

Spring 2020 Class Suggestions for Pre-Law Students

***These courses are SUGGESTIONS; they are NOT REQUIRED for pre-law students.** Course details and descriptions based on most recent information provided by Illinois Course Explorer and are subject to change*

Class Title	Credit Hours	Description	Recommended For
ACE 240: Personal Financial Planning	3 Hours	Examines principles of financial planning applied to individuals and households, with attention to organizing and analyzing financial information, budgeting, acquiring financial assets, managing credit, planning for taxes, investments, risk management, retirement, and estate planning.	Any pre-law student. Most lawyers require an understanding of financial instruments.
ACE 403: Agricultural Law	3 Hours	Relation of common-law principles and statutory law to land tenure, farm tenancy, farm labor, farm management, taxation, and other problems involving agriculture.	Those interested in real estate or agricultural legal issues.
ADV 310: Intro to Public Relations	3 Hours	Introduces the student to the practice and profession of public relations. Course material covers topics such as the history of public relations, the role of law and ethics in public relations, and theories that guide public relations research and practice.	Those interested in PR and ethics
ANTH 160: Contemporary Social Issues	3 Hours	Considers how anthropological theory and methods enhance our understanding of contemporary social and political issues, including immigration, education, affirmative action, and welfare. It examines the relationship between social policy and social science as well as the strengths and limits of anthropological methods for social and political issues.	Those interested in public policy, social justice, or advocacy.
BTW 263: Writing in the Disciplines	3 Hours	Cross-Cultural Communication: Investigating and Problem-Solving Do Chinese companies value authority more than U.S. companies? How can I argue, express disagreement, and say 'no' effectively if I want to be successful in a career in another country? We will investigate international cultures and international businesses, and solve real problems that organizations face when they take their products and services to new countries. With a	Developing writing skills Those interested in working internationally

		strong focus on written communication, this course asks you develop insights and business plans for businesses who want to expand their operations to international markets	
BTW 271: Persuasive Writing	3 Hours	Examines persuasive writing in a variety of contexts including ads, argumentative essays, proposals, and campaigns.	Any pre-law student Develops writing skills while learning how to persuade— both key lawyer skills
CHLH 101: Intro to Public Health	3 Hours	Introduction to the nation's public health system; includes an overview of the basic concepts and core functions of public health practice, the scope of applications, and the variety of service organizations (both public and private) that shape public health.	Those interested in health law
CHLH 210: Community Health Organizations	3 Hours	Overview of institutions and agencies which provide health information, education, services, and care. Includes historical foundations, constituencies, organizational goals and structure, funding and expenditures, modes of service delivery, political and ethical issues.	Those interested in health law, politics, and/or public policy
CMN 101: Public Speaking	3 Hours	Preparation and presentation of short informative and persuasive speeches; emphasis on the selection and organization of material, methods of securing interest and attention, and the elements of delivery.	Everyone considering law school <i>Note: This is a pre-req for many upper level CMN courses.</i>
CMN 211: Business Communication	3 Hours	Focus on relevant theory and research on communication strategies and skills vital to diverse business contexts. Topics include personal branding and self-marketing; job interviewing basics; business ethics; business writing; networking; professional etiquette and behaviors; and business presentations	Those considering corporate law Developing professional skills for the job market
CMN 220: Communicating Public Policy	3 Hours	Study of the nature of policy-oriented communication; analysis and formulation of positions on issues of professional, personal, or public interest; design and presentation of public policy messages addressed to varying tasks and audiences, with	Those interested in public policy or politics Developing writing skills

		special emphasis on advanced writing skills.	
CMN 230: Intro to Interpersonal Communication	3 Hours	Study of communication theory and its application to interpersonal relationships; extensive discussion of problems of conflict and misunderstanding in personal affairs to facilitate the development of knowledge, insights, and skills in the processes of face-to-face interaction.	All pre-law students; lawyers must have strong interpersonal skills to build client relationships and resolve conflicts
CMN 232: Intro to Intercultural Communication	3 Hours	Introduction to the study of intercultural communication in a variety of contexts, including domestic and international; examines theory and research to explain what happens when people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds interact.	Those interested in working internationally or in a multinational setting
CMN 260: Intro to Health Communication	3 Hours	Introduces theory and research on communication in health and illness contexts. Explores how messages from media, interpersonal, and organizational sources affect health beliefs and behaviors.	Those interested in healthcare law
CMN 321: Strategies of Persuasion	3 Hours	Studies of powerful instances of public persuasion; students examine key means of public influence.	Everyone considering law school
CMN 323: Argumentation	3 Hours	Study of the theory of argument, e.g., evidence, reasoning, and construction of briefs; practice in formal and informal forms of debate and public discourse on current public questions.	Everyone considering law school
ECON 484: Law and Economics	3 Hours	Applications of economic theory to problems and issues in both civil and criminal law and the effect of legal rules on the allocation of resources; includes property rights, liability and negligence assignment, the use of administrative and common law to mitigate market failure, and the logic of private versus public law enforcement.	Those with a strong interest in public policy or economic theory who are planning to attend law school
EDUC 202: Social Justice, School & Society	3 Hours	Examines the nature of justice and the dynamics of a pluralistic society to derive a conception of social justice. Working with this conception, it asks how schools function to perpetuate and/or remediate social injustice.	Those interested in public interest law, social justice, or advocacy
ENGL 360: Environmental Writing	3 Hours	Equips students to write about food, water, and energy resource systems. Students will also have the	Building writing skills; Those interested in environmental law

		opportunity to meet working journalists and to practice professional skills like interviewing, conducting historical research, and drafting pitch letters.	
ESE 210: Social & Environmental Issues	3 Hours	Introduction to the complex relationship between people and the natural environment from a social science perspective.	Those interested in environmental law
FIN 241: Fundamentals of Real Estate	3 Hours	A survey of real estate finance, appraisal, investment, law, brokerage, management, development and economics. Special attention is given to the analysis of aggregate real estate and mortgage markets, to the individual transactions within these markets, and to the legal and institutional factors which affect these markets.	Those interested in real estate or property law
FSHN 101: Intro to Food Science & Nutrition	3 Hours	Discusses the evolution of the food system to meet the needs and desires of a complex, heterogeneous society. Provides an overview of food in relation to nutrition and health, composition and chemistry, microbiology, safety, processing, preservation, laws and regulations, quality, and the consumer.	Those interested in food law and regulation or public policy related to food and nutrition
GEOG 101: Global Development & Environment	3 Hours	Introduces geographical perspectives on environment and development studies with case studies drawn from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Investigates the origins of the global South in relation to the global North, especially the historical and contemporary processes driving environmental, economic, and cultural change.	Those interested in international and environmental law
GEOG 210: Social & Environmental Issues	3 Hours	Introduction to the complex relationship between people and the natural environment from a social science perspective. Explores different approaches to environmental issues, and examines the role of population change, political economy, technologies, environmental policymaking, and social institutions in causing and resolving contemporary social and environmental global issues.	Those interested in environmental law or public policy
GLBL 260: Global Human Rights	3 Hours	Examines how ideas about human rights are defined and how they are differentially deployed. Looks at	Those interested in human rights and/or international law and public policy

		human rights claims and crises, and examines how governmental and non-governmental individuals and organizations have sought to deal with human rights violations in order to address problems of justice, retribution, and reconciliation at personal, national, and international levels.	
HDFS 120: Intro to Family Studies	3 Hours	Overview of current concepts, theories, and substantive issues in family studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Gives attention to variation in family form and function across different social/cultural contexts and how family experience is structured by gender. Examines issues of family development (marriage, parenting, divorce, remarriage, aging family) and explores the links between families and other social institutions.	Those interested in family law, elder law, juvenile advocacy or public policy in those contexts
HDFS 420: Inequality, Public Policy, and U.S. Families	3 Hours	Includes critical analysis of health care, employment, immigration, family leave, welfare and other social policy options that affect family life and well-being.	Those interested in civil rights, family law, or public policy
HIST 281: Constructing Race in America	3 Hours	Interdisciplinary examination of the historical, cultural, and social dimensions of race and ethnicity in the United States. Explores the complex and intricate pursuit of multiracial and multicultural democracy.	Those interested in civil rights or public policy
HIST 312: Immigrant America	3 Hours	History of immigration and immigrant groups in the United States from 1830 to 1980. Covers major waves of immigration and focuses on the diverse cultural heritage, social structure, and political activism of immigrants from Europe, the Americas, and Asia.	Those interested in immigration law, civil rights, politics
HIST 442: Roman Law and Legal Tradition	3 Hours	Examines Roman law and legal tradition in the context of historical, political, and social developments; origins of law in primitive and ancient classical societies; surveys development of precedent, codification, and preservation of Roman law, and the impact of Roman law on western legal traditions.	History buffs or those interested in learning legal traditions and origins of law Building writing skills
INFO 303: Writing Across Media	3 Hours	The ability to communicate effectively in multiple types of media	Any pre-law student

		is a crucial part of literacy in our society. In this course, students will explore the intersections of various media: print, film, images, sound, etc. Students will consider the ways in which writing--as an object and as a practice--is shaped by multimodal interactions.	Building writing skills
JOUR 311: Media Law	3 Hours	Detailed analysis of the theories of freedom of expression, the legal doctrines of greatest concern to mass communicators, and contemporary issues related to free speech and press, including libel, copyright, and news-gathering in a digital age.	Those interested in learning about issues related to free speech and press, including libel and copyright issues
LAW 303: Living the Law	3 Hours	This course first applies the legal understanding developed in LAW 301 to situations in the real world, and then explores how the law is viewed through different social science lenses. Students interested in deepening their knowledge of how the law operates in today's world, and how the law is studied in the social sciences, will benefit from this class. Prerequisite: Law 301.	All students interested in law school
LAW 305: Art and Cultural Property Law	3 Hours	This course concerns the emergence of "art" and "cultural property" law as a distinct field of legal inquiry and practice. Among the dozens of important relevant issues in this field are the successes and failures of law in policing cultural heritage crimes, the rise of artistic nationalism, cultural heritage as a casualty of war, censorship, and provenance studies.	Those interested in art, ownership of culture or antiquities
LER 100: Introduction to Labor Studies	3 Hours	Provides an overview of workers and unions in American society. Looks at economic, political, and workplace issues facing working people, why and how workers join unions, how unions are structured and function, and how unions and management bargain a contract.	Those interested in corporate or employment law
LER 120: Contemporary Labor Problems	3 Hours	Focuses on problems and challenges facing American workers and the U.S. labor movement. Topics include the deterioration of the labor-management "social contract" in recent decades; a review of labor and employment law; the health care crisis; globalization and cross-border	Those interested in corporate, employment, or international law

		union alliances; and union democracy.	
NRES 102: Intro to Natural Resources & Environmental Science	3 Hours	Introduction to natural resources (forests, fisheries, soils, aquatic systems) and environmental science. Emphasizes renewable natural resources, ecological concepts, energy use, biodiversity of species, biogeochemical cycles, and air, water, and soil pollution. Provides natural science basis for understanding contemporary environmental issues and natural resource management.	Those interested in environmental law and policy
NRES 105: Climate Change Impacts on Ecological Systems	3 Hours	Topics include species range shifts, timing of biological events, ecosystem function, and feedbacks. The implications for conservation, as well as approaches to mitigating and adapting to climate change, are also explored. Computer-based exercises are used to enhance quantitative reasoning skills and build climate and ecological literacy.	Those interested in environmental policy
NRES 287: Environment & Society (Same as ESE 287, PS 273)	3 Hours	Examination of the relationship between environment and society and implications for ecological and human well-being. Social science perspective covered on topics such as environmental change, environmental decision-making, natural resource management, agricultural systems, and environmental risks, hazards, and disasters.	Those interested in environmental law and policy
PHIL 102/103: Logic & Reasoning (Note: 103 is a Quant II)	3 Hours	Practical study of logical reasoning; techniques for analyzing and criticizing arguments, with emphasis on assessing the logical coherence of what we read and write.	Anyone planning to take the LSAT and attend law school
PHIL 104/105: Intro to Ethics (Note: 104 is Adv Comp)	3 Hours	Some basic questions of ethics, discussed in the light of influential ethical theories and with reference to specific moral problems	Anyone planning to attend law school
PHIL 107: Intro to Political Philosophy	3 Hours	Introduction to core ideas in political and legal philosophy, for example, rights, equality, political obligations, legitimacy of states, nationalism, and oppression.	Those interested in politics and public policy
PS 101: Intro to US Government & Politics	3 Hours	Examines the organization and development of national, state, and local governments in the U.S.; the federal system; the U.S.	Anyone interested in politics or going to law school

		Constitutions; civil and political rights; the party system; and the nature, structure, powers, and procedures of national political institutions.	
PS 220: Intro to Public Policy	3 Hours	Surveys the policy process including adoption, implementation, and evaluation. Topics may include reviews of substantive policy issues such as crime, energy, environment, poverty, foreign policy, civil liberties, or economic regulation.	Those planning on practicing in a variety of public interest areas
PS 280: Intro to International Relations	3 Hours	Structure and processes of international relations, trends in international politics, and the future of the international system.	Those interested in international law
PS 301/302: US Constitution I & II	3 Hours	Analyzes issues related to judicial interpretation of the constitution; the separation of governmental powers; federalism; checks and balances among the three branches of the national government; and the jurisdiction of federal courts.	Anyone planning on attending law school – develops the understanding of the US legal system and the Constitution
PS 313: Congress and Foreign Policy	3 Hours	Examines cases of foreign-policy making over 100 years with a focus on the struggle between the legislative and executive branches, constitutional questions, explanations for changes in behavior, and the impact on democratic process.	Those interested in the way the US determines and conducts foreign policy; Those interested in working for the Department of State
PS 329: Immigration & Citizenship	3 Hours	Examination of the conceptual issues associated with citizenship and immigration, considering current political debates from a variety of perspectives: empirical, historical, and normative.	Those interested in immigration law and policy
PS 370: Justice in the Law	3 Hours	Court cases and topics include enforcing sexual morality, protecting free expression, religious liberty, regulating labor markets, guaranteeing the rule of law, ensuring equal opportunities through schools and elections, establishing group rights, and regulating reproductive rights.	Anyone interested in law school or in social justice
PS 491: Internship with the Champaign County Public Defender's Office	3 Hours	Participants will work on-site at the Public Defender's office assisting attorneys with their cases and observing courtroom hearings. Topics covered in the classroom include: defendants' Sixth Amendment rights; criminal law procedural	Those interested in practicing criminal law or public interest law

		requirements; duties and obligations of a Public Defender; statutes regulating legal representation; and case law interpreting the rights and obligations of criminal defendants and their counsel.	
PSYC 144: Stereotypes, Prejudice, & Discrimination	3 Hours	No description provided	Those interested in civil rights or social justice
SOC 275: Criminology	3 Hours	Nature and extent of crime; past and present theories of crime causation; criminal behavior in the United States and abroad, and its relation to personal, structural and cultural conditions; the nature of the criminal justice system and the influences of the exercise of discretion among actors in the criminal justice system.	Those interested in practicing criminal law
SOC 375: Criminal Justice System	3 Hours	We review sociological and other social scientific research on topics including the police, prosecutors, the courtroom work-group, forensic evidence, juries, sentencing, and the impact of mass incarceration.	Those interested in criminal law
SOC 378: Sociology of Law	3 Hours	Examination of law and legal institutions sociologically. We begin with an introduction to theoretical perspectives on the problem of order, illustrated by juxtaposing formal law with other means of achieving order.	Those interested in learning more about the sociology of legal institutions
SOC 479: Law and Society	3 Hours	Examination of the social and political organization of the legal system, including the development of disputes, the role of gatekeepers to the legal system, and the political significance of litigation. Examines the role of law in sustaining and dismantling structural forms of inequality, as well as the relationship between law and social change.	Those interested in public interest law, civil rights, or social justice
SOCW 200: Intro to Social Work	3 Hours	Broad survey of the field of social work; introduction to social services, social welfare organizations, major social problems and target population groups, and the methods used in working with individuals, groups, and communities	Those interested in public interest law or social justice
RST 354: Legal Aspects of Sport	3 Hours	A study of legal principles and their impact on the sport industry; the course examines the application of different areas of law including tort,	Those interested in sports and entertainment law

		contract, constitutional, anti-trust, and intellectual property law to professional, amateur and recreational sport.	
SE 400: Engineering Law	3 Hours	Nature and development of the legal system; legal rights and duties important to engineers in their professions; contracts, uniform commercial code and sales of goods, torts, agency, worker's compensation, labor law, property, environmental law, intellectual property.	Those interested in intellectual property law or corporate law
TE 450: Startups: Incorporate, Fund, Contracts, Intellectual Property	3 Hours	Explore legal tools used in constructing and operating companies. Topics include: issues with business formation, intellectual property, NDA, contracts, and other corporate legal issues impacting startups.	Those interested in corporate law and entrepreneurship
UP 160: Race, Social Justice, and Cities	3 Hours	Explore everyday racial conflicts in selected cities as expressions of historical struggles for social and spatial justice, across multiple scales. Focus on the governance of routine social practices ranging from policing, to education, to gentrification and memorialization in public places.	Those interested in social justice, public interest law, or property law