

First-Year Course Descriptions

First-year requirements provide the foundation upon which students may build a legal education tailored to their individual needs and interests.

Upper-level courses are almost entirely elective, allowing students to combine courses, clinics, externships, independent work, and courses outside the law school to accomplish their career goals.

Constitutional Law: Structure

LAW 508

Constitutional Law: Structure considers the delineation of spheres of responsibility between the judiciary and legislature, the national government and the states, and the government and the individual.

Unit Value: 3

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Contracts

LAW 503

Contracts is a course on the law of consensual arrangements. It concerns such questions as what promises the state does and should enforce and what remedies are available when enforceable promises are breached.

Unit Value: 4

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Criminal Law

LAW 504

Criminal Law studies issues relating to the decision, by legislature or court, to designate behavior as a "crime." Significant attention is given to the moral, psychological and philosophical issues involved in ascribing criminal responsibility.

Unit Value: 3

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Fundamental Business Principles (optional course in fall)

LAW 530

Business Fundamentals introduces students who lack a business background to the basic vocabulary, concepts, and modes of analysis relevant to the organization, financing, and governance of corporations and other enterprises.

Unit Value: 1

Grading Options: CR/D/F

Exam: In-class Exam

Legal Profession

LAW 505

Legal Profession or Ethical Issues for Public Interest, Government and Criminal Lawyers offer a traditional or specialized examination of the role of the lawyer in society; the history and organization of the legal profession; the adversary system and access to justice; and ethical rules on fulfilling professional duties in a variety of practice settings.

Unit Value: 3

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

LAW 531

Legal Profession or Ethical Issues for Public Interest, Government and Criminal Lawyers offer a traditional or specialized examination of the role of the lawyer in society; the history and organization of the legal profession; the adversary system and access to justice; and ethical rules on fulfilling professional duties in a variety of practice settings.

Unit Value: 3

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy I

LAW 515

To be effective, lawyers must analyze legal principles incisively and apply them to facts carefully and creatively, and then communicate the results articulately—both in writing and orally. Therefore, all students must complete a two-semester course, Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy (3 units in the fall semester, 2 units in the spring semester), which focuses on developing their analytic and communication skills.

Unit Value: 3

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy II

LAW 516

To be effective, lawyers must analyze legal principles incisively and apply them to facts carefully and creatively, and then communicate the results articulately—both in writing and orally. Therefore, all students must complete a two-semester course, Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy (3 units in the fall semester, 2 units in the spring semester), which focuses on developing their analytic and communication skills.

Unit Value: 2

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Procedure I

LAW 502

Procedure introduces students to the issue of what constitutes fair, adequate, and efficient procedures in resolving legal disputes.

Unit Value: 4

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Property

LAW 507

Property analyzes the development of rules dealing with land, water, and other natural resources, frequently from historical and economic perspectives.

Unit Value: 4

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam

Torts I

LAW 509

Torts explores the obligation to refrain from harming others and studies the bases for compensating persons who suffer injuries, either by holding responsible whomever is at fault for the harm, or by invoking other principles of liability, including the efficiency of resource allocation and the spreading of losses to those best able to bear them.

Unit Value: 4

Grading Options: Numeric

Exam: In-class Exam