

# **Legal Studies Department**



## **Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence**

*Proposed Program 2006*

Montclair State University  
1 Normal Avenue  
Montclair, New Jersey 07043  
Dickson Hall, Room 348  
tel: 973 655 4152  
fax: 973 655 7951

The Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence at Montclair State University represents the confluence of law, theories of justice, humanistic studies and social issues. It provides a solid foundation of student aspiring to law school or other graduate study, as well as for work in many other careers that require analytic, conceptual, and communications skills. The major in Jurisprudence provides an opportunity for the interdisciplinary study of law in the liberal arts. Through this major, undergraduate students at Montclair State University will have the opportunity to acquire the fundamental knowledge essential to understanding legal institutions and processes. Students in the major will develop intellectual skills necessary to evaluate policies, practices, and philosophies within the context of nation, legal systems, both Western and Non-Western.

The major will draw its essence from a core of Jurisprudence courses, while at the same time building upon the liberal arts focus of existing 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 research project, 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:***

- ✚ To sharpen skills as readers and thinkers, as interpreters of culture, and as citizens.
- ✚ To advance the ability to test ethical arguments and textual understandings in contexts where decisions must be made.
- ✚ To understand legal materials, by further developing students interpretive and analytical skills.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ To participate in a rigorous two-semester Capstone Research Seminar which will have intellectual preparation thinking processes, expand the knowledge base and enhance preparation 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 major. For entry into the program, students must meet one of the following criteria:

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

### **Group I. REQUIRED COURSES (21 credits)**

- JURI 200 Essentials of Jurisprudence
- JURI 200 Essentials of Jurisprudence
- JURI 210 United States Legal Process and Systems
- JURI /PHIL 324 Legal Reasoning
- JURI 495 Senior Research Seminar in Jurisprudence I
- JURI 496 Senior Research Seminar in Jurisprudence II
- LSPR 312 Foundations of Legal Research
- LSPR 362 Legal Writing

### **Group II. MAJOR ELECTIVES (6 credits)**

*Students must include two courses from the following list of major electives:*

- JURI 316 Theories of Conflict
- JURI 317 Race and the U.S. Legal System
- JURI 318 Comparative Legal Systems
- JURI 319 Hate Crimes
- LSLW 388 Persuasion & Advocacy
- JURI 474 Human Rights Law
- JURI 476 Feminist Jurisprudence
- JURI 390 Independent Study in Jurisprudence
- JURI 499 Selected Topics in Jurisprudence (*may be repeated once*)

### **III. ELECTIVE COURSES (15 credits)**

*Select a total of five courses, one course from each area (A, B, C, and D) for a total of 12 credits plus one additional three-credit course from any area (A, B, C, and D) as an area of emphasis, for a total of 15 credits.*

#### **A. Philosophy**

PHIL 106 Logic  
 PHIL 206 Philosophical Issues in Law and Justice  
 PHIL 210 Ethics

PHIL 264 Critical Reasoning and Arguments  
PHIL 316 Philosophy of Law

**B. History**

HIST 118 History of the United States Since 1876  
HIST 214 Diplomatic History of the United States  
HIST 411 Intellectual History of the United States  
HIST 433 American Colonial History 1607-1763

**C. Humanities**

ENWR 204 Advanced Expository Writing  
ENWR 205 Creative Non-Fiction Prose  
GNHU 202 General Humanities II (from 1400)  
GNHU 282 Roman Civilization  
LNGN 250 Language of Propaganda  
LNGN 290 Language of the Law  
LSLW 473 Seminar in Law and Literature

**D. Social Sciences**

LSLW 360 Rights, Liberties and American Justice  
POLS 307 American Political Thought  
POLS 320 Law and Society: Civil Law  
POLS 322 American Constitutional Law: Federal System  
PSYC 248 Psychology and Law  
SOC 420 Sociology of Law

**E. Area of Emphasis**

*Select one additional course from area A, B, C, or D*

**TOTAL HOURS FOR JURISPRUDENCE MAJOR: 42 CREDITS**