Course Suggestions for the Pre-Law Student

BASIC COURSES

COMM 1110 - Principles of Public Speaking
The critical study and practice of public speaking emphasizing the art of rhetoric from a humanistic perspective. Areas of study include research and preparation, ethics, audience analysis, and presentation of speeches.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1101 or WRIT 1101

PHIL 2020 - Critical Thinking
This course is an introduction to the concepts and skills necessary for identifying, evaluating, and constructing good arguments. Topics will include strategies that are used to strengthen or weaken an argument, spot fallacious ways of reasoning, and identify hidden assumptions. The course also studies the basic elements of deductive reasoning.

COURSES IN CRITICISM, LOGIC, RHETORIC, AND WRITING

AAST (or COMS) 4337 - Rhetoric of Social Movements
Introduces students to the rhetorical significance of selected movements, including labor reform, civil rights and environment protection, emphasizing the analysis of persuasive social movement discourse.

COMM 3331 - Media Criticism
Familiarizes students with dominant paradigms currently used in media studies. Particular emphasis will be given to theories addressing the social context of the media and criticism as a rhetorical act.

COML (or ENGL) 5533 - Literary Criticism and Theory
An historical survey of literary criticism and theory from antiquity to modern times. Literary criticism considers issues important for all students of literature, such as the value of poetry in our world, the power of poets to represent reality or truth, and the sources of poetic inspiration. This course also delves into the subject of aesthetics, the nature of beauty, and the variety of forces that impact how humans respond to literature.
Prerequisite(s): COML 2531.

COMS 3331 - Argumentation
Examines the function and structure of argumentation by focusing on the critical analysis of argument around important issues in public policy, science, law, religion and politics

COMS 3338 - Rhetorical Criticism
Introduces students to the major perspectives and approaches used in the practice of rhetorical criticism through the analysis of various rhetorical forms, including public speeches, drama and entertainment, tradition and ideology.
LING (or WRIT) 2430  Essential Grammar for Successful Writing
Offers review and reinforcement of grammar, punctuation, and rules of writing used in both academics and the professions. Challenges students to learn grammar and punctuation well enough that they feel confident with their language skills. Emphasizes paragraph and essay-level writing through drafting, revision, and editing.

LING 3337 - Language, Power, Politics
An in-depth investigation of the role of language in national and international power structures. Comparative evaluation of language in social organization of politics, economic policy and law as aggregated by race, culture, ethnicity, class, group ideology and gender. Emphasis on social policy management and minority/linguistic rights.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1102

PHIL 4233 - Introduction to Formal Logic
Fundamentals of propositional and predicate logic. Emphasis will be placed on construction of proofs in formal systems.

WRIT 4570 - Writing, Rhetoric, and Culture
Explores the interaction of writing, rhetoric, and culture and the relationship between public and private discourses; emphasizes rhetorical traditions in the field of writing studies and rhetorical practices in public discourse.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1102

COURSES WITH LAW-RELATED CONTENT 1

ACCT 4631 - Fraud Examination
This course takes a macro look at fraud by examining the pervasiveness of, and the causes of, fraud and white-collar crime in our society. Other topics to be explored include financial crime statutes, evidence gathering and admissibility, types and elements of fraud, general investigative methods, and report writing.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ACCT 2102 or ACCT 2030 and junior status

ACCT 4633  Forensic Interviews and Interrogation
This course examines the distinctions between interviews and interrogations and how each can be used in resolving criminal or civil allegations. Other topics to be explored include the verbal and nonverbal cues indicating truth or deception, preparation of interview memoranda, and obtaining and preparing legally-admissible admission statements.
Prerequisite(s): Junior Status

1 If you choose to enroll in any of these courses, select only one or two. The courses with law-related content may help to provide an introduction to the subject matter of the law and/or the style of teaching and learning at law school. Do not load up on law-related courses; law schools emphasize that students should acquire their legal education in law school. As an undergraduate, you should focus on pursuing a broad-based education that will sharpen your skills in reading, researching, writing, and critical analysis.
COMM 3337  Mass Communication Law
This course surveys freedom of speech and press and its limitations by laws governing libel, privacy, copyright, contempt, free press, broadcast regulation, fair trial and reporter's shield. Broadcast industry self-regulation and ethical concerns of mass communications will be discussed.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in COMM 2332 or COMM 2332S

COMM 4334 - Advanced Law and Ethics
Provides an evaluation of contemporary media regulations/law and ethical issues by way of case analysis along with the study of the evolution of media regulation for understanding of past, present, and future media performance.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in COMM 3337

CRJU 3131 - Criminal Law
Focuses on the legal processes from arrest through appeal, with emphasis on the rights of the accused. Particular attention paid to due process, right to counsel, search and seizure, self-incrimination, and challenges to individual rights represented by advances in technology and information systems.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S

CRJU 3133 - Criminal Procedure
Focuses on the legal processes from arrest through appeal, with emphasis on the rights of the accused. Particular attention paid to due process, right to counsel, search and seizure, self-incrimination, and challenges to individual rights represented by advances in technology and information systems.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100

CRJU 3137 - Judicial Process
Analyzes and evaluates the judicial process by addressing the actors, institutions, processes and procedures that affect the administration of justice.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100 or CRJU 1100S

CRJU 4733 - Theories of Justice
A consideration of the primary theories of justice formulated through history. Examines and evaluates the theoretical foundations of conceptions of justice from a variety of perspectives.
Prerequisite(s): POLS 1101, or a minimum grade of "C" in CRJU 1100

ECON 4339 - Economic Analysis of the Law
This course examines the effects of legal rules on economic performance. The incentives for individual and firm behavior encompassed in legal rules are analyzed. Topics include legal systems and the economic analysis of property, torts, contracts, corporations, and criminal behavior.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ECON 2105 and ECON 2106

EURO 4130 - European Law and Legal Systems
This course focuses on the legal institutions that constitute the European Union, and the legal processes of those institutions. The course begins with a brief overview of the European Union, including the historical antecedents that preceded the present day entity of the EU.
Prerequisite(s): POLS 1101
HIST 3133 - United States Constitutional History
A survey of United States Constitutional history from its origins to the present including an exploration of the adaptation of the federal system to changing social, economic, and political demands.

LING (or POLS) 3338 - Language and Law
A critical examination of language as a problem-solving device and tool for understanding argument and legal contestation. Delineation of individual rights, institutional authority and legal jurisdiction with emphasis on language and legal power. Analysis of the sociology of language and law within the concepts of human rights and socio-political entitlements.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1102

LSTD 2106 - Legal Environment of Business
Business operates in a domestic and global environment shaped by social and economic forces, made to operate on managers through government regulation and incentives. This course presents an introduction to those factors in the environment of business that shape and affirm American Capitalism.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1101 or WRIT 1101

LSTD 3630 - White Collar Crime
This course examines the US criminal justice system along with its response to the escalating incidence of white-collar crime. Other topics include understanding human behavior, theories of crime causation, organization crime, occupational crime, and the constitutional rights of white-collar criminals.
Prerequisite(s): Completion of a minimum of 55 semester hours

LSTD 4633 - Forensic Interviews and Interrogations
This course examines the distinctions between interviews and interrogations and how each can be used in resolving criminal or civil allegations. Other topics to be explored include the verbal and nonverbal cues indicating truth or deception, preparation of interview memoranda, and obtaining and preparing legally-admissible admission statements.
Prerequisite(s): Completion of a minimum of 45 semester hours

PBAD 4231 - Administrative Law
This course serves as an introduction to administrative law providing students with practical knowledge about administrative law procedures, how administrative law fits into the constitutional and legal framework, and the role of administrative law in policy.

PHIL 3232 - Philosophy of Law
A study of major topics in the philosophy of law, all of which concern the relationship of law to morality and justice-including the nature of law in general; the importance of the rule of law and of limiting the rule of law; and some theory and practice of criminal law.

POLS 3137 - Judicial Politics
In this course, students analyze and evaluate judicial politics by examining the actors, institutions, processes, and procedures that contribute to the formulation, administration, and adjudication of the law.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in POLS 1101
POLS 3138 Constitutional Law: Government Powers
A study of the constitutional development of the national government through landmark Supreme Court decisions. Topics include: judicial power, separation of power, federalism, and interstate commerce.

POLS 3139 Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
This course focuses on the study of the Bill of Rights through landmark Supreme Court decisions. Topics include freedom of speech, press, and religion, the right to privacy, rights of the accused, search and seizure law, and equal protection of the law.

POLS 3438 - Gender and the Law
This course focuses on legal issues related to gender, and considers judicial decisions that have helped shape policies related to issues such as reproductive rights, employment discrimination, family law, Title IX, and sexual harassment.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in POLS 1101

POLS 4134 - International Law and Diplomacy
Examines the body of literature, concepts, and historical perspectives of international law and diplomacy as related to the critical problems of the Post-Cold War era. Focuses on the legal, oral, and strategic dimensions of several past, present, and proposed means of conflict resolution.

POLS 4438 - Legal Reasoning and Writing
This course introduces rule-based reasoning in writing legal documents. Students read and analyze precedents and statutes, use them as a basis for their argument, and translate written arguments into oral arguments. The persuasive writing style is emphasized.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in POLS 1101

PSYC 5232 - Psychology and Law
An introduction to the interdisciplinary study of psycholegal research and scholarship.
Prerequisite(s): PSYC 1101

SMGT 4337 - Legal Aspects of Sport: 3-0-3
Helps the student understand the legal aspects of negligence, intentional torts, the essentials of contracts, and elements of constitutional law as they apply to the sport industry. Helps the student understand risk management in the sport industry.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in SMGT 2130, SMGT 2230, ACCT 2030, ECON 2105, STAT 2231 and either CISM 1110, CISM 1120, CISM 1130