

# Fall 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 306: Food Law	3 Hours	Explores the legal and political dimensions of food law, policy and trade in the United States and major trading partners. Examines the development of major national and state laws that apply to production, distribution and retail sale of food. Evaluates current issues in food regulation, including: biotechnology, organics, health labeling claims, food safety and products liability litigation. Discusses food regulation in other countries within the context of international treaties such as the World Trade Organization and United Nations.	Those interested in food law, policy and trade, and international treaties.
ACE 406: Environmental Law	3 Hours	Examination of environmental law issues. Topics include common-law pollution control; role of administrative agencies and courts; federal and state power.	Those interested in environmental law.
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
AIS 214/PS 214: American Indian Law & Politics	3 Hours	Examines the role of American Indians and Indian law in the US political system. Beginning with the core concept of sovereignty, the course then looks at Indian political mobilizations, tribal political economy, tribal governance, relations between tribes and states and between tribes and the federal government, and laws governing religious freedom and environmental issues.	Those interested in American Indian law and laws governing religious freedom and environmental issues.

ANTH 246: Forensic Science	4 Hours	History and theory underlying methods used in forensic science. Topics include the courtroom, the units of a crime laboratory, methods of securing and investigating a crime scene, and the analysis of evidence collected from a crime scene such as blood, fibers, hair and fingerprints.	Those interested in criminal law.
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 strong focus on written communication, this course asks you to develop insights and business plans for businesses who want to expand their operations to international markets	Developing writing skills  Those interested in working internationally
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 special emphasis on advanced writing skills.	Those interested in public policy or politics  Developing 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 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 opportunity to meet working journalists and to practice professional skills like interviewing, conducting historical research, and drafting pitch letters.	Building writing skills; Those interested in environmental law
ESE 210: Social & Environmental Issues (Same as GEOG 210)	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: The Science of Food and How it Relates to You	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
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
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

INFO 303: Writing Across Media	3 Hours	The ability to communicate effectively in multiple types of media 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.	Any pre-law student; 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 301: Introduction to Law	3 Hours	This course guides the undergraduate student in an initial study of law and legal reasoning. Covers the nature and function of rules/law, the distinctiveness of legal reasoning, and the way in which law responds to social phenomena and contributes to the development of different social, business and economic institutions. Includes both criminal and civil proceedings. Serves as a general foundation course for those interested in applying to law school. Also of interest to students who are not interested in pursuing a more formal law education, but for whom general legal training will enhance their career aspirations. Develops skills that are transferable to virtually any career.	All students interested in law school
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 union alliances; and union democracy.	Those interested in corporate, employment, or international law

LER 320: Gender, Race, Class and Work	3 Hours	Provides a historical and contemporary overview of the impact and interplay of gender, race, class and other issues of identity in the workplace. Topics include: pay gap, occupational segregation, workplace harassment, low wage work, and employment discrimination laws. The response of labor unions to identity issues will also be examined. Prerequisite: <a href="#">LER 100</a> , <a href="#">LER 110</a> or one course that covers race or gender issues is required.	Those interested in civil rights and employment discrimination.
LLS 468: Latinas/os & the Law	3 Hours	Examines the Latina/Latino experience in the U.S. how and when the law, through the courts, has most often operated as an instrument of subordination and oppression, but has also at times been leveraged for positive social transformation. Students will come to understand that the law is a deeply contested social space that is central to U.S. social hierarchies based upon race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, class, immigration status, and religion.	Those interested in civil rights and discrimination.
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 224: Social Justice and Environment & Society	3 Hours	Over the last 25 years, Environmental Justice (EJ) has expanded from its earliest focus combating environmental racism in the US to an influential global phenomenon. What is EJ and how do we realize it in public policy? Students in this course will examine environmental issues through the lens of social justice and human inequality. We explore how EJ makes connections between environmental (pollution, biodiversity, food, climate) and social justice issues (race, ethnicity, gender, class) in order to inform public policy and mitigate environmental problems.	Those interested in environmental law and policy

PHIL 102/103: Logic & Reasoning ( <i>Note: 103 is a Quant II</i> )	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 ( <i>Note: 104 is Adv Comp</i> )	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
PHIL 436: Philosophy of Law and of the State		Examination of issues in the philosophy of law, such as the nature of law, law and morality, justice, liberty and authority, punishment, and legal responsibility.  Prerequisite: One course in philosophy.	Anyone interested in going to law school or learning more about the law.
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. Constitution; civil and political rights; the party system; and the nature, structure, powers, and procedures of national political institutions.	Anyone interested in politics or going to law school
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: US Constitution I	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 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 requirements; duties and obligations as a Public Defender; statutes regulating legal representation; and case law interpreting the rights and obligations of criminal defendants and their counsel.	Those interested in practicing criminal law or public interest law
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 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, contract, constitutional, anti-trust, and intellectual property law to professional, amateur and recreational sport.	Those interested in sports and entertainment law
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. NOTE: this class is initially restricted to College of Engineering students only. However, the instructor informed us that he always has plenty of seats available for those not in the COE and opens up registration.
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, intellectual property law and entrepreneurship
UP 211: Local Planning, Government and Law	3 Hours	Provides students with a basic understanding of the governmental structure, legal aspects, and practice of local municipal planning, with special emphasis on case law, constitutional principles, zoning, subdivision regulations and comprehensive planning. Gives an introduction for students interested in pursuing more advanced studies in land use law and local government planning.	Those interested in local government and land use/real estate law.

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