



Law & Inequality Optional Course for First-Year Students FAQs

What is this course?

Law & Inequality is a pilot program we are running in the hope of learning lessons that will help us to make the class a required part of the 1L curriculum going forward.

Is this a required 1L course?

Not yet. Participation in the 2021-2022 academic year is entirely voluntary.

Why a course on law & inequality in the 1L curriculum?

Although there will be multiple sections of this course focusing on different topics, the common theme of this course is that American law, from its origins and to the present, has created and reinforced racial and other inequalities. Through this course, students will have an opportunity to hone their critical thinking skills very early in their law school careers. Each covered topic will allow students to explore how law is made, how it shapes our society in sometimes very pernicious ways, and how lawyers can participate in unmasking and addressing structural inequality in our legal system and in our society.

Will I receive credit for this course?

Yes. The course provides 1 non-course credit. Non-course credits are graded on a P/D+/D/F scale. Under our rules, students can apply up to 9 non-course credits toward the 90 credits required for graduation. Therefore, if you elect to take this course and receive a grade other than an F, you will leave your 1L year with one more credit toward graduation than your colleagues who do not opt to take the course.

Does Law & Inequality satisfy the upper-level Equity Requirement?

No. The Equity Requirement needs to be fulfilled by taking an upper-level course designated as satisfying that requirement. Full-time students are not able to take those courses until they've completed their 1L year. Part-time students may be eligible to take a course that satisfies the Equity Requirement in the summer following their 1L year, even though they will not have completed the entire 1L curriculum.

Can anyone take Law & Inequality?

Because this is a pilot year, it is possible that we will not have sufficient seats to accommodate all students who want to enroll in a section of Law & Inequality, but we

will accommodate as many students as we can! One way we'll maximize opportunity is that students may only participate in one section of the course. The course will be offered in both the fall and the spring, so if you take a fall Law & Inequality class, you will not be able to enroll in a different section in the spring.

What if I register for the course but want to withdraw after it begins?

A student will be permitted to drop a non-required course or course elective until the time of the course examination. If the student withdraws after the second week of classes, a "W" will appear on the record. Students who wish to withdraw should contact Ed Rentzelas, Assistant Dean for Academic Records in Camden or Linda Garbaccio, Assistant Dean for Academic Services in Newark.

Can I wait and take Law & Inequality as an upper-level student?

No. This course is strictly for 1L students.

What will the workload be like?

The professors teaching the course have agreed that the workload will be light. There will be reading assignments, some short writing assignments, and other exercises, but no final exam. Much of the final grade will be based on class discussion and participation.