

What Classes Should I Take?

Perhaps the two most common questions that Pre-Law students ask their advisors are:

"What classes should I take to help me get into law school?" and

"What classes should I take to help me succeed in law school (and beyond)?"

There is no set answer for the first question. Take the classes that appeal to you. If you are interested in the class, you will attend regularly, pay more attention, study harder, learn more, and ultimately put in the work necessary to receive a better grade. Law schools want to admit students with a history of success in the classroom, regardless of the subject area. Generally, an Art History or Zoology major is as valuable as a Political Science or Philosophy major for the law school admission process. The more important factor is an excellent grade point average.

That said, students who take classes which teach or require logic, reasoning, research, analysis, communication and writing skills are better prepared for the LSAT and the law school application process. Thus, it is to your benefit to take as many of those classes, within any area of study, as can be added to your schedule without interfering with your major/minor requirements and without damaging your grade point average.

The second question also has no set answer. Law schools will teach you "what the law is." However, entering law school with at least a basic understanding of the principles and theories behind the laws which govern society will help provide you a competitive advantage in law school classes. Research, writing, analytical and critical thinking, and communication skills are **essential** to law school success. Additionally, an undergraduate study containing such diverse areas as human behavior, business concerns, governmental processes, and land use can better prepare a student for the more rigorous demands of those law school classes, and for the ensuing practice of law.

Below is a list of classes from within the Course Catalog which may help students acquire and hone various skills needed for success matriculating in, and graduating from, law school. It is a non-exhaustive list, and contains only suggestions. These classes are not required for Pre-Law students. Some of the classes may have pre-requisites not listed here, and some classes may not be offered every semester. Not every class will be available to students outside of the major area of study, and not every class will fulfill a major, minor, or Core requirement. Students should check the online Course Catalog and/or Degree Works for more specifics about these courses, and should consult with their advisor(s).

Potential Classes for Pre-Law Students

100 level:

- **ANT 102 Intro to Cultural Anthropology (SB)**
Introduction to the study of contemporary cultures and societies and the linguistic components of human behavior.
- **CJ 100 Intro Criminal Justice (SB)**
An overview of the criminal justice system with emphasis on the roles and problems of law enforcement, courts, and correctional components.
- **COM 100 Rhetoric and Society (H)**
The impact of public discourse on the ideas and issues of culture and history.
- **COM 101 Principles of Human Communication**
General introduction to communication studies as a way of understanding how humans coordinate social meaning and achieve communicative goals. The focus is on identifying the foundation of human communication and the functions of communication in everyday situations.
- **COM 121/122 Critical Decision Making (121 = Honors)(H)**
Theory and practice of basic principles of the decision making process, providing a general introduction to persuasion, argument, and small-group communication.
- **COM 123 Public Speaking (H)**
Theory and practice of basic principles of public speaking, with emphasis on the compositional and presentational aspects of communication in formal speaking situations.
- **CS 102 Microcomputer Applications (C/FL)**
Familiarization with Windows, fundamental and intermediate word processing commands, spreadsheet applications, and database management.
- **CSM 101 Consumers And Technology**
The course features the use of basic applications of the computer, including word processing, database, electronic presentation, Internet searching, and fundamental computer maintenance.
- **EC 110 Principles of Microeconomics (SB)**
Introduction to microeconomic analysis concentrating on consumer and producer behavior, competitive and imperfect markets, public policy and regulation, and income distribution.

- **EC 111 Principles of Macroeconomics (SB)**
Introduction to macroeconomic analysis concentrating on national income, price levels, employment, monetary and fiscal policies, and international trade and development.
- **GY 110 Principles of Human Geography (SB)**
Introduction to geography as a science for learning the fundamentals of human behavior and decision making. Examines how human events, natural resources, economies, development, and urbanization impact the way humankind lives, organizes its space, and makes decisions for the future.
- **IS 100 Information Studies I: Information Access & Evaluation**
How to find and use information in systems designed and managed by others: asking questions; access; selection; evaluation; synthesis; and design of research projects.
- **JN 101 Journalistic Principles**
The role of journalism in a democratic society, emphasizing history, law and ethics.
- **JN 150 Mechanics of Writing**
The logic of sentence and paragraph structure in the context of media writing and accuracy with emphasis on grammar, punctuation and word choice.
- **MC 101 Intro to Mass Communication (SB)**
Introduction to the fields of communication, including theory, law and regulation, history, social implications, and mass media operations.
- **PHL 104 Critical Thinking (H)**
Introduction to the concepts and methods used to identify, construct, and assess arguments as they appear in editorials, articles, ordinary speech, etc.
- **PHL 106/195 Introduction to Deductive Logic (106 = Honors)**
This course examines some of the formal techniques developed by philosophers and mathematicians to distinguish a good argument from a bad one. It is a self-paced course using both computer-aided learning techniques and one-on-one guidance from the instructor and the teaching assistants. The Honors version of Introduction to Deductive Logic expects mastery of more concepts, tools, and techniques of formal deductive logic than the standard version.

- **PHL 140 Philosophy and the Law**
Philosophy and the Law explores philosophical questions arising in three separate areas: criminal law, constitutional law, and civil law. We will consider theories about what kinds of behavior should be criminal and what (if anything) morality should have to do with the criminal law. We will also consider what restrictions the constitution ought to place on the state's efforts to enforce the criminal law by searching someone's residence or keeping him under surveillance, and whether those restrictions should differ when the crime is an act of terrorism. Under civil law, we will discuss the concepts of negligence and fraud.
- **PSC 101 Intro American Politics (SB)**
Survey of the principles, political institutions, and practices of American national, state, and local politics.
- **PSC 103 Intro to Public Policy**
Survey of problems encountered by American governmental units in fields such as agriculture, welfare, education, health, and business regulation.
- **PY 101/105 Intro to Psychology (105 = Honors) (SB)**
Basic principles of psychology.
- **PY 155 Creativity**
This course will introduce students to creativity and creative problem solving from both a theoretical and applied focus.
- **SOC 101 Intro to Sociology (SB)**
Introduction to the scientific study of human social behavior.
- **TH 113 Voice and Diction**
A beginning course designed to assist the student in improving use of his or her voice and speech.

200 level:

- **AAST 201 Intro to African American Studies (SB)**
A basic outline of the diversity and complexity of the African-American experience in the United States: the early academic and social concerns of Black Studies advocates; the changes in the field's objectives that arise from its connections to contemporary social movements for Black Power, women's liberation and multiculturalism; and its major theoretical and critical debates.
- **AC 210 Intro to Accounting**
Introduction to accounting and financial reporting concepts and the use of accounting information in financial and managerial decisions.

- **ANT 210 Language and Culture**
Human activity in its linguistic, cultural, and social contexts; interrelationships between culture and natural language; and the influences of language and culture on thought and behavior.
- **APR 230/231 Intro to Public Relations (230 = non majors, 231 = majors)**
Survey of public relations, including the development and contemporary status of the field, social and political perspectives, and an overview of the practice of public relations in business, government, associations, and other organizations.
- **AS 299 Junior Pre-Law Seminar**
Seminar for prelaw juniors and seniors
- **CJ 220 Law Enforcement**
Development of law enforcement; organization and jurisdiction of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and functions of police officers.
- **CJ 240 Juvenile Delinquency**
Extent and patterns of delinquency; its development in individuals and gangs; group therapy with delinquents; and juvenile courts, training schools, probation, and aftercare supervision
- **CJ 250 Judicial Process**
A general overview of U.S. judicial systems, including recent innovations and future trends.
- **COM 220 Interpersonal Communication (SB)**
Study of verbal and nonverbal communication in the evolution of human relationships.
- **COM 225 Small Group Communication**
Survey and application of basic group communication principles as related to task-oriented interpersonal, small-group, and large-group dynamics, within the context of complex organizations.
- **CSM 204 Intro to Personal Financial Planning**
The course presents financial planning within the context of the family life cycle and the consumer decision-making framework. It provides an overview of topics such as family financial goal setting, budgeting, risk management, savings, and investments.
- **CSM 206 Practical Financial Planning for the Rest of Us**
Provides basic tools and technology necessary for development of a successful personal financial plan over one's life span. Topics include money management, credit use, investments, insurance, retirement planning, wealth accumulation and estate planning.

- **EN 200 Intro Creative Writing**
Study of topics relating to all genres of creative writing; introduction of genre-specific principles.
- **LGS 200 Legal Environment Business**
Environmental approach to the study of law, including the way the law interrelates, philosophy of law, and sources of law. The relationship among law, business, political influences, and the society is treated.
- **NEW 237/238 Cooperation & Conflict (238 = Honors) (SB)**
This seminar explores cooperation and conflict in human societies; all that we do or fail to do in living together effectively. Students investigate and seek solutions for contemporary social problems.
- **PHL 221/292 Introduction to Ethics (221 = Honors) (H)**
Introduction to competing views of how one ought to live, designed to promote the development of a reasoned view of one's own. May include such topics as ethical relativism, the nature of justice and of rights, and the relationship of law and morality.
- **PHL 230 Political Philosophy (H)**
This course serves as an introduction to central debates in political philosophy. The major questions we explore are the following: How can the coercive authority the government exercises over its citizens be justified? What does justice require in our society today? What role do democracy, freedom, rights and equality play in our understanding of a just society? Through the study of both historical and contemporary texts, we investigate these topics. We also consider how these issues bear upon debates in the contemporary American context concerning the following: restrictions on free speech, participation in the democratic process, the war on drugs, homelessness, education and socioeconomic inequality.
- **PHL 241 Philosophical Issues in Criminal Law**
Philosophical Issues in Criminal Law explores two general questions: what kinds of behavior should be criminal, and how should we determine what happens to someone who is convicted of a criminal offense. These are pursued with the help of three theorists, John Stuart Mill, Patrick Devlin and David Lyons. More specific topics include how the criminal law should treat assisting someone who is committing suicide, how "consent" is to be defined where sexual offenses are concerned, and whether judges should hear "victim impact statements."
- **PHL 242 Philosophical Issues in Civil Law**
A philosophical exploration of selected topics in tort law. The aim is for you to work toward reasoned positions of your own about the law concerning these issues.

- **PHL 243 Philosophical Issues in Constitutional Law**

The government is expected to enforce the criminal law, and to protect us from terrorism. However, the Constitution restricts what the government may do in carrying out these responsibilities. We will be concerned with what those restrictions ought to be, with regard to such matters as searching someone's apartment, questioning someone in public, tapping a phone, conducting physical surveillance of a public place, and eliciting a confession to a crime. We will also think about how, if at all, the restrictions on these should be different when the government is fighting terrorism than when it is fighting crime. We will use the language in the Constitution and in leading legal decisions to help us think about these questions.

- **PSC 203 Comparative Politics**

Theoretical approaches to the comparative study of national political systems.

- **PSC 205 Political Theory**

Survey of fundamental concepts in political theory such as liberty, equality, and authority.

- **PSC 206 Public Administration**

Study of the administrative principles and practices in the areas of organization, personnel management, budgeting, government regulation, and democratic controls.

- **PSC 211 State & Local Government**

Study of the institutions and functions of American state and local governments and their relationship to the political process.

- **SW 200/205 History of Social Welfare (205 = Honors)**

Study of the general institutional basis of social welfare: its structure, function, historical development, and the philosophical bases of the provision of social welfare services.

- **SW 210 Family & Child Welfare (SB)**

Examines the current situation in services for children and families. Gives an overview of services designed to strengthen families, as well as those that provide substitute care of children when the family is unable to meet this responsibility.

- **WS 200 Intro to Women's Studies (H)**

An interdisciplinary course examining the roles of women in patriarchal society, with emphasis on how factors such as race, class, gender, and sexuality contribute to the oppression of women and ways they can be challenged through feminist critical practices.

300 level:

- **CJ 300 Survey Criminal Theories**
Study of traditional and modern explanations of crime and criminality.
- **CJ 303 Minorities Criminal Social Justice**
Study of the role played by racial minorities at each stage of the criminal justice system. Special attention is devoted to theories and measurement of minority crimes and race relations and to the treatment of minorities by law enforcement officers, courts, and corrections.
- **CJ 306 History of Crime and Treatment**
Examination in historical sequence of the perspectives on and methods of crime control, from the traditional to the modern.
- **CJ 321 Criminal Investigation**
Fundamentals of criminal investigation from crime scene searches to follow-up investigations and case preparation.
- **COM 301 Intro Rhetorical Theory**
Survey of the historical development of rhetorical theory from the classical period to the present.
- **COM 310 Rhetorical Criticism**
Survey of critical approaches to rhetorical analysis of discourse. (W)
- **COM 323 Advanced Public Speaking**
Advanced exploration of principles and models of contemporary public address.
- **COM 341 Rhetoric & American Politics**
Introduction to the structures and functions of written, spoken, and electronically mass-mediated political discourse in contemporary society. (W)
- **COM 342 Rhetoric Social Protest**
Study of social protest discourse and how it functions rhetorically (W)
- **COM 348 Argumentation**
Theory and practice of argumentation, applying basic principles to both oral and written discourse.
- **CS 340 Legal & Ethical Issues in Computing**
By way of case study, the course finds and frames issues related to legal and ethical issues in computing. Topics include privacy, free speech, intellectual property, security, and software reliability and liability issues.

- **CS 345 Advanced Legal & Ethical Issues**

Using case study and fact pattern analysis, students will find and frame legal and ethical issues presented by past, contemporary and emerging technology. Students will engage in service learning to enhance their sense of civic responsibility.

- **EN 309 Advanced Expository Writing**

Study and practice in methods of exposition, explanation and explication, logic and persuasion, definition and analogy, analysis and evaluation.

- **EN 319 Technical Writing**

Focuses on principles and practices of technical writing, including audience analysis, organization and planning, information design and style, usability testing, and collaborative writing.

- **MGT 301 Intro Human Resource Management**

Introductory course surveying problems and issues in labor economics, personnel management, and labor relations. Emphasis is placed on public policies affecting management and union representatives and on the role of the human resources manager in the organization.

- **MGT 320 Leadership**

This course focuses on the interpersonal dynamics of managers, professionals, and entrepreneurs at work. Case analysis and simulation of problem solving and decision making are used to develop insight into human relations in organizations as well as to develop the personal and interpersonal skills needed in leadership roles.

- **MGT 322 Effective Negotiations**

Negotiations are pervasive in all aspects of life. Having the ability to effectively negotiate can provide you with a competitive advantage in many situations. This course will employ negotiations exercises, expert guest speakers and additional readings to help students master negotiation skills.

- **MKT 337 Personal Selling**

Introduction to successful selling practices and principles through presentation, discussion, role playing, and workshops. Includes principles of prospecting, establishing rapport, generating curiosity, being persuasive, creating desire, handling objections, and closing.

- **MUS 365 Legal Issues in the Arts**

This course will explore a broad range of legal topics pertinent to the arts, including: copyright, trademark, contracts, management of employees, union issues, advertising and 501 (c)(3) non-profit status.

- **PHL 333 Global Justice**

In an increasingly globalized world, questions of global justice have risen to prominence in contemporary political philosophy. In this course we examine the following issues. Do the demands of justice transcend state borders? Do we have reason to think that different demands of justice apply at the global level than at the state level? How do increased levels of global interdependence bear upon what we owe to foreigners versus to our fellow citizens? Does the global order harm the world's poor? Are there any universal human rights? If so, how are they justified and who is responsible for upholding them? Drawing on competing contemporary philosophical accounts of justice, we consider different ways of addressing concrete practical issues such as global poverty and inequality, humanitarian intervention, and immigration.

- **PSC 312 American Legislative System**

Examination of the constitutional and theoretical foundations of Congress and state legislatures, emphasizing problems of structure, procedure, leadership, and legislative reform.

- **PSC 314 American Judicial System**

Introductory analysis of judicial organization, processes, and behavior, with emphasis on the institutional characteristics of the courts.

- **PSC 318 Constitutional Law Limits of Government Power**

Study of the constitutional foundations of federalism and the separation of powers, with emphasis on the role of the Supreme Court.

- **PSC 319 Constitutional Law Civil Rights and Liberties**

Study of the Constitution's protections for civil rights and civil liberties, and the Supreme Court's interpretations of them.

- **PY 377 Psych Law and Justice**

Psychological interpretations of criminality, treatment of offenders, and the roles of psychologists and psychological issues in the justice system.

- **RHM 356 Human Resources Management**

Explains how to meet the requirements of various labor laws, to include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as other employment and workplace laws. Explores strategies for attracting a wide range of applicants, minimizing turnover, and reducing productivity losses.

- **SOC 350 Criminology**

Theories of criminality, types of delinquent and criminal behavior, crime causation, crime control by police, and the criminal courts.

- **SW 310 Professional Writing Seminar**
This pass/fail course assists students with acquiring/improving professional writing skills.
- **WS 340 Women and Law**
This seminar's major focus is the impact of law on the status and lives of women.

400 level:

- **AAST 413 Communication and Diversity**
Study and analysis of issues of diversity as they relate to groups in society and in communication fields. Emphasis is on the media's treatment of various groups in society. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.
- **BEF 490 Democracy, Ideology & Education**
Students will explore the meanings and requirements of democracy, investigate how ideology functions and impacts democracy and how both democracy and ideology affects policies, practices and purposes of schooling.
- **CJ 420 Seminar in Law Enforcement**
Examines the philosophical basis of law enforcement and traces the development of the law enforcement function.
- **CJ 421 Crime Prevention/Control**
Survey of crime control models.
- **CJ 450 Seminar in Judicial Process**
Examines the philosophical basis of the American legal system and traces the development of the judicial process.
- **CJ 460 Criminal Law I**
Classification and analysis of selected areas of the substantive law of crimes, including basic principles of criminal law and crimes against the person and property.
- **CJ 461 Criminal Law II**
General principles and theories of criminal procedure, including concepts of due process, arrest, search and seizure, wiretapping, lineups, and other recent developments.
- **CJ 483 Law and Society**
Law as an instrument of social control, the functions and limitations of law, and the machinery of law as a part of the larger society.

- **COM 462 Theories of Persuasion**
Critical review of social influence theories and practice in the area of persuasion and human action. Special emphasis is given to the application of the theories in interpersonal and organizational communication contexts.
- **CSM 405 Public Policy**
A detailed analysis of U.S. public policy, recognizing the broader social and economic impacts of selected policies. Students will develop a better understanding of how and why specific policies are implemented and assess the strengths and weaknesses of different policy structures.
- **CSM 425, 427, 428 Consumer Conflict Mediation, Management & Negotiation in the Workplace**
A study of the various techniques of conflict resolution in consumer affairs.
- **CSM 430 Family & Consumer Law**
The study of family and consumer law in specific issues of marriage, parent-child relationships, divorce, and the economic consequences of divorce, as well as consumerism and a general understanding of legal terms, resources, the legal system, and adversarial proceedings.
- **CSM 437 Developing the Leader Within**
An in-depth look at leadership principles, qualities, styles, and models with a focus on developing leadership skills and potential within the individual students. Designed to assist students in identifying opportunities for improvement.
- **CSM 459 Techniques of Counseling in Consumer Science**
Fundamentals of counseling, communication, and ethics.
- **EC 410 Law and Economics**
This course will use the tools of economic analysis to analyze public policy issues and to explore the intersections between the law and economics.
- **HHE 440 Understanding Stress Management**
An examination of the psychophysiology of the stress response and indicators of excessive stress. Stress management techniques are examined and taught.
- **GY 441 Land Use Regulations**
Theory and use of zoning, eminent domain, taxing and police powers, enabling acts, charters, official maps, codes, nuisance ordinances, and environmental impact statements in community planning.

- **LGS 402 Government & Business**

This course is designed to give students some information about the regulations which government may or may not impose upon business, leaving students free to form their own conclusions as to their wisdom, adequacy, and practicability. Survey of basic constitutional principles and legal aspects of recent federal legislation affecting business and antitrust laws.

- **LGS 403 Estates & Trusts**

This course treats principles and rules of law relating to wills and inheritances; how the estates of deceased persons are administered; why and how trusts are created and operated; and the duties and settlement of executors, administrators, and trustees.

- **LGS 407 Real & Personal Property**

This course is concerned with the conveyance of property, deeds, covenants, condemnation of property, rights of landlord and tenant, and bailments.

- **LGS 472 Legal Aspects of Health Care**

Examines aspects of the law that are of most concern to individuals in health care management, including administrative law, hospital law, welfare law, public health law, and licensing and legislation.

- **MGT 432 Employee Relations**

A critical examination of the factors that condition employee relations in both the private and public sectors.

- **MC 401 Mass Communication Law & Regulation**

Study of laws and regulations affecting the mass media and the fields of mass communication.

- **MC 444 Lobbying**

A survey of legislative/political techniques and communication strategies and tactics used by corporations, trade associations, and other interest groups to successfully impact federal policymaking.

- **PHL 440 Seminar on Law**

The Fifth Amendment says that “No person...shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.” What that means depends on what it is to be “a witness against” yourself, and on what it means to be compelled to be one rather than being induced in some other way to do so. We will pursue what those terms ought to mean, if there is to be a rule of this kind. We will also consider the reasons for having such a rule, whether (in the end) they are good enough to mean we should have one, and whether the rule should apply when the state is fighting terrorism or only when it is fighting ordinary crime.

- **PHL 448 Philosophy of Law**

This is a seminar on the nature of law and legal systems. Classic positions to be explored include the natural law theory, legal positivism, legal realism, and the theory advanced by Ronald Dworkin. Specific topics to be explored include the idea that there is an obligation to obey the law, what it is for a judge to follow precedent, and whether legal systems should include juries. The course concludes with a negotiation exercise.

- **PSC 448 Human Rights & Institutions**

This class examines how domestic and international institutions create incentives or constraints leading to human rights violations or protections from a social science perspective

- **RHM 421 Hospitality Law**

Students gain an understanding of potential legal problems and how important legal considerations can affect the hospitality industry. Legal cases related to the hospitality industry are explored.

- **SOC 450 Sociology of Law**

Study of social origin and consequences of law and legal process; analysis of social factors that determine legal outcomes.

General Subject Areas for Additional Classes

The following subject areas generally contain additional classes which may provide writing, research, and law-related information. Students are advised to check the Course Catalog and/or the instructor and Department for further information.

American Studies (AMS)

Criminal Justice (CJ)

English (EN)

History (HY)

Legal Studies (LGS)

Management (MGT)

Philosophy (PHL)

Political Science (PSC)

Psychology (PY)

Women's Studies (WS)