

## Christian Legal Advocacy Studies

This major was designed for students who would like to (1) attend law school (2) become a legal assistant (3) become a paralegal (4) become involved in the field of politics or civil government. A Bachelor of Arts in Christian Legal Advocacy will help prepare a student for the LSAT exam for law school acceptance.

Whitefield College's core curriculum and requirements already tend to prepare our students to do well on this exam. Whitefield requires high level and complex textbooks in these challenging fields of study: *Philosophy, Logic, Introduction to Philosophy, History of Western Thought I, II, III, Philosophy of Religion and World Religions and Apologetics*. However, with this new major field of study, we have added courses that we believe will strengthen students even more for the LSAT exam. For instance, we have added courses such as: *American Government GVT101, History and Development of the Constitution GVT201, History of Political Thought POL303, Christian Political Philosophy POL305 and Legal Research and Writing CLA401*.

The following is an overview of the LSAT test from the website of the Law School Acceptance Council. *"The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day, standardized test administered four times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world. All American Bar Association-approved law schools, most Canadian law schools, and many other law schools require applicants to take the LSAT as part of their admission process. The LSAT is designed to measure skills that are considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically; and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others. The three multiple-choice question types in the LSAT are:*

**1. Reading Comprehension Questions**

*These questions measure your ability to read, with understanding and insight, examples of lengthy and complex materials similar to those commonly encountered in law school work. The reading comprehension section contains four sets of reading questions, each consisting of a selection of reading material, followed by five to eight questions that test reading and reasoning abilities.*

**2. Analytical Reasoning Questions**

*These questions are designed to measure your ability to understand a structure of relationships and to draw logical conclusions about that structure. You are asked to make deductions from a set of statements, rules, or conditions that describe relationships among entities such as persons, places, things, or events. They simulate the kinds of detailed analyses of relationships that a law student must perform in solving legal problems.*

**3. Logical Reasoning Questions**

*These questions are designed to evaluate your ability to understand, analyze, criticize, and complete a variety of arguments. Each logical reasoning question requires you to read and comprehend a short passage, then answer a question about it. The questions test a variety of abilities involved in reasoning logically and thinking critically."*

In addition to the LSAT, many students who apply to a law school are required to meet with a committee from the law school faculty to be interviewed by them in order to screen each student who has sent in an acceptable application. They do this in order to accept the best prepared and highly educated student. Those schools that do not require a personal interview will require a written personal statement that will tell them your significant life accomplishments and what sets you apart from the other applicants. We believe that these courses will better prepare our student for their interviews or writing their personal statement. Some examples of what we offer are: *History and Introduction to Law CLA402*, *First Amendment Law CLA404*, *Law and Procedure CLA405*, *Criminal Law CLA407* and *Evidence CLA409*)

This course of study will help prepare a student to take the CLA/CP EXAM (*Certified Legal Assistant/Certified Paralegal*). It will also give a student the preparation and background needed to work in civil government and advocate for our American Constitution and Republic.

This course of study requires a high academic standard. The requirements for some courses are much higher than other major fields. It will be both challenging and also intellectually stimulating for each student in the program.

## **Christian Legal Advocacy**

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **GVT101 American Civil Government**

This course is an introduction into the general civil government as established by the United States Constitution and the state governments which preceded it. It details the ancient and modern foundations, both scriptural and secular, on which these constitutions and government rested.

#### **APL110 Biblical Law and Ethics**

This course deals with the role of God's Law as it applies to every area of life (self-government, family government, church government and civil government). The student will find that, for the Bible, law is revelation. The biblical concept of law is broader than the legal codes of the Mosaic formulation. It applies to the entire Word of God from Genesis to Revelation.

#### **GVT201 History & Development of the Constitution**

This course deals with the foundations and the development of the United States Constitution. The student will be shown that political philosophy led to constitutional achievement. Students will find that the constitution lays down the principles of a republican form of government.

#### **POL201 Current Political Issues**

This course deals with various current political issues with which America is dealing today. The main thrust of the course deals with the nature and structure of current policies that have been prepared to be implemented in the United States and how they bring tyranny and crush liberty.

#### **POL303 History of Political Thought**

This course gives a detailed survey that presents a succession of major political thinkers who have influenced many modern conceptions of politics. The student will discover the origins of various political thoughts that were the distinct activity of men in the past. The student will also see the emergence of political thought in British and American universities that had an impact on the current political theory in Great Britain and America.

**POL305 History of Christian Political Philosophy**

This is a course that illustrates the use of Christian theological arguments in political discussion over a millennium and a half, from the patristic age to the early modern period. It also displays a considerable variety of not only viewpoints and situations, but also of great style and genre.

**ENG308 Public Speaking & Debate**

This course offers a study of communication theory as it relates to public speaking and the presentation of arguments to influence others. The student will find that argument may be defined as that process in communication in which logic is used to influence others. The students are prepared to present speeches to inform and arguments to influence those who will listen.

**CLA401 Legal Research and Writing**

This course demonstrates how the student researches the law, develops legal reasoning as to the meaning of the law, and presents the findings in a written presentation that reflects a legal brief.

**CLA402 History and Introduction to Law**

This course begins with a history of Anglo-American Law. It covers the development of our legal system and its various functions such as courts, juries, judges, lawyers, legislation, and many others. It also introduces the student to the basic judicial process.

**CLA403 Constitutional Law**

This course presents a view of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to the federal, state, and individual legal standings. Consideration is given to the political, economic, and legal structures and procedures thereof.

**CLA404 First Amendment Law**

This course examines the nature of civil rights of the individual as they relate to free speech, freedom of religion, and the free exercise thereof. Considerations are viewed in light of the U.S. Constitution with special attention given to questions of equal protection before and after the Fourteenth Amendment.

**CLA405 Law and Procedures**

This is a study of civil, administrative, and legislative law as it applies to procedures and putting the laws into practice. It explains the legislative process, choosing the proper court for civil and administrative law. It covers the scope of judicial review and procedural process that is necessary in dealing with such laws.

**CLA406 Conflict of Laws**

This course deals with the conflict that arises between federal jurisdiction and state jurisdiction. It analyzes the federal jurisdiction and the limits on the federal court's involvement in interstate and intrastate laws. It gives an in depth look at the choice of law when proceeding to bring a suit to be tried in a state or federal court.

**CLA407 Criminal Law**

This course is a succinct exposition of substantive criminal law. It gives an overview of crime and punishment in the court system of the United States such as homicide, battery, assault, and kidnapping among others. It also surveys the many defenses used to defend the accused. It also stresses criminal law regarding the policy of sentencing and the policy of corrections.

**CLA408 Criminal Procedures**

This is a course of study dealing with constitutional limitation regarding criminal procedures. It covers a variety of criminal offenses and the proper procedure for arrest and prosecution to try the case in court. It also reviews the constitutional constraints on police investigation and the proper procedures when the arrest has been made. It also covers the appellate process that follows most criminal cases.

### **CLA409 Evidence**

The goal of this course is to provide clear roadmap through the vast array of obstacles dealing with the handling of evidence and using it properly in court. It also deals with the vast number of federal regulations that need to be taken into consideration while collecting evidence for judicial use.

### **CLA410 Torts**

This course presents an overview of Tort Law. The student will learn the purpose and functions of Tort Laws. It covers several defenses regarding liability, damages for physical harm, non-physical harm, misrepresentation, defamation, and privacy. It also covers the increasing number of cases involved in toxic torts and the liability of those who expose innocent people to toxic substances that cause physical or mental damage and the various defenses used to protect individuals or companies.

### **CLA411 Paralegal Preparation Studies**

This course is for those students who are preparing for a position of a legal assistant or a paralegal. There is presented an overview of the duties, practices, and procedures of legal assistants and paralegals. It also covers what a legal assistant or paralegal should know about the court system including Federal Court procedures and the research and writing that needs to be done by the legal assistant and/or paralegal.

### **Bachelor of Arts in Christian Legal Advocacy**

*Because of the unique nature of this program, some of the course are assigned out of their normal sequence.*

#### **Freshman—30 credit hours**

BBL	101	Interpretation of the Bible	3 Credits
SYS	103	Christian Doctrine I	3 Credits
ENG	205	English Composition	3 Credits
PHL	110	Foundations of Christian Culture	3 Credits
APL	110	Biblical Law and Ethics	3 Credits
GVT	101	American Civil Government	3 Credits
SYS	104	Christian Doctrine II	3 Credits
SYS	106	Christian Doctrine III	3 Credits
ECO	108	Economics	3 Credits
PHL	209	Introduction to Philosophy	3 Credits

#### **Sophomore—30 or 31 credit hours**

HCH	201	History of the Christian Church	3 Credits
HIS	203	Western Civilization I	3 Credits
GVT	201	History & Development of the Constitution	3 Credits
MAT	207	College Algebra*	4 Credits
SCI	202	Physical Science*	3 Credits
HIS	204	Western Civilization II	3 Credits
PHL	206	Logic	3 Credits
SOC	208	Sociology	3 Credits
HIS	301	American History I	3 Credits
HIS	302	American History II	3 Credits
POL	201	Current Political Issues*	3 Credits

#### **Junior—30 credit hours**

CNS	303	Biblical View of Psychology	3 Credit
POL	303	History of Political Thought	3 Credits
PHL	305	History of Western Thought I	3 Credits
APL	309	Introduction to Apologetics	3 Credits
PHL	306	History of Western Thought II	3 Credits
POL	305	Christian Political Philosophy	3 Credits
ENG	308	Public Speaking and Debate	3 Credits
PHL	406	Philosophy of Religion	3 Credits
PHL	409	History of Western Thought III	3 Credits
APL	410	Advanced Apologetics	3 Credits

**Senior—34 credit hours**

CLA	401	Legal Research and Writing	3 Credits
CLA	402	History & Introduction to Law	4 Credits
CLA	403	Constitutional Law	4 Credits
CLA	404	First Amendment Law	3 Credits
CLA	405	Law & Procedures	4 Credits
CLA	406	Conflict of Laws	3 Credits
CLA	407	Criminal Law	3 Credits
CLA	408	Criminal Procedure	4 Credits
CLA	409	Evidence	3 Credits
CLA	410	Torts	3 Credits
CLA	411	Paralegal Preparation Studies <i>(In place of Criminal Procedures)</i>	3 Credits

\*POL201 is optional or can be substituted for one of these courses.