Savannah, GA—August 2, 2005—Starting this fall, Armstrong Atlantic State University will offer a new bachelor’s degree program for students interested in careers in public service, or graduate education in the humanities or social sciences. Designed to foster skills in community leadership, the new degree will emphasize the way legal institutions broadly interact with other social organizations to form a society.

While it is not intended to be a pre-law major, the liberal arts program will integrate legal studies with a broader social perspective, including courses in political science, criminal justice, sociology, economics, psychology, philosophy, women’s studies, and history. The program will offer three tracks in government and judicial studies, human behavior and law, and social theory and philosophy.

Ideal for individuals seeking careers as civil servants or in non-profit, non-government organizations, this degree can give graduates a competitive edge for gaining employment and advancement within government agencies. The interdisciplinary degree also has broad application for those interested in working in the private sector.

“Increasingly, governments at all levels are more involved in using both public and non-profit social agencies to solve societal problems,” said Bill Daugherty, associate professor of political science at AASU. “It is now more important than ever for employees of those organizations to possess the skills to interpret and apply laws in the shaping of public policy.”

As federal regulations increase, managers will need to understand the implications of laws in the writing of rules and regulations that ensure compliance in their areas. Degree seekers will gain experience in interpreting court decisions, which is fast becoming a vital necessity for those interested in moving into management for the government.

For more information or an application, contact the department of criminal justice, social and political science at 912.927.5296. Find out more at www.cjsocpols.armstrong.edu/programs.htm

1. Program Description and Objectives:

The Law and Society major will be an interdisciplinary major that includes the study of law as an academic discipline separate from the professional study of law, but in close relationship with critical issues in society. The program of study is intended primarily to attract students who are drawn to (a) to public service at some level of government; (b) public service with non-profit or public assistance organizations; or (c) graduate studies in the Social Sciences or Liberal Arts. While the major will undoubtedly attract some students who wish to attend law school, it is not intended as a pre-law major. The emphasis of the program will not be on narrow legal training but rather on the way the legal institutions broadly interact with other social organizations to form a society. Collaterally, the program will integrate legal studies in the Department of Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science with a broader social perspective.
2. Justification and Needs for the Program:

   a. A relevant article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (“Legal Scholarship in the Liberal Arts,” September 3, 2004) has identified a clear need for an educational pursuit in which a “Systematic study of law advances the goal of a liberal education because of the importance of law in culture and society, as well as the capacity of legal study to engage and enhance the intellectual, analytical, and imaginative capacities of undergraduates.” Indeed, it is Armstrong Atlantic’s position that law and legal issues permeate the Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and highlights a need for a better understanding of the role of law in such disciplines, as government, economics, history, women’s studies and gender issues, philosophy, and the humanities. Moreover, the rule of law is fundamental to a free society, sustaining its openness and justice, protecting the citizens, providing for those less fortunate, and furthering the goals of a commonwealth. Hence, American society requires not only well-rounded lawyers, but also professionals in a variety of career fields within and without government who are able to understand legal concepts and the application of law to their fields. We maintain that the state of Georgia and the University System of Georgia will benefit from such a flexible, professionally responsive program, and AASU, as an urban university, is particularly well situated to offer it.

   b. The Chronicle of Higher Education has identified only 60 colleges or universities with a Law and Society (or similarly named) program the great majority of which offer only minors or concentrations. To the best of our knowledge there are but eleven universities in the United States, predominantly in the University of California system, that offer a full major in an interdisciplinary Law and Society major similar to our proposal. Of significance, there is but one university in the entire eleven state South that has a Law and Society program, and that is Florida State which offers only a minor. Thus, Armstrong Atlantic will be the sole university in the Southeast United States to encompass fully Law and Society as a major. It may be anticipated that a Law and Society major will draw students not only from across Georgia but also throughout the Deep South, and our recruiting staff will of course highlight this program as they visit locations beyond Coastal Georgia.

   We can expect that this program will draw students who are interested in public service, in graduate education in the liberal arts, and in attending law school. AASU surveyed students taking courses in the core curriculum and found that 15% are “certain” or “very likely” to major in Law and Society, were it to be available, and another 25% “somewhat likely” to do so. During the first three years that such a major would be offered, it is anticipated that the number of students majoring in Law and Society would grow from 20 to 40. During the first year the number of students choosing the major for the first time and those shifting from another major will be about the same; by the third year, we project that 75% of the majors would either be new to Armstrong or come from the ranks of the Undeclared.

   c. The Law and Society major dovetails with Armstrong Atlantic’s existing mission and conforms to the emphasis in the University’s Strategic Plan for professional and pre-professional education. The major is likewise harmonious with the leadership role residents of
the surrounding area look to Armstrong to exercise in community affairs, and will assist in fulfilling the Leadership Initiative proposed by the Armstrong Atlantic Foundation Board and endorsed by President Tom Jones. One clear benefit to implementing a Law and Society major is that it permits Armstrong Atlantic to augment its current degree offerings with a unique program while – of exceptional importance in a time of reduced resources – relying only on existing faculty and at no additional cost to Armstrong Atlantic or the University System of Georgia. Additionally, AASU is building a dynamic and competitive Moot Court program that will complement this major by enhancing debating and analytical skills in addition to acquiring classroom knowledge.

d. As noted above, there are no colleges or universities in Georgia, or in the eleven state Deep South, that offer such a major.

Political Science
College of Arts and Sciences
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Arts with teacher certification

Department
Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science

**LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

Degree
Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society

A Law and Society degree provides:

1. an interdisciplinary liberal arts education in focused on the relationship between societal issues, the law, and government;
2. preparation for careers in public service; and
3. exposure to relevant topics in government, criminal justice, history, political theory, sociology, economics, philosophy, and psychology;
4. preparation for the pursuit of graduate studies in related fields

Earning a four-year degree at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Law and Society will enable the student to understand complex issues that affect American society and their relationship to the Constitution and the various levels of government that are responsible for their management.
Career Options  Law and Society prepares graduates for: careers in public service at the local, state, or federal level; in non-profit public assistance organizations; in graduate studies in the Social Science; or for law school. As an interdisciplinary program, the Law and Society major, with its exposure to a broad range of knowledge, is attractive to a variety of prospective employers in both the public and private sectors, and provides the graduate with the flexibility to pursue any number of career options. And while this degree is not intended to be a specific pre-law program, it is certainly sound preparation for law school and a legal career.

Employment Outlook  As our modern, highly diverse society continues to grow and mature, government agencies and non-profit organizations will seek graduates educated in the issues that affect deeply, for good and otherwise, American life. The management of and solutions for the great majority of these issues are located in public and quasi-public organizations which are governed by an array of laws, rules, and regulations. The ability to understand clearly the nexus between these problems and requirements upon those who deal with them is the essence of a degree in Law and Society. For those who are considering post-baccalaureate graduate education, this degree will prepare the student for studies in any of the sub-disciplines that compose the Law and Society program.

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PROGRAM FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LAW AND SOCIETY

A. General Requirements
Core Areas A, B, C, D, and E ................................................................. 42 hours
Area F ........................................................................................................ 18 hours
MATH 2200 - Elementary Statistics
COMM 2280 - Speech Communication, or
CRJU 1130 - Interpersonal Communication Skills
POLS 2100 - Introduction to Political Science, or
POLS 2200 - Introduction to American Government

A second Ethics and Values course at the 1000 or 2000 level

Two introductory (1000 and 2000 level) courses from:
ANTH 1102, CRJU 1100, ECON 1150, ECON 2105, ECON 2106, GEOG 2120,
PHIL 2201, PSYC 1101, SOCI 1101, POLS 1150, GWST 1101, if not taken to satisfy Core Area E

B. Major Field Courses 36 hours
In addition to the required courses, select six courses in one of three specialized tracks:

Required Courses
CRJU 3100 - Research Methods or
POLS 4950 - Political Research Methods
CRJU/POLS 5500U - Law and Legal Process
POLS 3180 - Constitutional Civil Liberties
LWSO 2000 - Introduction to Law and Society
ENGL 4700 - Advanced Composition
ENGL 5730 - Rhetoric

**Track One: Government and Judicial Studies**
CRJU 3140 - Political Crimes
CRJU 4510 - Advanced Criminal Law
CRJU 5130U - Political Terrorism
ECON 3450 - Environmental Economics
ECON 4500 - Public Finance
ECON 4550 - Public Choice
ECON 5300U - Money and Banking
HIST 3740 - Women in American History
HIST 5540U - Topics in U.S. Foreign Relations
HIST 5565U - Topics in the History of American Reform
POLS 3160 - American Judicial Politics and Strategies
POLS 3170 - Constitutional Law and the Federal System
POLS 4150 - American Supreme Court
POLS 4180 - Administrative Law

**Track Two: Human Behavior and Law**
ANTH 3100 - Anthropology of Sex and Gender
CRJU 3130 - Hate Crimes and Ordered Liberty
CRJU 3160 - White-Collar and Organized Crime
CRJU 3180 - Deviance and Social Control
CRJU/SOCI 3510 - Family Violence
CRJU 5200U - Alcohol, Drugs, and Criminal Justice
CRJU 5300U - Juvenile Delinquency
ECON 5400U - Economics of Labor
HIST 3640 - American Social History
PSYC 3030 - Experimental Social Psychology
PSYC 3110 - Theories of Personality
PSYC 3280 - Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 5150U - Conflict Resolution
PSYC 5200U - Industrial and Organizational Psychology
SOCI 3200 - Racial and Ethnic Minorities

**Track Three: Social Theory and Philosophy**
CRJU 3110 - Critical Theories of Criminal Justice
ENGL 5815U - Literary Theory
GWST 5700U - Perspectives in Feminist Theory
PHIL 3150 - 20th Century Philosophy
PHIL 3200 - Technology, Society, and Human Values
PHIL 3330 - Philosophy of Religion
POLS 3300 - Political Philosophy: Ancient and Medieval
POLS 3310 - Modern Political Philosophy
POLS 3320 - American Political Thought
PSYC 3030 - Experimental Social Psychology
PSYC 5150U - Conflict Resolution
SOCI 3150 - Sociology of the Family

**C. Approved Electives** ........................................................................................................... 6 hours
6 hours of approved electives at the 3000+ level

**D. Free Electives** .................................................................................................................... 18 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 247
LWSO – Law and Society

LWSO 2000 INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND SOCIETY 3-0-3
Exposure to and readings in social and governmental issues focused on their interaction with the American legal system.