This course is designed to be an introduction to the US legal system and the practice of law in the U.S. through an examination of some of the most significant areas of law including constitutional principles, civil procedure, contracts, torts, property, criminal law and professional ethics. The course begins with an introduction to the U.S. judicial system and provides instruction in the effective reading of cases and the use of precedent. The focus will be on law, legal institutions and legal process as elements of the rule of law in a democratic, market-oriented society. In each section of the course, the goal is to understand the role of the law as a social, economic and political force in the life of the United States through case analysis and the Socratic Method.