

# LEGAL STUDIES (LEGAL)

## LEGAL 5000 - Supervised Writing (1-3 Credits)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## LEGAL 5100 - Introduction to the U.S. Legal System (3 Credits)

This introductory course immerses you in the American legal system and locates it in an inter-connected world. Law is in some ways its own language and immersion courses are an effective way to learn a new language. The course provides a framework for thinking about questions like: When should your firm consult an attorney? What does it mean to think like a lawyer? What kinds of remedies does the law offer? How do different sources of law—such as state and federal statutes, agency regulations, court decisions, and constitutional limits—interact? Which courts decide which kinds of questions? When should you pursue alternatives to litigation, such as arbitration or mediation?

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## LEGAL 5101 - Working with Business Contracts (3 Credits)

This course introduces students to the basic principles of contract law with a focus on practical application of those principles. Students who take the course will be able to identify and create enforceable agreements that clearly and thoroughly set forth the rights and obligations of parties, appropriately allocate risk, and avoid unintended consequences. By explaining how lawyers use the tools of contract drafting—representations, warranties, covenants, conditions and indemnities and other typical contract provisions—the course seeks to and de-mystifying legal jargon with the goal of promoting effective collaboration between businesspeople and their legal counsel to achieve their organization's business objectives.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

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## LEGAL 5102 - Business Ethics (2 Credits)

This is a course about ethical decision-making in business organizations. It has two principal components. The first is an introduction to ethical reasoning generally, the Western tradition of moral philosophy, and ethical issues that arise specifically in connection with business and technology. The second half of the course takes a psychological perspective on individual and organizational wrongdoing, seeking to understand why good people sometimes do bad things. The emphasis throughout the course is on identifying ethical issues and anticipating the pitfalls that can lead to disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Volkswagen emissions testing scandal, the General Motors ignition switch failure, and the pattern of wrongdoing at Wells Fargo.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2023, Spring 2023, Summer 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## LEGAL 5103 - Navigating the Intellectual Property Landscape (3 Credits)

Intellectual property is increasingly becoming a central feature of the modern economy. Though most are vaguely aware of its general purpose, business familiarity and comfort with this seemingly exotic area remains elusive. Rather than a singular field, intellectual property is best understood as the collection of its constituent parts of trademark, copyright, trade secrecy and patents. Each of these have their distinct realms of application and have their distinct features, benefits and pitfalls. Business decision makers in all industries can no longer afford to remain in the dark about these fields. Non-lawyers increasingly must be conversant with at least the basic contours. The course provides an overview of the fundamental features of trademark, copyright, trade secrecy and patents with an emphasis on their distinct subject matter and their particular strategic benefits and pitfalls.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Summer 2022, Summer 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## LEGAL 5104 - Business Organizations and Corporate Governance (1.5 Credits)

This course provides an overview of the different types of business organizations, including limited liability companies and partnerships, before focusing on corporations. The course will take a practical approach, covering key elements of corporate governance law in order to enable students to understand, anticipate and respond to the concerns of various stakeholders within their organization. Students will analyze the roles and duties of corporate directors, management and shareholders. Students will then apply the laws surrounding fiduciary duties and the business judgment rule to various simulated corporate transactions or decisions. Finally, students will assess how shareholder value is measured, including by looking at benefit corporations and how they differ from traditional corporations. Throughout the course, students will apply the course material to a series of hypothetical problems and proposed corporate actions. Accordingly, at the end of the course, students will have a toolkit

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: to MSLS students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Fall 2023, Summer 2023

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## LEGAL 5105 - Effective Communication Skills (1.5 Credits)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Summer 2022, Summer 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## LEGAL 5106 - Conducting Legal Research (1.5 Credits)

When people want to find laws and regulations, they often start with Google. This course will introduce you to the pitfalls of the traditional approaches and direct you to more accurate sources of legal information. You will learn to find basic laws and regulations in your area of interest.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: MSLS students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Fall 2023, Summer 2022

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**LEGAL 5107 - Employment Law (3 Credits)**

To be an effective manager and employee, you need to know the legal rules governing the workplace—which is employment law. The course begins with the classification of workers as employees, independent contractors, partners, or interns—a topic much in the news these days as firms outsource important parts of their operations. It then covers job security and the uniquely American concept of employment at will, which includes the protections whistleblowers have in the workplace. Privacy rights and antidiscrimination regulations figure prominently in employment law. The course covers intellectual property rights in the workplace and noncompetition agreements and other restrictions when the job ends.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022  
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**LEGAL 5108 - Compliance Systems (3 Credits)**

Appropriate and efficient internal compliance helps to support the central mission of the business and control costs. This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts and fundamentals of the compliance function within a company or organization. It will focus on (1) the drivers behind the development of rules (2) practical issues involved in rule creation (3) the process of training, or selling, rule systems to the appropriate people (4) policing compliance, including investigations and enforcement of rules, and (5) the consequences of failing to operate a compliance program or doing it wrong. The course relies upon case studies from businesses and organizations, with an emphasis on real life situations with the goal of understanding how to make improvements to rule systems.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: MSLS students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022  
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**LEGAL 5109 - Regulatory Policy and Process (1.5 Credits)**

Regulatory policy affects virtually every corner of American business, from agriculture, to transportation, energy, and finance. This course has two main objectives. First, it will explain the main points of contact between regulators and business, emphasizing the tools available to regulators and their legal consequences. Second, the course will highlight the principal channels available to influence regulatory policy and sample standard legal challenges to adverse policies.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Fall 2023, Summer 2023  
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**LEGAL 5110 - Criminal Liability of Organizations (1.5 Credits)**

Organizations, together with their officials and employees, work in the shadow of the criminal law. If an employee or official commits a crime, not only might the employee or official be criminally liable, the organization itself might be liable too. This course introduces you to some basic concepts of criminal law, including the grounds upon which individuals and organizations can be held criminally liable, some of the principal federal criminal statutes especially relevant to the organizational setting, the difference between civil and criminal enforcement in areas of overlapping jurisdiction, the legal incentives organizations have to establish ethics and compliance programs, and the role of the organization and the Department of Justice in the conduct of internal investigations.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023  
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**LEGAL 5111 - Business Transactions (3 Credits)**

This course is designed to assist non-lawyers in becoming valuable participants in business transactions. The course seeks to help business professionals understand the legal ramifications of business transactions in order to facilitate those transactions and to anticipate and solve the legal and practical issues that may arise both during the negotiation of business transactions and after they have been completed. The transactions to be discussed include mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and capital raising transactions. There will also be a brief introduction to private equity and an explanation as to why business professionals should be familiar with it.

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**LEGAL 5112 - Human Rights Obligations of Organizations (1.5 Credits)**

Business organizations sometimes intentionally or unintentionally harm human rights either directly or in their association with other organizations that are part of their supply chain. This course will provide examples of where businesses have committed human rights violations. International laws and norms increasingly govern business and human rights. These regulations guide businesses on how to better design better compliance mechanisms to ensure best practices in protecting human rights globally.

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**LEGAL 5113 - U.S. Antitrust Law and Policy (1.5 Credits)**

U.S. Antitrust Law is an increasingly important part of the landscape in which businesses in the United States operate. If you don't want your first exposure to antitrust law to be when your company (and maybe you, yourself) are sued, it is prudent to have an understanding of how antitrust law affects how you are allowed to interact with respect to customers, distributors, suppliers and, of course, competitors, and how they are allowed to interact with you. So the course will examine what kinds of interaction are generally permitted and what kinds are not.

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**LEGAL 5114 - Business Immigration Law (1.5 Credits)**

This course equips students to learn and assess their organization's options for hiring, retaining, and terminating non-U.S. citizens, and to partner with legal counsel to advance the staffing and talent needs of their organization in compliance with U.S. immigration law.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: MSLS students.  
**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022  
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**LEGAL 5115 - Cross-Border Transactions (1.5 Credits)**

This course will identify and explain some of the key legal issues that arise in cross-border business transactions. The term cross-border business transactions is defined broadly; it can range from simple tax planning through foreign subsidiaries, to joint ventures with foreign partners, to making or receiving foreign direct investment. The course will provide an overview of the relevant legal issues (looking at both public law and private law), offer practical solutions for dealing with these issues, and engage students in discussion of the broader policy implications.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024  
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**LEGAL 5116 - Cybersecurity, Policy and Governance (1.5 Credits)**

This class will focus on understanding and responding to the threats facing enterprises that arise in the context of a globally interconnected economy. Students will explore the substantive and procedural steps, roles and stakeholders inside the organization and out that collaborate regularly to neutralize attacks and strengthen defenses.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: MSLS students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022  
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**LEGAL 5117 - Privacy Law, Regulation and Business (1.5 Credits)**

This course examines the legal aspects of information privacy, data protection and data security, including the privacy of electronic communications. It will review the major federal privacy statutes, the role of the federal government and designated administrative agencies in the regulation of corporate consumer privacy conduct and data protection. Attention will be given to the large gaps that exist in the protection of individual privacy rights, and to ongoing efforts to regulate emerging technologies, in light of significant international, federal, and state regulatory developments.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: MSLS students.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022  
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**LEGAL 5202 - Business Ethics SP (1.5 Credits)**

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023  
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**LEGAL 6100 - Mastering Negotiations (3 Credits)**

This course will introduce you to basic negotiation terminology. You will learn about the difference between distributive and integrative negotiation, and how to use each of these approaches to negotiation to create maximum value. You will then learn how to balance these two approaches in order to further your chances of making a deal and create even greater further value. By the end of the course, you will have the tools to not only split the pie but also grow the pie in a way that would benefit you and your negotiating partner. Negotiations don't necessarily have winners and losers. Through collaboration, it is possible to create value in a way that allows both parties to get most of what they want.

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**LEGAL 6101 - Health Law and Compliance (3 Credits)**

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**LEGAL 6102 - Financial Institutions (3 Credits)**

This course provides an overview of the economic functions, institutional design, and regulation of financial firms and markets in which they operate. Beginning with conventional deposit-taking banks, the course examines the risks embedded within the business of banking, along with how regulation seeks to mitigate these risks. It then expands this framework to survey the operation and regulation of securities broker-dealers, insurance companies, wholesale funding markets, structured finance markets, money market and other investment funds, and financial market infrastructure.

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**LEGAL 6103 - U.S. Securities Regulation (3 Credits)**

This course provides a general overview of the regulation of the offer and sale of securities under the Securities Act of 1933 (Securities Act) and the reporting requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act). Topics to be covered include: the definition of security, issues around registering securities for public sale, certain exemptions that permit sales without registration, aspects of the federal proxy rules, and certain of the antifraud provisions under the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, including Rule 10b-5, and insider trading. The course is designed for a student interested in gaining a general familiarity of the basics of the federal securities laws.

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**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Summer 2023, Summer 2022

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**LEGAL 7100 - Capstone Project I (1.5 Credits)**

This substantial written project will involve in depth study of a topic selected by the student together with their capstone advisor. The project can involve applying what students learned in the program to issues specific to their work place. Proposal Phase: Submission of written proposal of Capstone for faculty approval.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2024

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**LEGAL 7101 - Capstone Project II (3 Credits)**

This substantial written project will involve in depth study of a topic selected by the student together with their capstone advisor. The project can involve applying what students learned in the program to issues specific to their work place.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Summer 2024, Spring 2024

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