

The Comparative Law and Society Study (CLASS) Center

Graduate Fellows Certificate Program

History

From the beginning, the vision of the CLASS Center developed out of interaction among faculty and graduate students who shared intellectual interests in comparative socio-legal study. The graduate students from multiple disciplines who participated in those formative years provided the incentive for investment in the CLASS vision and the model for the Graduate Fellows Program that was initiated in spring, 2001. At the heart of this vision is the aspiration to provide students with a curriculum, a cohort of faculty mentors, and a range of intellectual experiences that cultivate multi-disciplinary understandings serving to enhance, rather than replace, disciplinary-based education in socio-legal study. The result is an opportunity for one of the most exciting, diverse, and dynamic graduate programs of coordinated study about law and society in the nation.

Faculty

Katherine Beckett, Gad Barzilai, Rachel Cichowski, Angelina Godoy, Steve Herbert, George Lovell, Jamie Mayerfeld, Michael McCann, Joel Midgal, Naomi Murakawa and Arzoo Osanloo.

Program Benefits

CLASS now offers an interdisciplinary certificate program that enables qualified students to earn a certificate in socio-legal studies as they pursue their doctorate. PhD students from the social sciences, Evans School, and Law School are eligible to apply to the certificate program. PhD students who are accepted into the certificate program will be designated CLASS Fellows, and will be eligible to receive upon graduation a certificate designating completion of an independent interdisciplinary law and society program.

Acceptance into the CLASS certificate program offers many benefits. The CLASS Center provides a network of faculty, classes, and financial resources to *CLASS Fellows*. CLASS Fellows will also enjoy:

- Invitations to all CLASS-sponsored events, including workshares, talks and colloquia;
- The opportunity to participate in the graduate student only CLASS Fellows workshare series;
- Opportunities to broaden their academic networks by developing working relationships with and connections to the interdisciplinary CLASS faculty;
- Special consideration for LSJ T.A. and R.A. assignments; and
- The opportunity to apply for funding to participate in Law & Society Association conferences and related events.

Program Requirements

- **GPA:** Students must maintain a 3.5 or better.
- **Courses:** Students must complete at least 3 designated LSJ graduate courses, one of which will be the “core course” (Law, Politics & Society) and another of which must be offered by a faculty member whose primary appointment is outside the applicant’s home department. Independent study courses cannot be substituted for any of these three courses.
- **Analytical Paper:** Students will also satisfy the “capstone” requirement by developing an analytical paper that engages the law and society tradition. The capstone paper must be judged to be sufficient in quality and scope by two CLASS faculty members; revisions may be required. This paper must be presented at both a) an LSJ colloquium or in a dissertation defense, if organized as a public presentation event; and b) one of the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association. (Every effort will be made to provide financial assistance to help make this possible.)
- **Student Completion Letter:** Upon completion of these requirements, the student must submit a letter explaining how these requirements have been met, along with a current transcript, to the CLASS Graduate Program Director.

Program Courses

Course #	Course Title	Instructor(s)
LSJ 501	Globalization's Rulebook	Godoy
LSJ 501/JSIS 590	The Future of the Nation-State	Barzilai
Geog 574	Geography, Law & Social Control	Herbert
JSIS/Pol S 542	State and Society	Migdal
Poli Sci 555	The U.S. Racial State	Murakawa
Pol S 561B	Rights	McCann
Pol S 562	Law and Social Control	McCann
Pol S 566	Comparative Law and Politics	Cichowski
Pol S 563	The U.S. Supreme Court	Lovell
Pol S 564	Law and the Politics of Social Change	Lovell, McCann
Pol S 591/561	Law, Politics & Society	McCann
Soc 590	Police, Order and the Post-Industrial City	Beckett
Soc 590	Law, Politics & Society	Beckett
Soc 590	Law, Punishment and Society	Beckett
Anth 533	Law, Liberalism and Modernity	Osanloo

Application Process

Applications are accepted once a year during the Spring Quarter. Admission requirements include a brief letter of support from a CLASS faculty member, 3.5 GPA and statement of intent. This year applications will be due on Monday, May 18th 2009. The 2009 Application is on the CLASS webpage and attached below.

Program Webpage: <http://depts.washington.edu/class/graduate.html>

2009 CLASS Fellows Program Application

Deadline: Monday, May 18th

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Application Materials: A complete application contains the following

1. Statement of Intent: This is a written explanation of the applicant's interest in law and society studies. This statement will include a description of a) how LSJ courses will complement/supplement course work in the home unit and b) how the applicant's research interests/agenda relates to and intersects with the law and society field. This statement is limited to 2 pages, and should be typed and double-spaced.

2. Unofficial Transcript: A recent graduate transcript indicating that the applicants' cumulative UW GPA is 3.5 or higher.

3. Letter of Support: A letter of support from a faculty member affiliated with CLASS¹ that assesses the applicants' performance in an LSJ course and the extent to which the students' interests are compatible with the LSJ/CLASS program and vision. Please have the faculty upload their Letter to the Application Submission Website by Monday, May 18th.

Submitting Procedure: Please submit your Statement of Intent and Unofficial Transcript to the following Application Submission Website by Monday, May 18th

<https://catalysttools.washington.edu/collectit/dropbox/rcichows/5898>

¹ These include Katherine Beckett, Gad Barzilai, Rachel Cichowski, Angelina Godoy, Steve Herbert, George Lovell, Jamie Mayerfeld, Michael McCann, Joel Migdal, Naomi Murakawa and Arzoo Osanloo.