University Press.

Harr, Jonathan. 1996. *A Civil Action*. New York City: Vintage Books.

Hirsch, Susan. 2006. *In the Moment of Greatest Calamity: Terrorism, Grief, and a Victim's Quest for Justice*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

### ***Course Outline***

<b>August 27</b>	<b>Norms, Rules, and Laws</b>
<b>August 29</b> Have read:	<b>Meanings, Orders, and Systems of Law</b> Friedrichs, pages 34 – 58
<b>September 3</b>	<b>No Class      Labor Day</b>
<b>September 5</b> Have read:	<b>Constitutions and Constitutional Interpretation</b> Friedrichs, pages 58 - 69
<b>September 10</b> Have read:	<b>Criminal, Civil, and Alternative Systems</b> Friedrichs, pages 230 – 261
<b>September 12</b> Have read:	<b>Civil Law</b> Harr, pages 1 - 50
<b>September 17</b> Have read:	Harr, pages 51 - 194
<b>September 19</b> Have read:	Harr, pages 195 - 232
<b>September 24</b> Have read:	Harr, pages 233 - 376
<b>September 26</b> Have read: Bring:	Harr, pages 376 – end Paper 1

<b>October 1</b>	<b>Legal Profession</b>
Have read:	Friedrichs, 192 - 212
Bring:	Norms Interactions Notebook
<b>October 3</b>	
Have read:	Friedrichs, pages 213 – 228
	We will also review for mid-term today
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Midterm</b>
Bring:	Paper 2 First Draft
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Legislation and Adjudication</b>
Have read:	Greenhouse, pages 1 - 58
<b>October 15</b>	<b>No Class      Fall Break</b>
<b>October 17</b>	
Have read:	Freidrichs, pages 262 - 273
	Greenhouse, pages 59 - 87
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Case Study: PPACA</b>
Have read:	Altman, pages 27 – 110      Nixon - Clinton
<b>October 24</b>	
Have read:	Altman, pages 111 – 202      Piecemeal Legislation
<b>October 29</b>	
Have read:	Altman, pages 203 – 244      Economics of Health Care
<b>October 31</b>	
Have read:	Altman, pages 245 - 344
<b>November 5</b>	
Have read:	Affordable Care Act Information, Course pack
Bring:	Rules Interactions Notebook
<b>November 7</b>	
Have read:	SCOTUS Materials, course pack
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Law and Social Change</b>
Have read:	Friedrichs, pages 293 - 323
<b>November 14</b>	
Have read:	Friedrichs, pages 323 – 333
Bring:	Final Draft, Paper 2

<b>November 19</b> Have read:	<b>Contemporary Challenges and Criminal Process</b> Hirsch, pages 1- 70
<b>November 21</b>	<b>No Class      Thanksgiving</b>
<b>November 26</b> Have read:	Hirsch, pages 71 - 148
<b>November 28</b> Have read: Bring:	Hirsch, pages 149 – 207 Legal Interactions Notebook
<b>December 3</b> Have read:	Hirsch, pages 208 - 264
<b>December 5</b> Have read:	<b>Further Perspectives on International Issues</b> Friedrichs, pages 170 – 190
<b>December 12</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM              9:30 – 11:20</b> Bring:                      Paper 3