LWP 6118. Historical Foundations of American Law. 2 Hours.
Explores American law and legal institutions in a historical context, instead of examining specific legal doctrines. Topics include, but are not limited to, the role of slavery, foreign affairs, territorial expansion, and immigration in building the nation; the emergence of law as a distinct profession; and the rise of the U.S. Supreme Court. Examines a series of questions concerning the relationship between law and society and the importance of history in understanding modern legal developments.

LWP 6119. Current Law and Policy Debates: Our Nation’s Capital and Beyond. 2 Hours.
Explores an important law and policy issue that captures the attention of our national policy makers, think tanks, and journalists. Topics may include, but are not limited to, technology and privacy, gun control, healthcare reform, civil rights and civil liberties, K-12 and higher education, foreign policy, and others. Course includes a residency in Washington, D.C.

LWP 6120. Law and Legal Reasoning 1. 2 Hours.
Introduces the American legal system and the modes of legal reasoning used by attorneys and judges. Offers students an opportunity to obtain the skills necessary to use legal resources and legal reasoning in academic and policy work. At the conclusion of the course, students are expected to understand basic legal concepts and terminology, the organization of the federal and state court systems, and how litigation moves through the courts; to understand the different types of legal reasoning used in cases involving both common law and enacted/statutory law; and to be able to read and understand key legal documents, especially judicial opinions and litigation documents, such as complaints and briefs.

LWP 6121. Law and Legal Reasoning 2. 2 Hours.
Offers an overview of a handful of key areas of law that are particularly important for policy students, such as federalism/preemption, doctrines of justiciability, and constitutional law. At the conclusion of the course, students are expected to understand how to brief a legal case, how to analyze a legal case and apply it to new fact patterns, and how to perform legal research by finding and applying the applicable case law or statute and drafting a legal memorandum.

LWP 6122. Law and Legal Reasoning 3. 2 Hours.
Introduces law and policymaking in the current administrative state, which often involves the intersection of constitutional law and federal and state statutory law. Examines the way Congress and administrative agencies adopt binding rules of law (statutes and regulations) and the way that interpreting institutions—courts and administrative agencies—analyze and apply these laws. Also examines the reasons for modern regulation, limits of regulation, and ways it can distort policy; the structure of the modern administrative state; and incentives that influence the behavior of regulators and the regulated. Also examines the legal rules (such as standards of deference) that structure the relationship between and among Congress, administrative agencies, and courts.

LWP 6123. Law and Legal Reasoning 4. 2 Hours.
Offers a theoretical overview of foundational law and policy concepts. Topics include legal formalism and textualism, legal realism and pragmatism, critical legal studies, the living constitution, originalism, and popular constitutionalism. Offers students an opportunity to apply these theories to historic and current cases.

Offers an overview of the structure of the political branches of government, the various types and forms of public policy, and the dimensions of conflict in the creation and modification of public policy. Topics include problem definition, pluralism (i.e., group theory) vs. elitism, policy heuristics, and street-level bureaucracy.

LWP 6402. Law and Policy Concepts 2: Strategizing for Public Policy. 2 Hours.
Offers an overview of policy making theory. Topics include agenda setting, historical institutionalism, and interbranch perspectives of law and policy.

LWP 6403. Law and Policy Concepts 3: Policy Case Studies. 2 Hours.
Reviews how modern policy scholarship is applied to public policy challenges. Topics may include, but are not limited to, healthcare, criminal justice, environmental policy, labor policy, economic development, housing, or social welfare.

LWP 6404. Evaluation Research. 2 Hours.
Introduces commonly used policy evaluation methods and tools. Offers students an opportunity to become familiar with the concepts, techniques, and practices of evaluation research; to learn how to read evaluation research critically; and to develop an appropriate evaluation plan for an ongoing program. Topics include outcome and impact evaluation, as well as cost-benefit analysis.

LWP 6410. Economics for Policy Analysis. 2 Hours.
Offers an overview of the use of various economic theories in policy analysis and the tools of public finance. Topics may include the theory of public choice; market failure; economic concepts of public and private goods; externalities; and theories of social welfare, political economy, behavioral economics, sources of revenue and expenditure, tax structures, and other contemporary efforts to incentivize private investment to support social goals. Offers students an opportunity to understand these theories and concepts and apply them to a range of public policy and legal issues.

LWP 6420. Quantitative Methods. 2 Hours.
Introduces the manipulation and description of data, survey techniques, and secondary data analysis. Topics include the variety of techniques to calculate descriptive statistics and techniques to evaluate the relationship between variables, including crosstabs.

LWP 6423. Qualitative Methods. 2 Hours.
Introduces qualitative data collection techniques, including in-depth group interviews, archival research, and observation. Offers students an opportunity to apply these techniques through assignments and perform qualitative data analysis.

LWP 6424. Research Methods. 2 Hours.
Introduces research design; logic of inquiry; data collection; evaluation of evidence; and qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches for law and policy research and analysis. Reviews research ethics and Institutional Review Board processes and policies.
LWP 6431. Political and Moral Ethics and Dilemmas. 2 Hours.
Offers a political and moral examination of the responsibilities of public policy makers in government by asking two questions: (1) What should governments do, considering principles that guide good, just, legitimate public policy? (2) What should political actors do, considering the many and often competing obligations that guide political actors in contesting what is good, just, and legitimate public policy? Assignments focus on applications of theoretical concepts from scholarly readings in philosophy and political theory to practical issues of public policy. Students are expected to research distinct political and moral scholars, make presentations of their research, and complete a term paper addressing these ideas and scholars as applied to their doctoral project.

LWP 6450. Public Policy Theory and Practice 1. 2,4 Hours.
Offers a practical and theoretical overview to crafting effective strategies for advancing public policy changes at the federal, state, and local level using a range of legislation, litigation, and other policy tools. After developing the technical aspects of a public policy proposal, those working for policy change face an array of strategic and tactical decisions about where and how to intervene in the complicated system of actors and institutions that establishes and implements public policies. Examines a wide range of policy topics to understand and evaluate how different policy strategies evolve in the interplay between branches and levels of government.

LWP 6451. Public Policy Theory and Practice 2. 2,4 Hours.
Focuses on crafting effective strategies for advancing public policy changes at the federal, state, and local level using a range of legislation, litigation, and other policy tools. Guest experts lecture and lead class discussions. Students are expected to analyze policy change options and to evaluate which strategies are most likely to produce desired changes. Selected students are asked to moderate class debates. Offers students an opportunity to develop a theory-based and pragmatic framework for developing effective strategies for achieving desired policy change across a broad spectrum of issues and at all levels of government. Students are asked to also examine ideas and proposals raised in their doctoral theses.

LWP 6452. Public Policy Theory and Practice 3. 2,4 Hours.
Focuses on crafting effective strategies for advancing public policy changes at the federal, state, and local level using a range of legislation, litigation, and other policy tools. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, health policy, rights policy, criminal justice, education policy, immigration policy, and housing policy. Guest experts lecture and initiate class discussions. Students are expected to analyze policy change options and propose strategies to produce desired policy changes. Selected students are asked to lead and moderate class debates. Offers students an opportunity to develop a theory-based and pragmatic framework for developing effective strategies for achieving desired policy change across a broad spectrum of issues and at all levels of government.

LWP 6500. Doctoral Research Design 1. 2 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to begin to develop their thesis project, to review and understand different approaches to policy research design, and to learn basic literature search/bibliographic review techniques. By the end of the course, students are expected to have written a literature review in their topic of interest and to produce a general project purpose statement that will guide the design of their thesis project.

LWP 6501. Doctoral Research Design 2. 2 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to continue to develop their thesis project and to review and understand the range of choices in policy research design. Reviews various methods of data collection. Students explore how to connect their project purpose to appropriate data collection methods, emphasizing qualitative methods and survey design. At the end of this course, students are expected to have written a thesis project proposal to submit to their thesis committee for approval.

LWP 6502. Doctoral Research Design 3. 2 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to continue to develop their thesis project and to review and understand the range of choices for the analysis and interpretation of data. Students are expected to finalize their data collection tools and also begin data collection during this course. At the end of this course, students are expected to have written the final description of the research design and method as well as the analytic protocol for their project.

LWP 6503. Doctoral Research Design 4. 2,6 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to finalize and move toward the completion of their thesis project. Also offers students an opportunity to explore the conclusions that are possible from the results of their data collection and analysis and, as part of this, to finalize their analytic protocols. Students are expected to understand how to write a thesis. At the end of this course, students should have written an outline for their thesis and a final description of design and methods of their thesis project, as well as present their research projects and preliminary findings.

LWP 6504. Doctoral Research Design 5. 2 Hours.
Offers students an opportunity to continue to develop their thesis project and to review and understand the range of choices in policy research design. Reviews various methods of data collection. Students explore how to connect their project purpose to appropriate data collection methods, emphasizing qualitative methods and survey design. At the end of this course, students are expected to have written a thesis project proposal to submit to their thesis committee for approval.

LWP 6962. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions. May be repeated without limit.

LWP 6995. Project. 1-4 Hours.
Focuses on in-depth project in which a student conducts research or produces a product related to the student’s major field. May be repeated without limit.

LWP 7962. Elective. 1-4 Hours.
Offers elective credit for courses taken at other academic institutions.

LWP 7994. Thesis Continuation—Part Time. 0 Hours.
Offers continued thesis supervision by members of the program. May be repeated up to three times.