

DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE (S.J.D.) COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Courses may be online or in person depending on student's status. All courses not offered in each semester.)

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NOTE: Students enrolled in an on-campus SJD program may also select courses from the JD Course Schedule and should visit the JD Course Descriptions catalog on our website. They may also select from the LLM courses listed.

LAWD L998: DOCTORAL DISSERTATION (varying credits - please see SJD curriculum path for required number of credits for each semester)

This course focuses on the strategic and structural development of the Doctor of Juridical Science dissertation. Students will refine the dissertation's central problem, original contribution, methodology, chapter structure, and overall plan for completion. Emphasis is placed on the dissertation as a coherent, sustained scholarly project rather than on the mechanics of legal research and writing. Designed for students at different stages of dissertation development, the course uses alternating seminar meetings and substantial off-week assignments to support progress toward proposal development, chapter planning, revision, or defense preparation. By the end of the course, students should have a clearer dissertation roadmap and a concrete plan for continued progress toward completion.

LAWD 6204: LEGAL ENGLISH (3 credits) For foreign-trained attorneys only.

This course is designed for S.J.D., LL.M., and legal professionals who are non-native English speakers. Legal English is an intensive, interactive course tailored to meet the functional needs and abilities of course participants. Graduate instruction offers practical, problem-solution-based tools to help foreign-trained lawyers achieve professional proficiency in legal English for U.S. legal studies and international practice. Professional proficiency entails developing legal English competence through a multi-dimensional view of language use: a) legal discourse (linguistic complexity), b) sentences (legal language forms and conventions), and c) word/phrase (legal vocabulary usage) dimensions.

LAWD 6176: DISSERTATION COLLOQUIUM I (3 credits)

The goal of the colloquium is to assist S.J.D. candidates in researching and writing their dissertation, as well as to expose candidates to a range of writing applications used in legal scholarship. The Colloquium will also allow candidates to present their work in progress, to comment on each other's work, to receive comments from the instructors, and usefully complement ongoing dialogue with individual faculty advisors.

LAWD 6185: DISSERTATION COLLOQUIUM II (3 credits)

Students continue with the second semester of the dissertation colloquium. The goal of the colloquium is to assist S.J.D. candidates in researching and writing their dissertation, as well as to expose candidates to a range of writing applications used in legal scholarship. The Colloquium will also allow candidates to present their work in progress, to comment on each other's work, to receive comments from the instructors, and usefully complement ongoing dialogue with individual faculty advisors.

LAWD 6166: ADVANCED WRITING WORKSHOP (3 credits)

This course provides students with advanced fundamentals of case analysis and techniques of legal writing including research authorities, case briefs and the legal office memorandum. Students will further learn the difference between legal opinions and persuasive arguments. Components of a case, including facts, issue, holding and reasoning with synthesis of these components when reviewing multiple cases will be emphasized. Students will learn how to prepare IRAC responses to legal hypotheticals, briefs and memorandum. Students will continue research analysis using secondary authority and open memo projects.

LAWD 6259: MENTORSHIP DISSERTATION (1 credit)

This course provides structured faculty mentorship and oversight for students pursuing the S.J.D. dissertation. Each student works with an assigned faculty mentor who provides individualized guidance on the development, research, and progress of the dissertation. Students meet periodically with their mentor to discuss research, address challenges, and receive feedback on their work. The course instructor, who oversees the S.J.D. program, provides additional program-level guidance, monitors student progress, and coordinates the dissertation process. The course supports students in maintaining consistent progress toward completion of their dissertation and meeting S.J.D. program requirements.

LLM COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**LAWD 607: LLM AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM (3 credits) For foreign-trained attorneys only.**

This course will provide foreign-trained lawyers with an understanding of the U.S. government and legal system, as well as the basic principles of American law. Through the exploration of cases relating to various legal areas including contracts, torts, property, criminal law and procedure, civil procedure, business law, and family law students will be exposed to the basic tenets of the American legal system.

LAWD 6075: LLM LEGAL RESEARCH, WRITING & ANALYSIS (3 credits) For foreign-trained attorneys only.

Students will be provided with an overview of the legal writing process in the United States, the principals of legal analysis, the technical differences in legal communication formats, and will learn the formal construction of a legal analysis utilizing IRAC.

LAWD 6212: COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (3 credits)

This course will cover a series of constitutional topics with the intent of fostering a comparative analysis of different international legal systems. The course material will center around current United States Supreme Court cases, which will cover a wide spectrum of constitutional issues which include; but are not limited to, government structure, criminal law, civil rights, and religious freedom. Students will be encouraged to contribute the history, perspective, and policies of their home countries to share different resolutions for each legal problem. In the end, students will understand the background of modern legal problems, but also broaden their understanding of how those issues can be resolved in different countries.

LAWD 6184: INTERNATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING & CORRUPTION (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the international and domestic laws enacted to thwart money laundering and corruption. An overview of anti-money laundering strategies aimed at attacking criminals through their financial activities and using financial trails to identify the various components of criminal networks will be provided.

LAWD 844: BUSINESS PRINCIPLES (3 credits)

This course introduces concepts and documents which are essential to understanding business law. These concepts and documents include basic accounting principles, present value and risk, discounted cash flow analysis, option value, basic financial analytical tools, and basic business financing forms (including trust indentures, shareholder's agreements, and preferred stock terms).

LAWD 6222: ETHICS & COMPLIANCE FUNDAMENTALS (3 credits)

This course is intended to introduce the student to compliance and ethics in the workplace and the careers within this industry. Students will learn what compliance is, where it came from, the culture of ethics, how a compliance profession compares to a legal career, job opportunities, transferrable skills from other careers. Students will be introduced to the elements of a compliance program, the flow of compliance, hiring and policies, corporate social responsibility, and the intersection of risk and compliance, the application of management practices for the compliance professional, and the application of personal and business ethics in compliance.

LAWD 6227: COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS: A LEGAL & PRACTICAL SKILLS APPROACH (3 credits)

This course will delve into specific regulations that impact corporate compliance programs in diverse industries. Students will be exposed to regulations that affect corporate compliance in varying degrees such as Sarbanes-Oxley, the whistle-blower provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, anti-bribery/anti-corruption and other issues relating to government investigations. Students will discuss practical issues relating to the development and implementation of corporate compliance programs, with a focus on program assessment, employee engagement, how to prepare for a compliance crisis, and what to do when no one will listen. Ethical issues will be explored, such as privilege and confidentiality and the role of legal counsel versus compliance officer.

LAWD 6136: CORPORATE DEVIANCE & SYSTEMIC RISK (3 credits)

This course will provide students with a comprehensive examination of the deviant behavior of big business in contemporary society. The course exposes students to the forms and causes of this deviance and the legal and societal responses to such deviance through the use of recent cases brought by individuals, corporations, and the government in specific areas of the law. Each week the students will read, analyze and engage in a guided discussion of corporate deviance cases including cases regarding subprime lending, securities, anti-trust, healthcare, whistleblower, and products liability.

LAWD 6219: GLOBAL REGULATORY COMPLIANCE (3 credits)

Corporate compliance is of increasing importance in corporate America. More and more companies are developing and implementing programs to ensure compliance with governing laws and regulations and to promote an environment that fosters compliance and encourages ethical behavior. This course will examine the central principles and statutory and regulatory framework that govern this growing field. We will analyze and discuss topics ranging from Sarbanes-Oxley to export controls, antitrust law, data protection and anti-corruption laws (such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act). We will also delve into the whistle-blower provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and other issues relating to government investigations and dispute resolution. Throughout this course we will discuss practical issues relating to the development and implementation of corporate compliance programs.

LAWD 6274: ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the principles and best practices organizations use to identify, assess, and manage risk. Using the U.S. Department of Justice's corporate compliance guidance as a framework, students explore how effective compliance and risk management programs are designed, implemented, and continuously improved across a variety of industries. Topics include risk assessment, governance, compliance programs, third-party risk management, internal controls, and the Three Lines of Defense model. Through case studies and practical exercises, students learn how legal and compliance professionals help organizations reduce risk, meet regulatory expectations, and promote ethical business practices.

LAWD 6226: ADVANCED COMPLIANCE ANALYSIS: BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM (3 credits)

In this course, students will develop a Compliance Program and a fully annotated and professional recorded PowerPoint presentation, which could ultimately be used to present the Compliance Program to their Corporate leadership. Students will compile materials for use in a professional portfolio that can be used in employment interviews.

LAWD 6199 DIGITAL LAW: CYBERSECURITY AND PRIVACY (3 credits)

Our global economy, national security, and personal communications depend on the efficient and reliable operation of the Internet and other forms of networked computer systems. Most Internet infrastructure is privately owned and operated. These systems are under constant attack from hackers, organized criminal groups, terrorists and other threats. This course examines the law and policy of foreign and domestic Internet governance, computer crime, online privacy and personal data protection, private infrastructure, and the Law of Emergencies.

LAWD 6209: FRAUD EXAMINATION (3 credits)

This course examines corporate deviance, white-collar crime, and the role of legal and compliance professionals in promoting ethical business practices. Topics include corporate, environmental, healthcare, financial, educational, and government-related crimes; causes of white-collar crime; and legal and regulatory responses. Students will gain practical anti-fraud knowledge and fraud examination skills, including conducting internal investigations, detecting fraud and asset misappropriation, analyzing financial statement fraud, identifying hidden assets, understanding fraud offender behavior, and developing effective compliance programs to prevent and mitigate organizational misconduct.

LAWD 6202: GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRIMES & ILLICIT FINANCE (3 credits)

This course will examine the transformation of the illicit economy and its various effects. Students will explore the definitions of illicit trade and illicit financial flows as well as their inter-relationship, the scale of these problems, their drivers, and the socio-economic impacts and other consequences of these phenomena. Students will also discuss ways in which to respond to and address these increasing challenges. Throughout the course, current and emerging issues and trends will be highlighted. Students will learn about the enablers and facilitators of these threats. Finally, some of the approaches and measures taken at both the national and international levels will be examined, including the policies and legislation needed to address it.

LAWD-976X: CYBERSECURITY LAW (3 credits)

This course examines the legal, regulatory, and organizational challenges of cybersecurity. Students explore cybersecurity laws and regulations, data protection, incident response, breach notification, cyber risk management, and organizational liability. Emphasis is placed on the role of legal and compliance professionals in developing policies, assessing risk, and responding to cyber incidents. Through practical case studies and real-world scenarios, students develop the knowledge and skills to address cybersecurity challenges from a legal, compliance, and risk-management perspective.

LAWD-6269: DATA PRIVACY COMPLIANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY (3 credits)

This course introduces and equips compliance professionals with the practical tools needed to navigate legal and regulatory frameworks governing data privacy in the US and globally. Students learn how laws are structured, interpreted, enforced, and operationalized. The focus is on understanding legal obligations, anticipating regulatory risk, collaborating with legal counsel, regulators, and technology teams, and making privacy-compliant organizational decisions.

LAWD-6268: THE INTERSECTION OF COMPLIANCE & AI (3 credits)

This course examines the rapidly evolving intersection of corporate compliance and artificial intelligence. Students will explore the legal, regulatory, and ethical frameworks governing AI deployment in corporate environments, with particular attention to Delaware corporate law, federal regulatory requirements, and emerging state legislation. Through analysis of current case law, regulatory guidance, and governance frameworks, students will develop practical competencies in designing, implementing, and overseeing AI compliance programs. The course integrates theoretical foundations from AI governance scholarship with practical enterprise implementation strategies, preparing students for leadership roles in compliance and governance.

LAWD-XXXX: ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN GLOBAL CORPORATIONS (3 credits)

This course is an introduction to business ethics in corporations generally, and global corporations specifically. We will analyze and assess solutions for current ethical issues -- including artificial intelligence, privacy, and human resources issues -- in a wide variety of verticals. The course will include a review of current trends and best practices in the area of corporate social responsibility and how those impact the bottom line and other key indicators. In addition, we will review new trends in corporate collaborations, the path toward social entrepreneurship, and corporate approaches to managing the risk of ethical issues.

LAWD-879: ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (3 credits)

This course examines the theory and practice of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), including negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and hybrid dispute resolution processes. Students will learn when ADR is preferable to litigation, develop practical advocacy skills, and participate in simulations designed to mirror real-world disputes. Emphasis is placed on ethical considerations, communication, and strategic decision-making.

LAWD-6165: EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS (3 credits)

When a company learns that there may have been violation of a law, regulation, or company policy, the company should conduct an internal investigation to determine precisely what happened. This course addresses how internal investigations should be structured to determine what happened and to help business leaders identify effective corrective actions. This course will provide practical strategies and tactics students can use to plan and conduct thorough investigations. This course will also discuss selling the value of workplace investigations to management, management's legal obligations, and structuring the compliance function. This course will teach students not only how to uncover the truth during an investigation, but also how to ensure that the results can help an organization resolve issues and move forward.

LAWD-613: HEALTH LAW & POLICY (3 credits)

Students will be introduced to fundamental concepts of American health policy and law within the U.S. healthcare system. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the broad context and the essential policy and legal issues impacting and flowing out of the health care and public health systems, and the way policies and laws are formulated. Students will learn to think systematically about these issues and the various methods available to public and private policymakers to solve them, including the impact on regulatory compliance.

LAWD-709: HEALTHCARE, QUALITY, SAFETY & LIABILITY (3 credits)

This course is designed to familiarize students with the legal and regulatory issues of health care. Students will be introduced to the legal issues that often arise as health care is delivered through the complex network of private providers, government programs, and third-party payers, providing an overview of the major legal, ethical, quality, and policy issues. Students will have an opportunity to examine and critique healthcare policy with an eye toward legal and regulatory constraints, variables within the healthcare delivery system, and societal issues that may affect the organization and delivery of health care resources.

LAWD-XXXX: KEYS TO US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPLIANCE (3 credits)

This course provides a beginning to end picture of how Healthcare Law Compliance impacts the pharmaceutical industry; an overview of promotional regulatory oversight, and applicable laws regulating compliance. In addition, the course will explore the various business transactions that are encountered within the healthcare arena with heightened focus on the pharmaceutical industry. Students will receive and review potential issues related to in-house compliance and learn how to develop an effective compliance program. The course will incorporate hands-on learning throughout the curriculum and students will be exposed to current industry related issues and experience ways to resolve such issues via assignments geared towards developing essential practical skills such as risk assessment, mitigation plans, interviewing skills, project management and program development.

LAWD-6238: CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY (3 credits)

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is the idea that corporations have a moral responsibility to voluntarily integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) improvements into their business operations for the benefit of stakeholders (shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, creditors, and host communities), society as a whole, and the environment. This course will explore corporate purpose, the criminal prosecution of corporations, corporate rights to freedom of speech and religion, CSR reporting, and corporate control through stakeholder markets.

LAWD-6181: ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS (3 credits)

This course examines the evolution and implementation of international, regional, and domestic legal means for advancing environmental rights, including human rights and the environment; whether to adopt international environmental rights; constitutional instantiation of environmental rights, including a right to a healthy environment; and cross-cutting issues, such as a rights to dignity and a stable climate, and of nature and animals. We will focus on essential readings and major judicial decisions in these fields and take a field trip to an urban national wildlife refuge.