

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

# LSTD498

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## Course Summary

**Course:** LSTD498 **Title:** Practical Legal Studies Applications

**Length of Course:** 8

**Prerequisites:** None **Credit Hours:** 3

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## Description

### Course Description:

This course is a pinnacle of the Legal Studies bachelor's degree program. As such, it is designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to review, analyze and integrate their work commensurate with their status as seniors who are ready to graduate. The students will prove mastery of the stated outcomes of their program of study requirements. This is a culminating course to be taken after at least 85% of all other Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies courses have been satisfactorily completed. Students must have Senior standing to register. Prerequisite: This course is intended to be taken as your final course in the Legal Studies Bachelor of Science program.

### Course Scope:

This course is divided into eight weeks and is organized to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their ability to review, analyze and integrate their work commensurate with their status as seniors who are ready to graduate. Throughout the course, students will meaningfully culminate their learning and validate their respective levels of mastery of the Legal Studies degree requirements.

As a Legal Studies student, you must successfully complete this course (or LSTD497, the Senior Seminar in Legal Studies) in order to have your degree conferred. All of the coursework must be submitted and meet or surpass the rubric requirements by the course end date or a failing grade will be posted. If you fail your first attempt at this course, then (a) you will need to get approval to register for a second attempt of the course and (b) BOTH final course grades will show in your transcript.

*The educational materials in this course are provided to help focus your learning. You must supply the effort to maximize learning potential. If you want to use the knowledge that you gain in this course in real world situations, be sure to consult your legal counsel and advisors rather than relying solely on these educational materials. That is because this course presents information about law generally; in addition, relevant laws are constantly in flux, which could affect your unique circumstances.*

(Note to students: The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in this upper-level undergraduate course assume that the student has completed all lower-level general education and career planning course work necessary to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students who have not fulfilled all general education requirements through courses or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for this course).

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# Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

CO1: Apply basic legal reasoning skills.

CO2: Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function, principles, and concepts of law as they relate to the legal professional.

CO 3: Demonstrate soft business skills, like cooperation, negotiation, and compromise with peers.

CO 4: Apply legal research methods and techniques used in the practice of law.

CO 5: Apply the practical skills necessary for legal work.

CO 6: Evaluate as to why multiple perspectives are needed to make good decisions in legal-related work.

CO 7: Present an audio-visual presentation concerning the relationship between the student's Legal Studies program and society's need for judicial accessibility.

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# Outline

## Week 1: Recurring Themes

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### Learning Objectives:

LO-1.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations that relate to judicial accessibility.

LO-2.2: Examine the relationships between students' Legal Studies concentration interests and access to justice problems.

LO-3.3: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.

### Reading(s)

Please see the eReserve.

### Task(s)

1. Introduction Discussion
2. Week 1 Substantive Discussion

## **Week 2: Appraising the Value of Legal Research, Analysis and Writing**

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### **Learning Objectives:**

LO1.1 and LO2.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations that relate to judicial accessibility.

LO3.2: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.

LO4.3: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.

LO5.4: Apply the key legal research, analysis, and writing principles relevant to students' anticipated roles as legal professionals.

LO5.5: Describe the value to you of understanding the basics of legal research, analysis, and writing skills.

LO 6.6: Illustrate the value of receiving multiple points of view before making decisions about different kinds of legal tasks.

### **Reading(s)**

Please see the eReserve.

### **Task(s)**

1. Week 2 Substantive Discussion
2. Week 2 Assignment

## **Week 3: Basic Strategic Planning to Solve Legal Problems**

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### **Learning Objectives:**

LO1.1 and LO2.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations that relate to judicial accessibility.

LO3.2: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.

LO4.3: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.

### **Reading(s)**

Please see the eReserve.

### **Task(s)**

1. Week 3 Substantive Discussion

## **Week 4: Analyzing Legal Doctrines, Theories and Concepts**

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### Learning Objectives:

LO 1.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

LO 2.2: Examine how legal theories can link students' Legal Studies concentration interests and others tangentially related to the law.

LO 3.3: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.

LO 4.4: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.

LO 5.5: Apply the key legal research, analysis, and writing principles relevant to students' anticipated roles as legal professionals.

LO 5.6: Describe the value to you of understanding the basics of legal theory.

LO 6.7: Illustrate the value of receiving multiple points of view before making decisions about different kinds of legal tasks.

### Reading(s)

Please see the eReserve.

### Task(s)

1. Week 4 Substantive Discussion
2. Week 4 Assignment

## **Week 5: Amorphous Boundaries**

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### Learning Objectives:

LO 1.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.

LO 2.2: Examine how legal theories can link students' Legal Studies concentration interests and others tangentially related to the law.

LO 3.3: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.

LO 4.4: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.

### Reading(s)

Please see the eReserve.

### Task(s)

1. Week 5 Substantive Discussion

## **Week 6: Differentiating the Facts, Concepts and Procedures in a Legal Problem With Ethical Concerns**

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### **Learning Objectives:**

- LO 1.1 and LO 2.1: Conduct fact pattern analysis to determine legal and ethical issues to be addressed.
- LO 1.2 and LO 2.2: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.
- LO 1.3 and LO 2.3: Analyze the ethical issues that may occur while working in a legal environment.
- LO 3.4: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.
- LO 4.5: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.
- LO 5.6: Apply the key legal research, analysis, and writing principles relevant to students' anticipated roles as legal professionals.
- LO 5.7: Describe the value to you of understanding how to apply the basics of legal analysis and critical thinking within a complex legal environment.
- LO 6.8: Illustrate the value of receiving multiple points of view before making decisions about different kinds of legal tasks.

### **Reading(s)**

Please see the eReserve.

### **Task(s)**

1. Week 6 Substantive Discussion
2. Week 6 Assignment

## **Week 7: Integrating Ethics**

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### **Learning Objectives:**

- LO 1.1 and LO 2.1: Conduct fact pattern analysis to determine legal and ethical issues to be addressed.
- LO 1.2 and LO 2.2: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.
- LO 1.3 and LO 2.3: Analyze the ethical issues that may occur while working in a legal environment.
- LO 3.4: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.
- LO 4.5: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.

### **Reading(s)**

Please see the eReserve.

## Task(s)

1. Week 7 Substantive Discussion

## Week 8: Bringing It Together: Improving the American Legal System

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### Learning Objectives:

- LO 1.1 and 5.1: Use critical legal thinking and analytical skills to appraise typical nonlawyer legal tasks or situations.
- LO 2.2: Examine the relationships between students' Legal Studies concentration interests and access to justice problems.
- LO 3.3 and LO 5.3: Collaborate in analyzing realistic concerns arising from legal issues and their potential solutions.
- LO 4.4 and LO 5.4: Use a computerized device to access the university's electronic library to find appropriate resources.
- LO 4.5 and LO 5.5: Apply the key legal research, analysis, and writing principles relevant to students' anticipated roles as legal professionals.
- LO 6.6: Illustrate the value of receiving multiple points of view before making decisions about different kinds of legal tasks.
- LO 7.7: Design an audio-visual presentation that shows the value of the student's degree for helping to shrink the Justice Gap in some way.

### Reading(s)

Please see the eReserve.

### Assignment(s)

1. Week 8 Substantive Discussion
2. Week 8 Assignment

## Evaluation

This course has eight (8) graded Discussions and four (4) graded Assignments. There are no exams.

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## Materials

The course materials are electronically provided in the classroom's eReserve.

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# Course Guidelines

## WRITING EXPECTATIONS

The expectation is that the writing will be in your words after analysis of the sources. Writing must be well organized and presented in a way that clearly conveys your thoughts, using full sentences, correct spelling, and proper grammar. I prefer that you use the active voice and write in plain business-style English; avoid military jargon, abbreviations, and *text-speak*. Please check your work for possible spelling or other errors prior to submission.

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat; Times New Roman, 12-point size font is ideal. Margins should be at one inch all around (top, right, bottom, and left). Specific details are provided in the assignment instructions; always check there as assignment formats may vary. Uploaded documents in the assignment section should be in Word (.doc, .docx) format.

Assignments may be submitted to Turnitin.com, which will analyze automatically a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism or overuse of quotes. Students should submit their work early so that they may use the Turnitin.com Originality Report to help guide their editing process before submitting the work for a grade.

## Citation and Reference Style

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that Legal Studies students follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation for all coursework requiring citations. Non-Legal Studies students may use APA style.

## Late Assignments

The amount of the penalty is at the faculty member's discretion, up to the maximum percentages outlined in the Late Assignment Policy. Faculty always have the discretion to be more flexible than the Late Assignment Policy allows, but not less flexible. Faculty should be consistent across students in their application of this policy and clearly communicate with students about penalties applied. Faculty should accept late work submitted up to the end of the class and they have the discretion to accept work submitted after the course ends as long as it does not interfere with final grade submission deadlines.

## Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Discussion of others.

## Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.



# Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

Electronic Books: You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

Electronic Journals: The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Legal Studies Program Guide: This should be your starting point as you explore the resources available for the Legal Studies Program.

# University Policies

**Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

## Student Handbook

[Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)  
[Extension Requests](#)  
[Academic Probation](#)  
[Appeals](#)  
[Disability Accommodations](#)  
[Late Submission Policy](#)

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