



NEW LPS COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FALL 2025

LPS 135: WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
W 6-8:30 PM

Taught by Adjunct Philosophy Professor, Cody Dolinsek, What’s Love Got To Do With It? is an interesting combination of philosophy, literature, and law.

Professor Dolinsek earned his PhD at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, writing his dissertation on the personhood of God. Dolinsek notes that despite attending a religious institution, he continues to think critically about religion and associated social mores, leaning his area of focus to Philosophy.

Q: What is the course about?

A: The class is about the legal and social aspects of love. Because what really is love? We will explore politics and emotions, thinking about what love and hate have to do with justice.

Q: Why is this topic important to teach?

A: This topic is important to teach because love is an immediate attention grabber. Young people engage in love all the time. It’s important for students to explore what love really is and what their engagement with the concept is.

LPS 135: YOUTH LAW AND POLICY
M 5-7:30 PM

Taught by Professor Serene Holthe, Youth Law and Policy will explore pressing issues in the juvenile justice system, looking into the history of and maintenance of inadequacies by the system.

Professor Holthe earned her Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science at Northwestern and a Law Degree from Catholic University in D.C. It was during this time Holthe was exposed to the massive dichotomy in the city between the ones with the most power and the ones with the least. This inspired her to work in various legal realms as a public defender and advocate. Currently, Holthe works as an Iowa Children’s Justice Attorney.

Q: What is the course about?

A: This course is about youth policy and the systems that influence it. Topics ranging from education, housing, and welfare will be discussed throughout the course. Students will learn about issues central to Iowa as well as other states to uncover how policy affects youth and families. The class will include lecture as well as guest speakers with lived experience and policy advocates.

Q: Why is this topic important to teach?

A: This topic is important to teach because the more informed and engaged with systems you are, the better an advocate you will be. Students will gain perspective on how systems interact and impact the lives of youth.

LPS 135:
WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS
LAW AND POLICY
TU 4-7 PM

Taught by Erica Nichols Cook, Wrongful Convictions Law and Policy explores various topics that influence wrongful convictions, such as government and policy, as well as other factors.

Professor Cook earned her associates degree of Applied Science, Paralegal Studies at Illinois Central College and her Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies at University of Illinois. She then went on to earn a Law degree at Drake University in 2009. Following her academic pursuits, Cook worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University School of Law. Currently, she works as a Public Defender in Des Moines.

Q: What is the course about?

A: We will discuss the policies created by state governments and legislatures and how they create and maintain wrongful convictions and the court's responses to the public policies. We will learn about the causes of wrongful convictions and analyze how policy choices affect those convictions. We will draft policies for Iowa and examine recent efforts that impact the criminal legal system.

Q: Why is this topic important to teach?

A: Students will learn about wrongful convictions in Iowa and across the country—a pressing phenomenon of civil rights violations by public policy.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DOLINSEK, NICHOLS COOK, HOLTHE