Required Courses:

First Year Students

CIVIL PROCEDURE AND DRAFTING I, 3 Crs.

This course is the first semester of a year-long course that will examine the procedures used in civil litigation, with an emphasis on litigation in federal courts. Topics covered include framing claims in the complaint, responding to the claims in an answer or motion, amending pleadings, joinder of claims and parties, discovery, summary dispositions, and trial concepts. The course also covers notice, personal jurisdiction, subject matter jurisdiction, venue, and claim issue preclusion. In addition to learning about these procedural concepts, the course will include practical drafting exercises, including drafting a complaint and an answer, and drafting discovery documents.

CIVIL PROCEDURE II, 2 Crs.

This course is the continuation of Civil Procedure and Drafting I.

CONTRACTS I, 3 Crs.

The first course in Contract law introduces students to the concept of "contract" as well as the history and sources of contract law including the common law, the Uniform Commercial Code, the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and other related statutes. A brief introduction to contract remedies and the validation process precedes a detailed analysis of the Agreement Process analyzing the creation and termination of contracts including an emphasis on the contract law of the Uniform commercial Code. This is followed by a detailed analysis of the validation process that includes a focus on formalistic devices as well consideration and promissory estoppel. The course ends with a comprehensive analysis of all types of contracts that are included within the statute of frauds which is the first of several concepts dealing with operative expressions of assent.

CONTRACTS II, 3 Crs.

Prerequisite: Contracts I

Contracts II explores the challenges in determining operative expressions of assent under the parole evidence rule, interpretation, and various types of mutual and unilateral mistake. It proceeds to deal with abuse of the bargaining process such as unconscionability, bad faith and contracts against public policy. The course moves to the broad area of express, implied and constructive conditions as well as divisible contracts, anticipatory repudiation, breach of contract, and materiality of breach. The coverage of risk allocation includes impossibility and impracticability of performance as well as frustration of purpose. The coverage of contract remedies exposes students to the expectation, reliance and restitution interests. The course ends with analyses of third party beneficiaries, the assignment of contract rights and delegation of contract duties. The final examination is based on the entire law of Contracts.
**CRIMINAL LAW, 3 Crs.**

This course examines statutory definitions of crimes, judicial interpretations of statutes, as well as theories of punishment. Requirements for criminal liability including voluntary act, culpability, and causation will be examined. Theories of liability applicable to all crimes, such as attempt, complicity, conspiracy, and solicitation will be considered. A variety of crimes will be considered with particular emphasis on crimes against the person. Various defenses, including self-defense, defense of others, duress, entrapment and double jeopardy will also be considered.

**LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING I, 3 Crs.**

This is the fall semester course in a sequence of two courses required of all first-year students. The course is taught in small sections; students will have the same professor for both semesters. Emphasis is placed on issue identification, problem solving, case analysis and synthesis, statutory interpretation, effective legal writing style, print-based and online research, and professionalism. At least three research-based predictive writing assignments will be assigned, leading to the preparation of law-office memoranda. Faculty members confer individually with students on these assignments, and several papers are revised after faculty critiques. Additional shorter writing assignments may also be assigned.

**LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING II, 2 Crs.**

This is the spring semester course in a sequence of two courses required of all first-year students. The course is taught in small sections; students will have the same professor for both semesters. The spring course builds upon the fall course; students will continue to refine the legal writing, analysis, and research techniques learned in the fall semester. Emphasis is placed on persuasive writing, advocacy, and compliance with court rules through the preparation of an appellate brief and delivery of an appellate oral argument. Faculty members confer individually with students on their drafts of the appellate brief and train students to deliver an effective appellate oral argument. Additional shorter writing assignments may also be assigned.

**PROPERTY I, 3 Crs.**

Property I is an introduction to the study of law and fundamental legal skills through the lens of property law. Students will be introduced to the policies and philosophical theories underlying the law of property, the historical development of property law, the meaning of property, and the relativity of title. Acquisition of property interests and division of property interests into present, future, and concurrent interests are discussed. Although students are introduced to both real and personal property, the primary focus of the course is the law of real property. The course also introduces fundamental skills required for the practice of law, including briefing cases, issue identification, formulating rule statements and analyzing legal issues.
PROPERTY II, 3 Crs.

Incorporating and building upon the concepts learned in Property I, Property II introduces students to modern real property transactions. Emphasis is placed upon the transfer of property interests, title assurance, mortgages and other methods of financing property transactions, and private restrictions on land use. The course also builds upon the fundamental skills introduced in Property I, including briefing cases, issue identification, formulating rule statements, and analyzing legal issues.

TORTS I, 2 Crs.

Tort law, in general, is a body of law that allocates and distributes losses from harm and injury suffered by members of society in situations where there is no private agreement that determines who should bear the loss. Torts I covers two broad areas of liability: liability for intentional acts and liability for negligent conduct. The course covers the elements of basic causes of action within these regimes, as well as potential defenses.

TORTS II, 3 Crs.

Torts II introduces students to a third foundational concept within tort law: liability without fault (strict liability). It also explores various advanced topics in torts, including limited duty situations, multiple tortfeasors, misrepresentation, nuisance, defamation, economic torts, strict liability for damage done by animals and abnormally dangerous activities, and products liability.

TORTS SEMINAR I,II, 0 Crs.

Designed to supplement content coverage in the lecture portion of Torts I, the Torts Seminar provides weekly opportunity for individual and group questions, in-class exercises, and in-depth coverage of hypotheticals and practice problems.