

# LAW AND PHILOSOPHY

Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion (<https://cas.umw.edu/clpr/>)

Law enters our lives in myriad ways, both requiring things of us and providing avenues for accomplishing our goals. It can be a tool of oppression and liberation; it can provide cover for unscrupulous actors and checks on bad behavior; and it can bewilder and shine light on moral quandaries. A philosophical approach to these issues is crucial to understanding them and their importance to contemporary societies.

The Law & Philosophy minor is designed to give students an understanding of the fundamental theories, concepts, and methodologies of the intersecting disciplines of law and philosophy (especially jurisprudence, logic, and ethics). Students of the minor will examine a wide variety of issues. Course work will thematize topical controversies such as the morality of the death penalty, theories of criminality and punishment, the viability of liberalism, causation in tort, or the appellate process in US federal courts. And, importantly, students will develop skills in reading closely, developing arguments, engaging in research, and questioning assumptions. Both the content and skills emphasized in the minor provide, alongside a student's major area of study, a measure of preparation for law school and careers in law, public service, business, medicine, non-profit advocacy, and the environment.

Students who do research or internships in ethics for course credit in any major or field of study can apply for this credit to be used also toward the Law & Philosophy minor. Examples might include courses not on the pre-approved list, URES, independent study, a senior thesis, or an internship. Students are encouraged to seek service learning and guided research opportunities, both for credit or non-credit.

Eighteen (18) credit hours to include three courses from the Core Courses list, two courses from the Ethics list, and one course from the Electives list. At least three of the total courses must be at the 300-400 level.

Internships, individual studies, and other courses in law or ethics from any discipline can count in this minor upon approval of the minor's coordinator; the category into which such a course would fit is also at the coordinator's discretion.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses (at least three of the following)		9
PHIL 110	Introduction to Law	
PHIL 151B	Introductory Logic	
PHIL 320	Philosophy of Law I	
PHIL 325	Philosophy of Law II	
Ethics Courses (at least two of the following)		6
BUAD 464	Business Ethics	
CPSC 302	Computer Ethics	
PHIL 160	Introduction to Ethics	
PHIL 210	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 220	Introduction to Feminism	
PHIL 225	Practical Ethics	
PHIL 330	Environmental Ethics	
PHIL 335	Ethical Theory	
PHIL 430	Seminar: Ethics, Environment, & Sustainability	
Elective Courses (at least one of the following)		3

BLAW 201	Legal Environment of Business
BLAW 300	Cybersecurity Law
BLAW 301	Commercial Law
ECON 312	Government and Business
PHIL 499	Internship
PSCI 201	American Government
RELG 305	Religion and Politics in the United States
SOCG 352	Criminology
SOCG 415	The Sociology of Law
ECON 342	Law and Economics

**Total Credits** 18

## Classics, Philosophy, and Religion Department

Joseph M. Romero, Chair  
 Liane R. Houghtalin, Career Advisor (Classics)  
 Jason P. Matzke, Career and Pre-Law Advisor (Philosophy)  
 Mary Beth Mathews, Career Advisor (Religion)

### Faculty

(The person's subject field is indicated in parentheses.)

#### Professors

Liane R. Houghtalin (Classics)  
 Mary Beth Mathews (Religion)  
 Jason P. Matzke (Philosophy)  
 Angela L. Pitts (Classics)  
 Joseph M. Romero (Classics)

#### Associate Professor

Jennifer A. Barry (Religion)

#### Assistant Professor

Kalpesh Bhatt (Religion)

#### Senior Lecturer

Michael J. Reno (Philosophy)