Law and Society Minor

This interdisciplinary program focuses on the effect of law on society as well as the ways in which social forces influence the legal system. The program encourages students to look beyond "law on the books" to "law in action." Thus, it includes the study of key legal institutions such as the legal profession, the judiciary, juries, the police, legislatures, and administrative agencies. In addition, the minor introduces students to legal policies like plea bargaining, the death penalty, and to the constitutional principles that underlie political debates about these policies, e.g., equal protection, due process, and privacy.

**REQUIREMENTS**: Seven courses (28 units), including one core class, three upper-division courses, and three additional elective courses. See detailed information below.

*POSC majors* must take 8 courses (32 units).

**IMPORTANT**: As with all minors at USC, *at least 4 courses must be unique to the POSC minor and cannot fulfill any other department major or minor requirements*. These 4 courses also cannot fulfill any Dornsife general education requirements, but they may overlap with the Diversity requirement.

For course descriptions, please see the USC Course Catalogue or the USC Schedule of Classes.

**PLEASE NOTE**: Courses for this minor are often offered only once per academic year, so be sure to plan ahead.

1. **Core Requirement**: POSC 130g: Law, Politics, and Public Policy

2. **Upper Division Requirement**: One course from each of the following three categories:

   1. **CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**
      - POSC 340: Constitutional Law
      - POSC 426: The United States Supreme Court
      - POSC 444: Civil and Political Rights and Liberties

   2. **INTERNATIONAL LAW**
      - POSC 345: International Law
      - POSC 448a: The Politics of Peace (Human Rights)

   3. **POLICY ANALYSIS**
      - POSC 333: Stigma and Society: Physical Disability in America
      - POSC 347: Environmental Law
      - POSC 395: Directed Governmental and Political Leadership Internship
      - POSC 432: Politics of Local Criminal Justice
      - POSC 435: Politics and the Economy
      - POSC 436: Environmental Politics
      - POSC 440: Comparative Law and the Judicial Process
      - POSC 441m: Cultural Diversity and the Law
      - POSC 442m: The Politics of Human Differences: Diversity and Discrimination
      - POSC 443: Law in Film
      - POSC 448b: The Politics of Peace (Arms Limitation, Control, and Disarmament)
      - POSC 452: Critical Issues in Law and Public Policy

3. **Elective Requirement**: One course from each of the following three categories (12 Units; 16 Units for POSC Majors):

   1. **HUMANISTIC/HISTORICAL**
      - PHIL 340: Ethics
      - PHIL 430: Philosophy of Law

   2. **SOCIOLOGY**
      - SOCI 351: Public Policy and Juvenile Justice
      - SOCI 353: Public Policy and Criminal Justice

   3. **OTHER**
      - ANTH 345: Politics, Social Organization, and Law
      - COMM 421: Legal Communication (Pre-req = COMM 322)
      - ECON 434: Economic Analysis of Law
      - PSYC 355: Social Psychology
      - LAW 200w: Law and Society

**Questions?**

Contact a **POSC Academic Advisor**:

**Paul Kovich**: (213) 740-3621; kovich@usc.edu

**Kiki Miller**: (213) 740-3445; kcm@usc.edu

**VKC, Room 214**

Monday - Friday

9:30am-12pm; 1:30pm-4:30pm