S220 is designed to provide students with a thorough overview of the role of law, lawyers, and legal institutions in society, with an emphasis on law’s influence on public-sector operations. The course is designed to draw on and analyze current events and controversies as much as possible, and is highly interactive, with students completing numerous in-class exercises and engaging in rigorous discussions. Students will be expected to undertake substantial reading and preparation prior to class sessions. After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

• Explain and compare/contrast the distribution of powers of government within the US Constitution, including legislative, regulatory and administrative, and judicial powers and processes
• Explain and articulate major principles of key areas of substantive law
• Evaluate the processes for resolving civil disputes and criminal charges in America
• Create coherent and persuasive legal arguments by finding, interpreting and evaluating legal resources and correctly using legal terminology in communication
• Apply basic elements of legal professional responsibility to factual situations in order to analyze ethical issues that arise in the application of the law
• Connect what they learn in this course to their personal and professional lives

Beth Cate is associate professor of law and public affairs at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs. She joined the faculty full-time in Fall 2011; prior to that time, she taught courses as an adjunct while serving as Associate General Counsel to Indiana University, practicing in a variety of areas with emphases on intellectual property law and the law and ethics concerning research and the use of information technologies (which are now her areas of scholarly focus). Before joining the University in 1998, Beth served as in-house counsel for Eli Lilly and Company, practicing in a variety of areas; clerked for the Hon. S. Jay Plager of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; and practiced with the law firm of McKenna & Cuneo (now McKenna Long & Aldridge) in Washington D.C., focusing on civil litigation and international trade. Beth holds a B.A. in Economics from The George Washington University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, both with honors. Beth spends much of her spare time working with the Indianapolis Zoo, as a member of the Board of Trustees and a weekend volunteer helping to care for the Zoo’s African elephants, including her adopted elephant daughter, Tombi. Beth tries to refrain from comparing the university setting to a zoo, but frequently fails.