WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY MEMBER: 
TERM: 

COURSE TITLE: Senior Seminar in Legal Studies 
COURSE NUMBER: LES 499 
TEXTBOOK: 
METHOD OF CONTACT: 

45 TOTAL HOURS OF INSTRUCTION: 35 Contact Hours 
10 Hours Structured External Assignment 

PREREQUISITE: Completion of Legal Studies core courses and junior or senior status 

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: 
This course will introduce advanced critical thinking in the legal context. Topics include contemporary legal debates surrounding individual rights, terrorism, physician assisted suicide, same-sex marriage, and may vary from one semester to the next. With faculty guidance, students will select a research topic which demonstrates the knowledge and skills expected upon completion of the major. Satisfactory completion of this project, including a written paper, demonstrates a solid understanding of the major, as well as the confidence and skills to work with existing and emerging aspects of the professional field, to do independent research and effective problem solving, and to communicate effectively.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Demonstrate proficiency in applying concepts of information literacy within the legal profession. 

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Formulate a legal issue. 
A-2 Access information from primary and secondary resources both in print and through the use of electronic databases. 
A-3 Design and implement an integrated research strategy. 
A-4 Differentiate between primary and secondary, legal and non-legal resources. 
A-5 Review and synthesize information to draw legal conclusions. 
A-6 Use technology to create a professional presentation of research results. 
A-7 Properly cite to selected primary and secondary resources.
GOAL B: Demonstrate effective written communication skills.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Write clearly and concisely.
B-2 Use proper punctuation and grammar.
B-3 Write a well-organized, logical research paper.
B-4 Utilize proper word usage, sentence structure, and spelling.

GOAL C: Evidence critical thinking skills

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1 Reflect thoughtful consideration of a topic in all written work, oral presentations, online assignments, and discussions.
C-2 State positions supported with concepts from primary and secondary authority.
C-3 Utilize appropriate informational resources.
C-4 Describe “dialectical thinking” and explain its application
C-5 Define and identify “normative” and “empirical” judgments
C-6 Evaluate the use of analogies and appeals in argument

III. STRUCTURED EXTERNAL ASSIGNMENT:

IV. METHODOLOGY:
A. Teaching Methods
   Lecture and discussion
   Individual/Group Activities
   Videos & handouts

B. Evaluation Procedures Points
   Research Paper