

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW AND SOCIETY

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ New Building, 9.65.01

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR:

Susan Kang ■ skang@jjay.cuny.edu

DEPUTY CHAIR:

Jean Carmalt ■ jcarmalt@jjay.cuny.edu

See all major requirements at: www.jjay.cuny.edu/law-and-society-major-resources

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

Why do people obey laws? How does law empower and constrain individuals, groups, organizations and communities? How do the structures and values of social institutions shape law and how does law shape them? Can we achieve political and social change through the courts?

Law & Society provides answers to all of these questions, which are paramount to our current societal struggles. Law & Society students will learn how legal structures have affected the **rights** of and **justice** for people of **different races, gender identities, and sexual orientations**, and how those people have themselves created change in our legal structures.

If you are interested in these questions, and our society's potential for change, the Law and Society major may be a good fit for you. Organized around the theme of understanding law as an instrument of political and social change, the Law and Society major will advance your knowledge of law and legal phenomena from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

Explore multidisciplinary perspectives on law and legal institutions, their impact on society, and society's impact on them.

Understand the relationship between law and social and political change.

Acquire the tools to investigate the relationship between law and society using a variety of research methods.

Improve your oral and written communication skills, your ability to analyze arguments critically, and your ability to develop and express coherent arguments.

Develop your own original research project examining a topic in law and society.

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

POL 101: American Government and Politics

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology

LWS 200: Introduction to Law and Society

Beyond these introductory courses, students will have the option to take courses addressing law and society in a variety of disciplines, including Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Philosophy, History, and Latin American and Latinx Studies.

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Thinking analytically
- Writing persuasively
- Reading and listening critically
- Researching and organizing data systematically

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Anthropology
- Criminology
- Dispute Resolution
- Economics
- English
- Human Rights
- Humanities and Justice
- Latin American and Latinx Studies
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Sociology

For more information about minors, go to:
www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

One of the great strengths of the Law and Society major at John Jay is that it takes advantage of the wide range of expertise among faculty in numerous disciplines whose teaching and research support the mission of the major. The major offers internship opportunities in New York City, Albany, and Washington, D.C., as well as the opportunity to participate in faculty-led research projects.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- Public sector agencies at city, state and federal level
- Non-governmental policy organizations
- Judicial administration
- Private sector firms
- Legal careers

Since 2014, nearly 30% of all law school-bound John Jay graduates majored in Political Science or Law and Society, according to National Student Clearinghouse data. Both majors provide an excellent foundation for graduate study in law.