



SCHOOL OF LAW

# SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

A Bonifacio Street  
2600 Baguio City, Philippines  
Tel Nos (+6374) 442.3043 • 443.2001 • 444.8246 to 48  
Fax (+6374) 442.2842  
www.slu.edu.ph

- Member
- ASEAN University Network - Quality Assurance (AUN-QA)
  - Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL)
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## Master of Laws (LL.M) Program



### CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTION (Effective - 2024-2025)

The Master of Laws Program Curriculum is designed as a generalist advanced study in law, catering to legal scholars who want a diverse array of courses.

CLASS CODE	COURSE NO.	DESCRIPTIVE TITLE	UNITS
<b>BASIC</b>	<b>9 units Non-Thesis; 6 units Thesis</b>		
4500	LLM 101	Methods of Research and Statistics <i>(Mandatory for both Thesis and Non-Thesis Tracks)</i>	<b>3</b>
4501	LLM 110	Recent Trends in International Law	<b>3</b>
4502	LLM 114	Introduction to Canon Law	<b>3</b>
<b>MAJOR/CORE COURSES</b>	<b>30 units Non- Thesis; 18 units - Thesis</b>		
<b>4503</b>	LLM 102	Lamentations: Law at the Beginning and End of Life	<b>3</b>
<b>4504</b>	LLM 103	Comparative Civil Law on Contracts	<b>3</b>
<b>4505</b>	LLM 104	Comparative Corporate Governance	<b>3</b>
<b>4506</b>	LLM 105	Cross-Border Transactions and International Finance	<b>3</b>
<b>4507</b>	LLM 106	Public International Law and Politics	<b>3</b>
<b>4508</b>	LLM 108	Contemporary Issues in Constitutional Law	<b>3</b>
<b>4509</b>	LLM 110	Alternative Dispute Resolution, Indigenous Dispute Resolution, and Barangay Justice	<b>3</b>
<b>4510</b>	LLM 112	Legal Analysis of Forensic Evidence	<b>3</b>



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4511	LLM 113	Problem Areas in Judicial Review and Appellate Jurisdiction	3
4512	LLM 115	Comparative Law: A Study of Common Law and Civil Law Systems	3
4513	LLM 116	Comparative Study of the Shariah Law and the Family Code of the Philippines	3
4514	LLM 117	Human Rights Laws	3
4515	LLM 118	Comparative Legal Systems	3
4516	LLM 119	Foundations of Public and Private Law	3
4517	LLM 120	Environmental Law and Climate Change	3
4518	LLM 121	Natural Resources Law	3
4519	LLM 122	E-Commerce, Electronic Evidence and Cyber Laws	3
4520	LLM 123	Tenurial Instruments in the Philippines: Social and Constitutional Perspectives	3
4521	LLM 124	Legal and Tax Aspects of Organizations	3
4522	LLM 125	Corporate Law and Corporate Rehabilitation	3
4523	LLM 126	Comparative Study of Southeast Asian Constitutions	3
4524	LLM 127	The Study of Customary Laws	3
4525	LLM 128	Current Trends for Possible Legislation	3
4526	LLM 129	Legal Reforms	3
4527	LLM 130	Indigenous Peoples and the Law	3
4528	LLM 131	Contemporary Issues in Intellectual Property	3
4529	LLM 132	The Writs of Habeas Corpus, Amparo & Habeas Data: Its History, Concept, Evolution, and Significance	3
4530	LLM 133	Estate Planning	3
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	<b>6 units for Thesis; 9 units for Non-Thesis</b>		
4531	LLM 107	Negotiation	3
4532	LLM 111	DNA Evidence	3
4533	LLM 134	Information Technology and the Law	3
4534	LLM 135	Modern Tools in the Study and Practice of Law	3
4535	LLM 136	The Art of Teaching the Law	3
4536	LLM 137	Law and Psychology	3
4537	LLM 138	Children and the Law	3



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4538	LLM 139	Accounting & Financial Statement Analysis for Lawyers	3
4539	LLM 140	Street Law	3
4540	LLM 141	Education Law	3
4541	LLM 142	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems and Criminological Theory	3
4542	LLM 143	Feminist Legal Theory and Jurisprudence	3
4543	LLM 144	Pre-Trial and Trial Advocacy	3
		<b><u>The Master of Laws Program may add other courses as it may deem necessary and appropriate for modernizing and updating of the curriculum based on current, evolving and emerging trends in law, like Space Law for example.</u></b>	
4544	LLM 145	Thesis Writing	6
		<b>NON- THESIS CURRICULUM</b>	<b>48 Units</b>
		<b>THESIS CURRICULUM</b>	<b>36 Units</b>

## CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTION

### 1. **Basic Courses**

All LL.M. students are required to complete a total of six (6) units of basic courses, as follows:

#### **(a) Introduction to Canon Law (3 units)**

This course is a survey of special topics selected from the 1983 Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church and its most important recent amendments. It traces the history, sources and structure of the Code, with an overview of the meaning of Ecclesiastical law, the people of God; hierarchical structures in the Church; consecrated and apostolic life; teaching, sanctifying and governing functions in the Church; temporal goods; sanctions and processes in the Church.

#### **(b) Methods of Research and Statistics (3 units)**



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The course offers an introduction to statistical theory and methods as it is applied to legal problems. It also guides the students on how to select and use the appropriate methods of collecting, processing, and analyzing data to meet legal research objectives.

The course will also provide an introductory discussion on thesis writing for LL.M. students. This course is an instructional guide to the preparation and writing of a thesis, with the objective of choosing a subject and drafting a thesis proposal. This course also facilitates the transition from preliminary and introductory work to the deeper substance of the LL.M. Thesis. It guides students as they research and formulate their arguments in order to defend their chosen thesis. As it is an introductory course, all students whether belonging to the Thesis or Non-Thesis track are required to enroll, to aide them in their decision as to which track to progress on.

### **(c) Recent Trends in International Law (3 units)**

The course provides a thorough discussion of the general principles of international law, of the relationship between international law and municipal law, and of the current issues and developments in the various branches of international law.

## **2. Major/Core Courses**

All LL.M. students are required to complete a total of fifteen (15) units of major courses for the Thesis Program or thirty (30) units of major courses for the Non-thesis Program. The School of Law shall choose the major courses to be offered depending on the availability of professors, the recent developments/trends in law, and other relevant considerations.

The students can customize their study to meet their academic or professional needs, depending on their chosen field of learning and area of practice, and the various subject offerings. Each course is given three (3) academic credit units. Some of the major courses that may be offered are as follows:

### **(a) Lamentations: The Law on the Beginning and End of Life**

This course introduces students to multidisciplinary approaches to legal and policy issues involving the right to life and right to die and live (extension of life). It is designed to apply such approaches to actual problems and dilemmas that Philippine and global society faces.

### **(b) Comparative Civil Law on Contracts**



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An intensive study on the roots and development of contract law. It traces the evolution of the provisions of the Civil Code of the Philippines on obligations and contracts from their Spanish roots and compares these to the various civil law and common law systems that contributed to their present applications and interpretation.

### **(c) Foundations of Public and Private Law**

It is the study of the rationale of laws, the kinds of laws, the development and history of law, the legal profession, and the important aspects of law practice.

### **(d) Comparative Legal Systems**

This course provides students with an extensive discussion of the different legal systems operating in various countries and multinational territories.

### **(e) Comparative Law: A Study of Common Law and Civil Law Systems**

It is an in-depth analysis of the similarities and difference of the common law and the civil law systems, with emphasis on the English model for the common law system and the French model for the civil law system. It shall also look into the impact and significance of the two systems to the Philippine system.

### **(f) Environmental Law and Climate Change**

It is an analytical and critical study of the significant environmental laws of the Philippines as well as international environmental treaties and covenants. It is also the study of the impact of climate change to the environment and to recommend both curative and preventive solutions for the protection of the environment.

### **(g) Natural Resources Law**

It is an in-depth study of the significant natural resources laws of the Philippines and its role in nation-building, the threats to the conservation of natural resources, identifying the problem areas in the policies of the state in the development and exploitation of natural resources and recommending possible solutions with respect thereto.



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### **(h) Alternative Dispute Resolution, Indigenous Dispute Resolution, and Barangay Justice**

It is an in-depth study of the dynamics of the *Lupong Tagapamayapa* and some indigenous modes of settling disputes. It will also look into the jurisdiction of specialized arbitral bodies, both national, and international, the advantages and disadvantages of the different modes of alternative dispute resolution.

### **(i) E-Commerce, Electronic Evidence and Cyber Laws**

It deals with the study of the provisions of the E-Commerce Law and other Cyber-related laws, and an analysis of how the same are applied in actual cases. It also dwells on the importance of the Electronic Evidence Rule.

### **(j) Public International Law and Politics**

The study of the relation of states to individuals as subjects of international law. It also is the study of international organizations, structures, and the flow of powers including the aspects of sovereignty and jurisdiction.

### **(k) Tenurial Instruments in the Philippines: Social and Constitutional Perspectives**

A comparative study and analysis of the different systems of land ownership and registration (Public Land Act, CA No. 141; Cadastral Act, Act 2259; Property Registration Decree, PD 1529; Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, RA 6657; and Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, RA 8371), and the evolution of laws, policies, systems, procedures and reforms to stabilize land ownership, prevent conflicts, promote social justice and enhance economic growth and development.

### **(l) Legal and Tax Aspects of Organizations**

It is a study of the legal problems of corporate and other business organizations in the light of the changing conditions in the evolving national economy of the country; study of the different taxes, withholding tax, customs and tariff duties. Local taxes and tax incentives. It includes the study of the general principles of taxation.

### **(m) Corporate Law and Corporate Rehabilitation**



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Corporate organization and management process of incorporation; stockholders rights and remedies; corporate problems; security act and trading; multinational corporation. It is also focused on the procedure on corporate rehabilitation.

### **(n) Comparative Study of Southeast Asian Constitutions**

It is an in-depth study and analysis of the constitutions of Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines being a member of the family of the ASEAN.

### **(o) The Study of Customary Laws**

The study will focus on some customary laws in the Philippines, and how some customary laws have been absorbed in certain legislations, and an analysis of the extent of evidentiary acceptance of customary laws.

### **(p) Comparative Study of the Shariah Law and the Family Code of the Philippines**

An in-depth analytical comparison of P.D. 1083 or the Code of Muslim Personal Laws and E.O. 209 or the Family Code of the Philippines, as amended.

### **(q) Problem Areas in Judicial Review and Appellate Jurisdiction**

This is a critical study of the theory and practice of judicial review and appellate jurisdiction of the Philippine court system, revisiting and examining the judicial, quasi-judicial and quasi-administrative bodies and tribunals, identifying both the substantive and procedural remedies for appeals and reviews available to litigants.

### **(r) Current Trends for Possible Legislation**

An analytical study of certain rights that may be legislated in the future, such as the right to be forgotten, the right to die, the right to marry by the members of the third gender, etc.

### **(s) Legal Analysis of Forensic Evidence**



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The study of ballistics, questioned documents, forensic chemistry, blood test, DNA, voice print identification, polygraph, fingerprints and other related subjects, and the manner by which they are to be presented or cross-examined through the testimony of experts.

### **(f) Contemporary Issues in Constitutional Law**

An in-depth analysis of recent issues of significance in Constitutional Law, as well as interrelated and unresolved problems in constitutional theory that cut across the usual divisions between different constitutional rights.

### **(u) Legal Reforms**

An analytical study of certain areas of law and procedure that may need reforms. Themed discussions may be developed depending on issues of recent significance.

### **(v) Human Rights Laws**

The course focuses on the aspects of protecting, defending and seeking redress for violations of human rights, both in the Philippines and in the international setting.

### **(w) Indigenous Peoples and the Law**

An analysis of the pre-conquest of many colonial states, including the Philippines, which shows the existence of customary laws practiced by native inhabitants and indigenous systems of government. Indigenous peoples continue to suffer marginalization and displacement in different parts of the world. This course introduces the student (1) in general, to the development of international protection for indigenous peoples and; (2) in particular, to the constitutional and domestic framework of protection for indigenous Filipinos. The course examines more closely international labor conventions affecting tribal populations, the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and relevant international law decisions.

### **(x) Cross-Border Transactions and International Finance**

This course is an overview of the legal regimes in international business contracts. It examines United Nations Conventions, global and regional trade pacts that regulate cross-border trade practices, including complaints, grievance and



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litigation mechanisms for contract breach in bilateral or multi-lateral trade or business agreements.

### **(y) Contemporary Issues in Intellectual Property**

The protection of intellectual property and encouragement of creativity. Explores current issues relating to copyright, trademarks, and patents, and other forms of intellectual property protection.

### **(z) The Writs of Habeas Corpus, Amparo & Habeas Data: Its History, Concept, Evolution, and Significance**

It is a historical and conceptual study of the said writs and the respective pivotal roles the said writs play in the dynamics of a democracy.

### **(aa) Estate Planning**

The course deals with the legal environment laws that affect the process of estate planning. The course highlights the interplay of the pertinent rules on persons and family relations, property, succession, trusts, corporation law, insurance law, and the relevant provisions of the income tax, donor's tax, and the estate tax in the National Internal Revenue Code.

## **3. Elective Courses (9 units)**

An LL.M. student is required to complete a total of nine (9) units of elective courses. The elective courses may be taken from courses listed as major subjects, or from the courses below, or from other elective courses that may be offered in the future. Each elective course is given three (3) academic credit units.

### **(a) Information Technology and the Law**

The course focuses on introducing the students to a comprehensive set of legal problems that will illustrate the clash between existing legal regimes and new information technologies. An ancillary goal is to help the student become comfortable with the information retrieval and transmission capabilities of the Internet, and to allow a fruitful discussion of the IT Law by having a basic understanding of the special characteristics of the new domain.

### **(b) Modern Tools in the Study and Practice of Law**



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It is a course which mainly focuses on the modern ways of doing legal researches and the use of modern technology tools in law practice management and continuing legal education.

### **(c) The Art of Teaching the Law**

It is a course which emphasizes on the methodologies, strategies, and techniques of teaching the law, on how to prepare for a course outline or syllabus, and on how to craft examination questions.

### **(d) Law and Psychology**

Studies the important issues at the intersection of law and psychology/psychiatry.

### **(e) Children and the Law**

Explore areas of law that cover children and require students to think critically and practically about children's role in the legal system.

### **(f) Accounting & Financial Statement Analysis for Lawyers**

This course is designed to teach basic principles of accounting and how to properly appreciate financial statements that could affect the role of the lawyers in dispensing legal advice.

### **(g) Street Law**

The course provides students a unique opportunity to enrich their legal education while contributing to the education in law of non-lawyers. Using the clinical method, the student is required to choose a field of law of interest to laymen, and to come up with a learning material which may be given to laymen to appreciate the chosen field of law.

### **(h) Negotiation**



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The course is designed to develop the student's skill in the area of negotiation. The course considers topics such as the nature of conflict and dispute, integrative and distributive bargaining, barriers agreement and ways to overcome such barriers, client relationships, negotiation skills such as listening, communication and persuasion, negotiation power, and the role of culture, language and gender in negotiation. The course will largely utilize simulation and role-playing exercises as well as critiques and reflections on students' experiences.

### **(i) Education Law**

This is an analysis of the various laws and regulations surrounding the field of education and educational system in the Philippines.

### **(j) Comparative Criminal Justice Systems and Criminological Theory**

A basic study of the phenomenon of crime and how law and public policy are formulated to shape criminal justice systems as forms of social control. It is a comparative study of the structures and components of criminal justice systems in various jurisdictions, with the Philippine setting as take-off point.

### **(k) Feminist Legal Theory and Jurisprudence**

This course explores the political, economic, social and cultural roots of women's discriminated status. It traces the philosophical roots of feminism and the various theoretical approaches and legal responses to gender discrimination both at the international and Philippine setting.

### **(l) Pre-Trial and Trial Advocacy**

Examines conceptual and practical aspects of interviewing, counseling, negotiation, settlement, drafting and formal advocacy in the handling of legal cases. It also examines decision-making by counsel in the litigation of cases. Emphasis is given to decisions involving tactics, strategies, and their implications for the functioning of legal institutions and substantive doctrine. Extensive use of simulated trial practice exercises.

### **(m) DNA Evidence**



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A historical and conceptual study of the DNA evidence rule in the Philippines.

## 4. Thesis