

FIRST-YEAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Evening Program

The required first-year curriculum consists of:

First Semester

Civil procedure (4 credits)
Contracts I (2 credits)
Torts I (3 credits)

Second Semester

Contracts II (3 credits)
Legal research and Writing (1 credit)
Torts II (2 credits)
Property I (3 credits)

Contracts I and II (2 credits Fall and 3 credits Spring)

Contracts is the foundation commercial law course that examines the law of voluntary exchange. Major themes include enforceable and unenforceable promises, remedies for broken promises, and interpretation of agreements. Topics include: consideration; contract information; capacity; duress; unconscionability and illegality; damages; conditions; mistake; impracticability and frustration; third party beneficiaries; assignment and delegation; the Parole Evidence Rule; and the Statute of Frauds. Attention is devoted to Article II of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Legal Research and Writing (1 credit Spring)

In these courses, students are introduced to the processes of case analysis, legal research, and legal writing. Written exercises are required, including the drafting of legal memoranda and an appellate brief. Students participate in oral argument on the subject of the appellate brief.

Civil Procedure (4 credits Fall)

This course introduces students to constitutional limits on judicial power and to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics include: jurisdiction to adjudicate the liabilities of nonresident defendants, the structure and limited power of federal courts; and the stages of litigation (including pleading; motion practice, and the pretrial disposition of cases; formal discovery; and the trial process).

Property I (3 credits Spring)

Property I introduces students to the legal concept of property. Basic concepts of entitlement and transfer of rights are explored in detail. Topics include: possession; estates and future interests; landlord and tenant; public regulation of land use and ownership (as in zoning and eminent domain); non-possessory interests in and regulation of land (including easements, real covenants and servitudes); and transfer of property by gift or sale.

Torts I and II (3 credits Fall and 2 credits Spring)

Torts I and II focus on the legal principles and public policies governing compensation for personal injuries, property damage, emotional distress, and other forms of serious harm. Topics include: the concepts of intent, negligence, and strict liability; defenses based on the plaintiff's conduct; causation and damages; vicarious liability; privileges; immunities; and statutes of limitations.