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

Ethical Issues for Public Interest, Government and Criminal Lawyer
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

Topics in Legal Analysis (optional course in spring)
LAW 540
Topics in Legal Analysis is a 1-unit course for 1L students interested in enhancing their legal analysis skills. The course provides students the opportunity to expand their legal writing abilities through frequent simulations and individualized feedback. The course will draw upon a variety of 1L subjects to help students increase their capacity to effectively organize and analyze legal problems.

Unit Value: 1
Grading Options: CR/D/F
Exam: None
Note: Students will be evaluated based on their performance on a series of required written assignments submitted during the semester.

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