

## WHAT ELECTIVES SHOULD I TAKE?

Choose classes that fit your own interests and career plans and that will help you develop critical thinking and research skills. And if you are interested in the law, then courses about areas of the law might be a good idea. The following courses may be of interest to Pre-Law students. This list should not be treated as a structured curriculum or a list of courses that you need to take before applying to law school. A student could do fine in law school without taking any of these courses.

Business Law 104 – Legal Environment of Business. Studies the legal and regulatory climate that impacts business entities. Focuses on both legal and ethical issues. *Prerequisite: completion of 12 credit hours.*

Business Law 404 – Business Law. A study of various areas of the law that affect the commercial community. *Prerequisites: junior standing and BLAW 104.*

Communications 121 – Communication Law. An introductory course studying the history of the American legal system and its evolution into the information age. Students will also address the ethical issues that arise in all societies governed by rule of law.

Communications 269 – Communication Law and Ethics. A comprehensive study of the major legal topics related to the communications field. The course includes examination of legal and ethical issues posed by the First Amendment, Journalist's Privilege, obscenity, Fair Trial, and Copyright Law. *Prerequisite: COMM 121 or consent of instructor.*

Communications 301 – Defamation and Privacy in the Media. This course will provide students the opportunity to intensively study defamation and invasion of privacy - two areas that substantially affect journalists. *Prerequisite: COMM 269.*

Communications 302 – Communication Law and the Internet. Study of the major legal topics that affect those who use the Internet, whether for commerce or pleasure. These include, jurisdiction, obscenity, defamation, copyright, trademark, and first amendment rights. *Prerequisite: COMM 269.*

Communications 490 – Topics in Communication Law. In-depth study of a particular topic (e.g., Advanced Media Law, Intellectual Property Issues in Communication). *Prerequisite: junior standing.*

English 408 – Methods of Literary Criticism and Research. This is a course in interpretive theory and method. It deals with all sorts of issues that legal minds will encounter in interpretation of laws, contracts, constitutions, and other documents.

Philosophy 150 – Logic & Critical Thinking. This is a great class for LSAT prep. The LSAT includes two logical reasoning sections and one analytic reasoning section. If you already have taken PHIL 150, consider PHIL 345 – Advanced Logic.

Physics 141/142 sequence (with associated laboratory courses PHYS-141L/142L) – This course teaches the skills of problem solving and precise articulation of problems and solutions. Problem solving is, in part, what good lawyers are required to do to be successful.

Political Science 120 – Government of the US. Introduction to the American national government.

Political Science 340/341 – Constitutional Law I & II. Analysis of Supreme Court decisions, judicial review, federalism, separation of powers, civil rights, and other constitutional issues. *Prerequisite: POLS 120 or permission of instructor.*

Political Science 345 – Judicial Process. Examination of law and courts as part of the political process. *Prerequisite: POLS 120 or permission of department chair.*

Sociology 130 – Intro to Criminal Justice System. An introduction to the system that many lawyers end up working in.

Sociology 265 – Crime and Society. This is a useful course that focuses on theories around crime, criminal behavior etc.

Sociology 360 – Penology. Examines the prisons, jails, community corrections and paroling authorities.

Sociology 445 – Sociology of Law. Examines the place of law in society, the relationship between law and social change, law and other social institutions.

Theatre 134 – Voice and Diction.

For further information about these courses, please contact the relevant academic department.

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