

FIRST YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CIVIL PROCEDURE I 545 (3 hours)

An introduction to the Rules of Civil Procedure governing the civil litigation process, including rules regarding pleadings, discovery, joinder of parties, summary judgment, default, post-trial motions, and claim and issue preclusion.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I 525 (3 hours)

A study of the Structure of the Federal Government and the function of the Supreme Court in constitutional government. Topics include principles of justiciability and standing; the development of federal power through the commerce clause and limits on state power flowing from the commerce and contract clauses; executive powers and the practice of separation of powers. The course will also generally consider the effect of the Fourteenth Amendment upon federalism, and conclude with the concept of state action as a limitation on the reach of the Amendment's guarantees.

CONTRACTS I 505 (3 hours)

An introduction to the common law and Uniform Commercial Code relating to the agreement process, including the requirements of offer, acceptance, and consideration for the formation of contractual relationship. Problems on the interpretation of the contract, negotiation, drafting, and legal planning are analyzed and discussed.

CONTRACTS II 506 (3 hours)

Continuation of Contracts I.

CRIMINAL LAW 524 (3 hours)

This course provides an introduction to the substantive law of crimes. The primary emphasis is on those rules, principles, and doctrines applicable to most or many crimes. These doctrines include actus reus (What is a criminal act?), mens rea (What states of mind are criminal?), and the defenses of insanity, intoxication, impossibility, mistake, duress, necessity, and self-defense. Some attention is also given to several specific crimes and to theories of punishment. The primary materials are selected appellate court opinions and the Model Penal Code.

LEGAL RESEARCH 537 (1 hour)

During the introductory course in Legal Research, students receive instruction in the basic sources and research techniques of American law. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of an effective and efficient research strategy for locating and updating state and federal cases, statutes, regulatory materials, and major forms of secondary legal resources. Students will examine and use resources in both print and online formats. While some attention

will be paid, of necessity, to the details of each source, the course will focus upon the use of these sources within the context of efficient and cost-effective legal research.

LEGAL WRITING I 535 (2 hours)

Students will learn how to read cases and statutes effectively, how to understand legal rules from these authorities, and how to apply those rules to new factual situations to make informed predictions about legal issues. Students will also be taught how to convey legal analysis in clear, concise prose and how to draft a legal prediction in the form of a memorandum of law. The course will also cover information regarding the court system, the litigation process, and the professional obligations of lawyers.

LEGAL WRITING II 536 (1 hour)

In this course, students build on the analytical and editing skills introduced in Legal Writing I. Students also learn the skills of persuasive writing and argumentation through the preparation of an appellate brief and an oral argument.

PROPERTY I 510 (3 hours)

In this course, students are introduced to major concepts of personal and real property law, including the historical development of private property rights. The course will focus primarily upon the acquisition, characteristics, and transferability of property interests, as well as the relationship between privately held property interests in land and government regulation of that land for public purposes. Topics covered in the course will typically include personal property (gifts, bailments, lost & found), adverse possession, estates, future interests, landlord tenant, easements, covenants, purchase & sale, deeds, financing, and zoning.

PROPERTY II 511 (3 hours)

Continuation of Property I.

TORTS I 530 (3 hours)

The legal protection afforded in civil proceedings against interference by others with the security of one's person, property, or intangible interests; the analysis of intentional interference, negligence, and strict liability in the context of recognized categories of tort liability.

TORTS II 531 (3 hours)

Continuation of Torts I.