



Master of Legal Studies  
Course Descriptions

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Updated July 2025

**Required Core:**

**LW5601 Fundamentals of American Law (2 credits)**

This course is intended to be a brief introduction to the American legal system, a broad overview of its structure, and an initiation to legal reasoning and the application of common (judge-made) and statutory law to various circumstances. This will include discussions of case briefing, legal analysis, and the similarities and differences between the various classes of public and private law in the United States. Finally, the course will introduce several key areas of law that are particularly important for students in their first year of legal education

**LW5602 Legal Research and Writing (2 credits)**

In these courses, students are introduced to the processes of case analysis, legal research, and legal writing. Written exercises are required, including the drafting of legal documents.

**First Year Courses:**

**LW5317 Civil Litigation and Procedure (3 credit)**

This course introduces students to constitutional limits on judicial power and to the theory and practice of civil procedure under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics include: jurisdiction to adjudicate the liabilities of nonresident defendants; the structure and limited power of federal courts; and the stages of litigation (including pleadings; motion practice and the pretrial disposition of cases; formal discovery; and the trial process).

**LW5311 Constitutional Law (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to the United States Constitution. Topics include: the power of courts to interpret and apply the Constitution; the distribution of powers in the federal system, including the division of power among the three federal branches (separation of powers), and the division of power between the federal and state governments (federalism); and the protection of an individual's liberties from governmental interference. The individual liberty topic includes a discussion of the concept of state action and congressional enforcement of civil rights; substantive rights emanating from specific provisions of the Constitution, including the freedom of speech, religion and association; the right to equal protection of the laws; and those rights that are protected by, though not expressly mentioned in, the Constitution.

**LW5403 Contracts (4 credits)**

Contracts is the foundation commercial law course that examines the law of voluntary exchange. Major themes include enforceable and unenforceable promises, remedies for broken promises, and interpretation of agreements. Topics include consideration; contract formation; capacity; duress; unconscionability and illegality; damages; conditions; mistake;

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impracticability and frustration; third party beneficiaries; assignment and delegation; the Parole Evidence Rule; and the Statute of Frauds.

**LW5303 Criminal Law (3 credits)**

Criminal Law is the basic course on public offenses. Students study the requisites of criminal responsibility, defenses to liability, and inchoate and group crimes.

**LW5404 Property (4 credits)**

Property (4 credits) introduces students to the legal concept of property. Basic concepts of entitlement and transfer of rights are explored in detail. Topics include: possession; estates and future interests; landlord and tenant; public regulation of land use and ownership (as in zoning and eminent domain); non-possessory interests in and regulation of land (including easements, real covenants and servitudes); and transfer of property by gift or sale.

**LW5402 Torts (4 credits)**

Torts focuses on the legal principles and public policies governing compensation for personal injuries, property damage, emotional distress, and other forms of serious harm. Topics include: the concepts of intent, negligence, and strict liability; defenses based on the plaintiff's conduct; causation and damages; vicarious liability; privileges; immunities; and statutes of limitations.

**Upper-Level Courses:**

**LW5232 AI Management in Law and Compliance (2 credits)**

This course explores the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI), law, and compliance, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the legal and ethical complexities of AI deployment in professional settings. Students will analyze regulatory frameworks, emerging law, and policy considerations shaping AI governance. Topics include data privacy, bias and fairness, intellectual property, liability, automation, and AI's role in compliance and risk management. Through case studies and applied exercises, students will assess AI-driven decision-making, develop risk mitigation strategies, and evaluate the evolving responsibilities of legal professionals in an AI-driven world.

***LW XXX Artificial Intelligence in Corporate Strategy and Governance (2 hours)***

*This course examines the strategic use of artificial intelligence (AI) in corporate formation, governance, and internal auditing from a legal and compliance-oriented perspective.*

*Designed for graduate law students and business professionals, the course focuses on how AI-driven tools are reshaping entity structuring, operational oversight, and risk management in corporate environments.*

*Topics include AI-assisted due diligence, predictive financial modeling, audit trails, algorithmic decision-making in corporate governance, and emerging best practices in regulatory reporting. The course places particular emphasis on the role of legal professionals in designing corporate policies that ensure accountability, transparency, and ethical AI adoption.*

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**LW5302 Administrative Law and Regulatory Interpretation (3 credits)**

This course explores problems raised by the functioning of administrative tribunals in governmental rule-making, regulatory interpretation, investigation, and enforcement. There is a special emphasis upon rule-making, interpretation and the relationship between administrative agencies and the judicial system.

**LW7323 Advanced Constitutional Law – United States Territories (3 credits)**

This course will focus on the history and doctrine of the United States Constitution as it applies to United States territories. Topics may include the territorial clause; territorial incorporation; citizenship; cultural preservation; religion; double jeopardy; the commerce clause; and voting rights.

**LW5219 Advanced Legal Research (2 credits)**

This course includes a basic bibliographic review of fundamental primary and secondary federal, state and local sources. Also included is an introduction to international law as integrated into U.S. domestic law under well accepted constitutional principles. Students are expected to complete a "pathfinder," a detailed research strategy for general and specialized sources in a subject area of law.

**LW5508 Business Law and Ethics (1 credit)**

Business Law & Ethics establishes what ethics is, how people and entities establish an ethical structure, and how that affects corporate behavior. In particular, numerous common legal and regulatory issues are addressed (including, but not limited to, whistleblowing, privacy, the FCPA, and product liability) both in terms of the statutory and regulatory environment and in terms of an established and thoughtful ethical code.

**LW5305 Business Structures and Statutory Compliance (3 credits)**

This survey course studies issues relating to the selection of an appropriate business form (partnership, limited partnership, or corporation), as well as to the formation, financing, operation, and control of business associations. The course examines issues that can arise in associations of any size and character, and the topics considered include duties and potential liabilities of owners and managers, problems in the issuance of shares of stock and other securities, proxy regulation, insider trading, derivative litigation, and the role of corporations in society.

**LW5317 Civil Litigation and Procedure (3 credits)**

This course introduces students to constitutional limits on judicial power and to the theory and practice of civil procedure under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics include: jurisdiction to adjudicate the liabilities of nonresident defendants; the structure and limited power of federal courts; and the stages of litigation (including pleadings; motion practice and the pretrial disposition of cases; formal discovery; and the trial process).

**LW5405 Commercial Law and Contracting (4 credits)**

This course will focus on Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, the provisions governing the sale of goods and security interests involving or related to goods. Topics considered include methods of creating and perfecting security interests; issues of

*In Development –*

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priority; interrelationships between federal bankruptcy law and the UCC; and creditors' rights and obligations after debtors' default

***LWXXX Community Policing and the Law (2 credits)***

*The philosophy of community policing will be explored through organizational strategies such as broken windows policing, problem-oriented policing, pulling levers policing, hot spots policing, third-party policing, Compstat (reliance on accurate statistical crime data), and evidence-based policing. The course will also include a study of popular innovations in policing and law enforcement contextualized by federal steps to improve law enforcement.*

**LW5307 Compliance, Ethics and Risk Management (3 credits)**

The course will offer an overview of a number of substantive law compliance areas such as antitrust, anticorruption/anti-bribery (e.g. US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the UK Bribery Act), privacy and employment law including social media compliance, data piracy such as what Target recently experienced, board of directors responsibilities, internet compliance, records management, conflicts of interest, compliance issues in M&A, international trade and business and U.S. export controls, wage and hour compliance, government contracting, anti-money laundering and fraud prevention, False Claims Act, SEC disclosures and compliance, and gifts and entertainment compliance. provocative questions regarding the nature of "law" and its role in society.

**LW5710 Constitutional Criminal Procedure (3 credits)**

Criminal Procedure is a constitutional law course, with an emphasis on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. Topics include arrest; search and seizure; investigative detentions; warrant requirements; confessions and other incriminating statements; and the right to counsel.

**LW5306 Creditors Rights and Bankruptcy (2 credits)**

This course is designed not only for those interested in general bankruptcy practice, but also for those who anticipate that their practice will involve structuring commercial transactions or litigating business disputes. This is a basic course in debtor/creditor law, but with an emphasis on business bankruptcy. The course includes an overview of the general principles and forms of relief offered by the federal Bankruptcy Code, focusing especially on the legal and financial aspects of business bankruptcy and the process of reorganizations. The areas of emphasis will include the automatic stay; debtor-in-possession financing; operating and administering debtors' estates; treatment of executory contracts and leases; the avoiding powers of the trustee in bankruptcy; and the formulation and confirmation of plans of reorganization.

**LW5613 Criminal Justice Procedures and Due Process (2 credits)**

This course provides a study of the history, characteristics and philosophy of the system of administration of criminal justice in the United States. It examines the major components and various sub-components; role expectations and their interrelationships; responses to crime: theories of crime, punishment, and rehabilitation; ethics; education and training for professionalism in the system; legal words and phrases as an aid in the communication process; examines crime measurement; evolution of the principles and approaches utilized by the justice system and the evolving forces which have shaped them; the origins and

***In Development –***

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development of criminal law, legal process, sentencing and incarceration policies. While the justice structure and process are examined in a cross-cultural context, emphasis is placed on the U. S. justice, particularly the structure and function of the police, courts and corrections.

**LW5313 Cyber Law (2 credits)**

The primary goal of this course will be to provide an overview of current cyberlaw issues, risks, and trends. The course will begin with legal topics related to online benefits like growing a business online, creating online assets, and building relationships online. Next, the course will review some of the online risks that could jeopardize those online benefits such as privacy risks, hacking, and cybercrime. In the final section of the course, we will discuss legal issues related to newer technologies like blockchain, big data, and artificial intelligence.

**LW5612 Digital Evidence and Records (2 credits)**

This course is designed to address digital evidentiary issues pertaining to electronically stored information (ESI). The course will address forensic techniques to assist with computer security incident response, data analytics, preserving information integrity and the maintenance of strict chains of custody. Other topics include: production, mediating electronic discovery disputes, spoliation, sanctions, and privilege issues. Ethical considerations will be addressed throughout the course.

**LW5309 Education Law (3 credits)**

This course focuses on the leading legal precedents directly related to the responsibilities and rights of schools, students and teachers. The course considers the realities of providing high quality schools in an educational environment with very limited budgets and public support. For each separate issue, the course introduces the history of the law, educational theory, and recent and projected developments. Among other topics the course considers school finance, alternative methods of providing education, civil rights issues and the multiple levels of control and input into the education environment.

**LW5308 Employment Law (3 credits)**

This course will address methods of proving a case of discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbids employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Issues covered may include sexual harassment, affirmative action, pay equity, and retaliation against employees who file charges of discrimination. The course will also cover procedural issues concerning enforcement, as well as the types of relief available. Other statutes, such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the employment discrimination provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act, may be covered.

**LW5725 Employment & Human Resource Core (3 credits)**

This course develops students' skills in assessing and managing the contemporary business environment at individual, group, and organizational levels. Topics include issues such as motivation, communication, leadership, human resource policy, external business analysis, and strategy formulation and implementation. The course also explores the dynamic interaction of these levels by focusing on topics such as organizational culture, human resources management, teams, job design, organizational development, and change.

*In Development -*

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**LW5625 Employment & Human Resource Law Capstone (2 credits)**

This course covers the laws that govern the rights and duties between employers and employees. It goes beyond knowledge of the law and focuses instead on the application of the legal knowledge to scenarios that HR professionals will encounter in both the private and public sectors. Students will look back over what they have learned in the program and home in on a topic that concerns a problem in HR or an unsettled legal issue. Throughout the semester students will research, develop their thesis and complete their capstone paper under faculty supervision.

**LW5316 Family Law (3 credits)**

This course is a survey of a wide variety of legal issues concerning the family unit, with an emphasis on the policies and changing nature of family law. Topics explored may include marriage requirements and consequences, divorce grounds, property division at divorce, child support, custody, non-marital children, domestic violence, parental rights, adoption, and non-traditional families.

**LW5210 Forensic Investigations (2 credit)**

This course is intended to be a brief introduction to the many factors that determine whether criminal offenders are identified and apprehended, and the factors of well-executed criminal investigations. By the end of the course students will understand the role of evidence in criminal investigations; the fundamental principles of investigative methods used to collect criminal evidence; be able to examine the role and function of evidence; and thoughtfully explore the legal issues that relate to the collection of evidence.

**LW5410 Fundamentals of Information Systems and Cyber Security (4 credits)**

This course provides an in-depth study of the internationally recognized common body of knowledge (CBK) of computer information systems and security, which are developed and maintained by the International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC). The CBK is comprised of the following eight domains of computer information systems and security knowledge: Security and Risk Management; Asset Security; Security Engineering; Communication and Network Security; Identity and Access Management; Security Assessment and Testing; Security Operations; and Software Development Security.

**LW5312 Health Law (3 credits)**

This survey course covers the major legal issues involved in health care in the United States. The course gives students an introduction to the various state and national administrative rules and regulations regarding quality controls, licensing of health care professionals, and ethical /legal concerns involving physician/patient relationships. With the advent of new HIPAA privacy regulations and tort reform impacting medical liability issues, students will have the opportunity to obtain a working knowledge of the law. The course will survey contemporary policy issues in health law.

**LW5220 Health Policy & Management (2 credits)**

This course surveys fundamental health policy and management concepts, focusing on how health policy is made, how the U.S. health care system is organized, and how health policy, management, and systemic factors influence population health.

*In Development -*

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**LW5607 HIPAA Privacy Law (2 credits)**

This course surveys the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act of 1996 and key regulations. Presentations explore core concepts, including HIPAA's privacy and security provisions, individual rights, breach standards and obligations, and enforcement. Upon completion, students should be able to define and identify protected health information, covered entities, and other key terms; recognize situations that trigger HIPAA and understand the applicable rules; identify the individual rights HIPAA safeguards; spot risks and violations; and be familiar with HIPAA's enforcement mechanisms. Specific learning objectives accompany the description of each unit of study.

***LWXXX Hiring, Firing and Whistleblowers (2 credits)***

*This course is designed to give students the knowledge and practical skills needed to navigate complex fraud prevention laws. Students will examine both federal and state laws used to combat fraud against the government, including qui tam actions brought pursuant to the False Claims Act. These laws encourage and protect private citizens (whistleblowers) who bring claims against companies that are allegedly engaged in defrauding the government. Students will examine these laws and their application from the perspective of the whistleblower, the government, and the defense. Through an in-depth review of statutory law, case law, administrative history, and government memos on fraud prevention, students will gain an understanding of the significant role qui tam cases play in preventing fraud on the government.*

**LW5212 Intellectual Property (2 credits)**

This course provides an overview of the foundational principles and evolving landscape of intellectual property law in the United States. Designed for graduate students pursuing advanced legal studies, the course examines the key doctrines of copyright, patent, trademark, and trade secret law, while considering the intersection of IP with emerging technologies, global commerce, and digital media.

**LW5617 Intersectionality and Legal Justice (2 credits)**

This course is a policy course but is not a Title VII or employment discrimination course. Rather, this course addresses the many and various ways in which the issue of race, gender, classification and the American legal system interact. As a survey course, the class will deal with various topics ranging from affirmative action, the criminal justice system, and racist/hate speech to interracial adoption, issues of minority women, and housing discrimination. There is no course book for the course. Instead, the course materials are both traditional (law review articles, cases, and statutes) and non-traditional (Ebony, Hispanic, and various videos). While not a basis for grading, the format of the class nevertheless anticipates and necessitates the full participation of each class member. The class will offer invigorating and lively (if not heated) discussion and analysis of historical and contemporary issues of race and the law.

**LW5231 Intro to Legal Evidence & Proof (2 credits)**

The goal of this course is to help students develop a working knowledge of Evidence law. This means developing the ability to apply the rules of evidence and related doctrines to

*In Development -*

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specific problems. To this end, much of the course will be example-based discussions regarding facts, evidence and legal proof in fields such as human resources, higher education and criminal justice.

### **LW5615 Legal Drafting Techniques (2 credits)**

The drafting course will teach students the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduce them to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills students will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will be useful to professionals on legal teams. On finishing the course, students should know for instance: the business purpose of contract concepts; how to translate a business deal into contract concepts; how to draft each of a contract's parts with clarity and without ambiguity; how to work through the drafting process; and how to review and comment on a contract. Students will perform drafting exercises throughout the semester.

### ***LWXXX Machine Learning, Intellectual Property and the Law (2 credits)***

*This course explores the evolving intersection of machine learning technologies and intellectual property (IP) law. Students will examine how advancements in artificial intelligence challenge traditional legal frameworks in copyright, patent, trade secret, and trademark law. Through case studies, regulatory updates, and practical scenarios, students will analyze legal issues related to authorship and inventorship by AI, data use and ownership, algorithmic transparency, and emerging litigation trends. Designed for graduate law students without a JD, the course emphasizes practical understanding of doctrinal principles and their application in industries such as tech, healthcare, education, and compliance. No technical background is required; foundational machine learning concepts will be introduced to support legal analysis.*

### **LW5610 Mental Health and the Law (2 credits)**

This class will explore timely issues surrounding mental health law. Representative topics include civil commitment proceedings; forced outpatient treatment and hospitalization; mental health in the criminal justice system; guardianship/conservatorship and its alternatives; mental health courts; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### **LW5310 Negotiations (3 credits)**

Negotiation is a course in conflict prevention and resolution, designed to acquaint the student with the processes, and theories, surrounding conflicting human interactions, particularly in the legal world. The theories of integrative and distributive bargaining are explored, as are the interpersonal skills, including communication skills that will aid the student in better satisfying their interests in any negotiation setting, whether interpersonal, legal or otherwise. Gender and cultural differences are reviewed, as are the dynamics of large group conflict resolution and the use of agents and intermediaries in negotiations. The ethics of negotiation are emphasized, along with the need for a mature approach to conflict resolution.

### **LW5604 Oil and Gas (2 credits)**

This course is the study of the law governing interests in oil and gas, with an emphasis on Texas law. Topics explored include the nature of interests in oil and gas; oil and gas leases;

*In Development –*

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lease covenants, express and implied; title and conveyancing problems; transfers; and pooling and unitization.

**LW5211 Personal Injury of Children (2 credits)**

This course focuses on the various rights of action arising from negligence and accidents where minors are involved and the legal options available to parents and guardians with a special emphasis on personal injury that occurs in a school.

**LW5611 Police Liability (2 credits)**

This class will explain how officers can be sued, and under what legal theories. It is applicable to professionals in personnel management for police and public safety officers. This course is relevant and applicable for all ranks of management, from new field training officers to sheriffs and chiefs. This class will also discuss the protections provided to law enforcement. Areas of focus include The Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act, The Good Samaritan Act, and Officer Liability – State Tort Laws and the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA).

**LW5616 Professional Responsibility & the Unauthorized Practice of Law (2 credits)**

Professional Responsibility explores the legal, ethical and moral responsibilities of licensed legal paraprofessionals to clients, courts, the community and the legal profession. The current professional rules of professional conduct and the policies underlying them, are examined. This course is meant to assist students who intend to take the ethics exam per Texas State Bar Rules, Article XV Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals. This course will also provide students with a survey of the Unauthorized Practice of Law.

**LW5229 Public Health and Ethics (2 credits)**

The law influences health, improving it in some cases, degrading it in others. This course surveys foundational public health law concepts, including the government's power and duty to prevent disease and injury and promote the general welfare; the scope and limits of government authority; and the tension between protecting the public and upholding individual rights.

**LW5708 Risk, Regulation and Reporting \_ CCB Prep (3 credits)**

This course is designed to provide an overview of compliance practice with an emphasis on the elements of an effective compliance and ethics program. An additional goal of the class will be to explore risk-based approaches to solving compliance problems. The course will offer an overview of a number of substantive law compliance areas such as antitrust, anti-corruption/anti-bribery (e.g., US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the EU Corporate Sustainability and Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA)). Privacy law including social media compliance, board of directors' responsibilities, records management, conflicts of interest, compliance issues in M&A, international trade and business, wage and hour compliance, government contracting, anti-money laundering and fraud prevention, False Claims Act, SEC disclosures and compliance, and gifts and entertainment compliance. In addition to the substantive law overview, the skills to be taught will include: 1) How to conduct an investigation in US and international jurisdictions; 2) How to write policies and procedures; 3) How to engage, train and report to the board of directors; 4) How to conduct a risk

*In Development -*

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assessment and measure effectiveness of the compliance program; 5) Best practices for compliance training; 6) How to network with other compliance lawyers/professionals to keep abreast of compliance best practices; and 7) the best practices in code of conduct drafting and development.

**LW5614 School Discipline, Expulsion and Due Process (2 credits)**

This course focuses on every student's right to education as provided by agencies of local government and the due process provisions afforded to that student when they are deprived of that right through disciplinary actions such as suspension or expulsion. The compound issues of mental health and special education concerns will also be covered.

**LW5608 Special Education Law (2 credits)**

In this course, you will gain a deep understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the primary federal legislation governing the provision of special education services, as well as state law and regulations pertaining to the provision of special education services to students with disabilities in Texas. You will become familiar with the legal issues concerning identification, assessment, and evaluation procedures, free appropriate public education (FAPE), least restrictive alternative (LRE), individual education programs (IEPs), due process and mediation, and discipline.

**LW5709 Special Education Law (3 credits)**

In this course, you will gain a deep understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the primary federal legislation governing the provision of special education services, as well as state law and regulations pertaining to the provision of special education services to students with disabilities in Texas. You will become familiar with the legal issues concerning identification, assessment, and evaluation procedures, free appropriate public education (FAPE), least restrictive alternative (LRE), individual education programs (IEPs), due process and mediation, and discipline.

**LW5240 Special Needs Trusts & Benefits Planning (2 credits)**

Trusts are one of the most frequently used and beneficial of the tools available to the modern estate planner. A trust is a special type of property transfer which separates the equitable interest in property from the legal interest. The holder of the legal interest, the trustee, manages the property according to the directions contained in the trust instrument and state law for the benefit of the beneficiaries who own the equitable title. The trustee is a fiduciary and must deal with the property exercising a high standard of care and with the utmost degree of loyalty. This course deals generally with the creation, administration, and enforcement of private trusts under the Texas Trust Code specifically in the context of planning for adults with special needs.

**LW7316 State and Territorial Legal Institutions (3 credits)**

This course will examine the court systems and other legal institutions in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the five inhabited territories, as well as their relationships with the federal courts. Topics may include state and territorial constitutions; the structure of state and territorial court systems; Article IV courts; federal court jurisdiction over issues of state and territorial law; deference to state and territorial courts; and development of state and territorial common law.

*In Development -*

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**LW5230 Trauma Informed Advocacy (2 credits)**

This course will provide professionals with an understanding of the physiological, social, and emotional effects of trauma; the issues facing individuals who have experienced trauma; and how professionals can decrease the prevalence of trauma caused in legal systems. We will discuss what professionals need to know about the science behind traumatic experiences; the various forms of trauma, including vicarious trauma, which can impact those who are exposed to the stories of trauma that others have endured; and how our own trauma may be triggered or amplified in the experiences we encounter in the legal field. Students will learn to approach advocacy from an inter-disciplinary perspective, develop skills to implement into their own day-to-day practices, and identify trauma-informed resources in their communities.

***LWXXX Violations of Constitutional Policing (2 credits)***

*This course will explore recent contemporary events that have served as a catalyst calling for a careful review of police practices and reform measures. The concepts of constitutional policing, police legitimacy and procedural justice will be discussed collectively through a social lens.*

**LW5609 White Collar Crime (2 credits)**

This course examines both the substantive and procedural law concerning various white-collar crimes that occur transnationally. Areas of criminal law include money laundering, tax evasion and corruption among others. Procedural issues such as prisoner transfer, evidence gathering and extraditions are also addressed.

**LW5315 White Collar Crime (3 credits)**

This course examines both the substantive and procedural law concerning various white-collar crimes that occur transnationally. Areas of criminal law include money laundering, tax evasion and corruption among others. Procedural issues such as prisoner transfer, evidence gathering and extraditions are also addressed.

***LWXXX Wills Trusts and Estates (3 credits)***

*Wills & Estates is the study of the disposition of property at death, whether by non-probate transfers, intestate succession, or will. The course examines the different types of inter vivos transfers that have testamentary effect, such as multiple-party bank accounts and life insurance; analyzes how property passes if a person does not have a will; and details various aspects of wills including validity, revocation, interpretation, and construction. The estate administration process consisting of collecting the decedent's property, paying debts, and distributing property to heirs or beneficiaries, is also studied. The course also provides brief coverage of other estate planning issues such as professional responsibility, planning for incompetency and death, and the drafting of wills.*

**LW5225 Wrongful Conviction (2 credits)**

The course will examine the American criminal justice system through an unusual prism: that of cases in which innocent people have been convicted. Principle causes of wrongful convictions as well as various reform efforts will be examined. Some topics that will be covered include mistaken identification, false confessions, forensic science, post-conviction

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remedies, indigent defense, prosecutorial misconduct, investigation tunnel-vision and post-exoneration life of the wrongfully convicted.