

# LSTD690

**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.

## Course Summary

**Course :** LSTD690 **Title :** Independent Study: Legal Studies

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

## Description

**Course Description:** This Independent Study is an opportunity for Legal Studies graduate students to pursue an independent research project under the mentorship and discretion of a faculty member. The course requires a major research paper; there will be no examination. Students will submit a request to take the independent study to the Registrar and will include the name of a faculty with whom they have coordinated. Prior to registering, students should first contact the professor with whom they wish to mentor their independent study, coordinate an agreement on the grading requirements, and then NOTIFY their academic advisor with the name of their professor. The final approval to take the independent study will be made by the Program Director.

### Course Scope:

The purpose and scope of this course is to provide graduate students the opportunity to do independently work in a specialized area of Legal Studies not covered by course offerings. The student will complete an approved research paper that demonstrates mastery of their program of study in a meaningful culmination of their learning and assess their level of mastery of the stated outcomes of their degree requirements.

## Objectives

1. Analyze the influences that affected the development of law and their significance;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the evolution and structure of the judicial system;
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the economic, political, and social influences on the judicial system;
4. Interpret the changing nature of the law and the emerging actors that operate within the legal system; and
5. Examine black letter and case law on a range of issue areas.

## Outline

## **Week 1: Approval of Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Generate formal research proposal.

LO-3: Prepare to use Bluebook academic citation format (footnotes) for all assignments in this class.

### Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop formal research proposal.

Bluebook Whitepages and Tables.

### Assignment

Forum Post #1

Assignment #1: Formal Research Topic Proposal

## **Week 2: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

### Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop formal research proposal.

### Assignment

No formal written assignment

Participate in discussion forum

## **Week 3: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

LO-3: Produce logical, organized, and detailed outline of paper from start to finish.

### Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

### Assignment

Assignment 2: Detailed Outline

Participate in discussion forum

#### **Week 4: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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##### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

LO-3: Assess materials in approved topic area.

LO-4: Synthesize knowledge in approved topic area

LO-5: Explain state of knowledge on topic.

##### Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

##### Assignment

No formal written assignment

Participate in discussion forum

#### **Week 5: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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##### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

LO-3: Assess materials in approved topic area.

LO-4: Synthesize knowledge in approved topic area

LO-5: Explain state of knowledge on topic

##### Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

##### Assignment

No formal assignment

Participate in discussion forum

#### **Week 6: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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##### Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

LO-3: Assess materials in approved topic area.

LO-4: Synthesize knowledge in approved topic area

LO-5: Explain state of knowledge on topic

LO-6: Develop position on topic

LO-7: Justify position on topic.

Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

Assignment

Assignment 3: Near Final Draft of Research Paper

Participate in discussion forum

### **Week 7: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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Learning Objectives

LO-1: Develop knowledge in chosen topic area.

LO-2: Analyze materials in approved topic area.

LO-3: Assess materials in approved topic area.

LO-4: Synthesize knowledge in approved topic area

LO-5: Explain state of knowledge on topic

LO-6: Develop position on topic

LO-7: Justify position on topic.

Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

Assignment

No formal written assignment

Participate in discussion forum

### **Week 8: Development of knowledge on approved Independent Study Research Paper Topic**

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Learning Objectives

LO-1: Explain state of knowledge on topic

LO-2: Develop position on topic

LO-3: Justify position on topic.

Readings

Read on topic of choice required to develop knowledge in approved subject area.

Assignment

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Final research paper submission

Participate in discussion forum

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## Evaluation

Evaluation of the student's performance will be determined by the professor who is advising the student on the independent study.

### Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Deductions:

Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day

Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Students will be required to submit a 25+ page research paper. Students are required to receive professor approval on their chosen topic. All written submissions must be **double-spaced**.

### Grading:

Name	Grade %
Mandatory Introductory Forum	5.00 %
Mandatory Introductory Forum	5.00 %
Week 1 Assignment (Formal Research Proposal)	5.00 %
Week 1 Assignment (Formal Research Proposal)	5.00 %
Week 3 Assignment (Detailed Outline)	10.00 %
Week 3 Assignment (Detailed Outline)	10.00 %
Week 6 Assignment (Draft Research Paper)	10.00 %
Week 6 Assignment (Draft Research Paper)	10.00 %
Week 8 Assignment (Final Submission)	65.00 %
Week 8 (Final Research Paper Submission)	65.00 %
Weekly Discussion Forum	5.00 %
Weekly Discussion Forum	5.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** This course has been inactivated

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** NTR

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### Required Course Textbooks:

*The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, (Columbia Law Review Ass'n et al. eds. 20th ed. 2015). There is information in the classroom on Bluebook, and you also have access to the Bluebook online through the Online Library. Here is the link: <https://www-legalbluebook-com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/>

**Required Readings:** This will depend on the details of the independent study.

**Additional Resources:** This will depend on the details of the independent study.

### Web Sites:

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Site Name	Web Site URL/Address
Findlaw	<a href="http://www.findlaw.com">http://www.findlaw.com</a>
Cornell Legal Information Institute	<a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/">https://www.law.cornell.edu/</a>
Basic Outlining (from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice)	<a href="#">Basic Outlining</a>
Library of Congress	<a href="https://www.congress.gov/">https://www.congress.gov/</a>
United Nations	<a href="http://www.un.org/en/">http://www.un.org/en/</a>
American Bar Association (ABA)	<a href="http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html">http://www.americanbar.org/aba.html</a>
Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)	<a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/</a>

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## Course Guidelines

## Writing Expectations

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. Specific details are provided in the assignment section as assignment formats vary. Uploaded documents in the assignment section should be in word (.doc, .docx) format. Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will automatically analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism or overuse of quotes for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The expectation is that the writing will be in your words after analysis of the sources.

## 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 any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation. Do not purchase The Bluebook, as it is available at the APUS library. Use this link to access: <http://ezproxy.apus.edu/login?url=https://www.legalbluebook.com>

## Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

## Deductions

Late forum posts, assignments, and exams may be penalized five (5) points per day.

## Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums 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 Forum of others.

Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :) )

## 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.

**Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [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.

**Legal Studies Program Guide:** This should be your starting point as you explore the resources available for the Legal Studies Program! <https://www.apus.edu/apus-library/online-research/research/research-guides/school-of-security-global-studies/legal-studies-paralegal-studies>

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## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

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

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

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