

# PRE-LAW COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

## SUMMER 2023

- These courses are **SUGGESTIONS** only; they are **NOT REQUIRED** for prelaw students. In addition, while this is an extensive list of courses, it may not include every course offered that could be beneficial to you.
- When considering suggested courses, be sure to consult the [Course Explorer](#) for pre-requisite and other specific course details to confirm your individual eligibility to enroll.
- Suggested courses have been categorized into two groups:
  1. *General Pre-Law Course Recommendations* (relevant for all majors and minors): Pages 2-3.
  2. *Major Specific Pre-Law Course Recommendations* (most relevant for specific majors and minors): Pages 4-7.
- Courses may be offered/cross-listed in multiple departments under different course numbers, for ex: *PS 201* and *AAS 201* are the same course. We have made efforts to note this where possible, please note that cross-listed courses may only be listed once.
- Course details and descriptions are based on the most recent information provided by [Illinois Course Explorer](#) and are subject to change. We encourage you to check back for updates and to explore course offerings further with our office through an [individual advising appointment](#) and your department advisors and professors!

*Last updated 3.14.23*

# GENERAL PRE-LAW COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Below are courses that students of any major may find valuable to assist in their prelaw preparations. The courses below provide an opportunity to learn about legal topics as well as topics in areas important for legal studies. In addition, some of the courses below focus on academic skills such as reading, writing, research, communication, and critical thinking skills, which are essential for law school. Finally, some of the suggested courses may explore aspects of personal and professional development that are vital for success.*

*Exposure to the following topics would be helpful for any future law student!*

<b>CLASS TITLE</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>ACE 240: Personal Financial Planning</i>	3	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.
<i>CMN 101: Public Speaking</i>	3	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.
<i>CMN 102: Introduction to Communication</i>	3	Provides students with an overview of the major areas of study across the diverse field of Communication. Attention is given to the study of argumentation, persuasion, mediated communication effects, rhetoric, face-to-face communication with family, friends, and romantic partners, social support, nonverbal and verbal communication, group communication, health communication, organizational communication, race and communication, sports and communication, and common research methods in the field.
<i>ECON 102: Microeconomic Principles</i>	3	Introduction to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. Primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, the theory of the firm under varying conditions of competition and monopoly, and the role of government in prompting efficiency in the economy.
<i>ECON 103: Macroeconomic Principles</i>	3	Introduction to the theory of determination of total or aggregate income, employment, output, price levels, and the role of money in the economy. Primary emphasis on monetary and fiscal policy, inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and international economics.

<i>LEAD 260: Foundations of Leadership</i>	3	Study of leadership theories and their application to the development of leadership skills. Students develop a personal philosophy of leadership, prepare a development plan for enhancing leadership skills, and begin a portfolio to record their leadership growth. Explores topics concerning diversity, ethics, and leadership/follower roles.
<i>PS 305: The US Supreme Court</i>	3	Examines how the modern Supreme Court resolves major issues in American constitutional politics.
<i>RHET 105: Writing and Research</i>	4	Introduction in research-based writing and the construction of academic, argumentative essays that use primary and secondary sources as evidence. This course fulfills the Campus Composition I general education requirement.
<i>SOC 275: Criminology</i>	3	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.

# PRE-LAW COURSE SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC MAJORS / MINORS

*Below are courses that prelaw students in specific majors/minors may find particularly helpful; or for students wishing to develop advanced knowledge in specific legal topics and/or topics relevant for individual law study goals.*

<b>CLASS TITLE</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<i>AAS 201/ AFRO 201/ LLS 201/ PS 201: U.S. Racial &amp; Ethnic Politics</i>	3	Examines efforts by racial and ethnic communities to organize politically and by society to allocate resources based on race or ethnicity. Topical focus includes African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and white ethnics. The primary goal of the course is to develop a more comprehensive understanding of racial and ethnic politics by identifying commonalities and differences among these groups and their relationship to the state.
<i>ACCY 200: Fundamentals of Accounting</i>	3	Survey course in the principles of accounting for students registered in schools and colleges other than the College of Business.
<i>ADV 175: Diversity in Advertising</i>	3	Examines the multifaceted role diversity (including racial, gender, orientation, ability status) plays in the delivery and reception of advertising. Additionally, it examines the development of diversity as a marketplace practice and on the development of the advertising industry. We'll analyze advertising using a historical, cultural, and social perspective and address issues of diversity in the industry. We will also critically review current issues of multicultural, transcultural and multidimensional advertising and marketing. In the process we'll grapple with current theories on race and implicit /explicit bias and prejudice and their impact upon the production of advertising and consumer communications.
<i>ANTH 160: Race and Contemporary Social Issues</i>	3	Engages with issues such as migration, borders, policing and related topics to examine certain key interventions in the analysis of race in the United States. Introduces students to critical methods and theories in socio-cultural anthropology and allied disciplines in order to grapple with these issues. We will read a variety of material, including ethnographic accounts, scholarly and popular articles, and a work that blurs non-fiction with fiction- writing, as well as screening related films and documentaries. Students will develop a conceptual vocabulary (keywords) to begin analyzing the social problem that race and racism has become in US society.
<i>ANTH 209: Food, Culture, and Society</i>	3	Introduces students to anthropological approaches to the study of food from socio-cultural, linguistic and archaeological perspectives. Topics include: food in popular culture; food, ethnicity and race; food and immigration; food and religious traditions; food and family; gendered roles in food production; food and national identity; competitive global marketing of food; food, class and status; socio-politics of food in ancient societies; food, ethics and human rights.

<i>ANTH 246: Forensic Science</i>	4	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.
<i>BADM 300: The Legal Environment of Business</i>	3	Introduction to law and the legal system, litigation, contracts, business organizations, intellectual property, employment law, and governmental regulation of business.
<i>BADM 310: Management and Organizational Behavior</i>	3	General analysis of management and organizational behavior from a systems point of view, including classical organizational theory and management, organizational behavior, and management science; environmental forces; planning, organizing, and control processes; motivation, incentives, leadership, communication, and interpersonal relations; and discussion of production and decision-making and mathematical models.
<i>BADM 311: Leading Individuals and Teams</i>	3	Understanding the behavior of employees in work organizations; particular attention to the motivation of individuals to join and perform in organizations and to employee satisfaction with elements of the work environment; and emphasis on various management strategies to modify employee motivation and satisfaction
<i>BADM 380: International Business</i>	3	Introduces the field of international business and management. Examines the economic, political, and legal environments of international business. Analyzes differences in financial management, marketing, and management practices for firms doing business abroad.
<i>BTW 250: Principles Bus Comm</i>	3	Teaches students to apply the principles of successful professional communication to workplace writing tasks. Students will also practice editing and supervising the writing of others. Assignments replicate typical business cases and situations, including a report that requires students to compile and interpret research.
<i>CHLH 210: Community Health Organizations</i>	2	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.
<i>CHLH 260: Introduction to Medical Ethics</i>	3	Course stresses normative bioethics: decisions about what is ethical behavior in a variety of real and practical issues. Analysis of medical ethical cases at the individual, community and wider national and international levels will be addressed.
<i>ECON 415: Environmental Economics</i>	3	Application of economic theory to topical issues such as pollution, climate change, and the environmental impacts of overpopulation. Both market-based and regulatory solutions to these problems are discussed.
<i>ESE 210 / GGS 210: Social and Environmental Issues</i>	3	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.

<i>EURO 385 / GER 385 / FR 385 / PS 385: Politics of the European Union</i>	3	Considers the history of the European Union and its current functions and operations. Focuses on the ongoing process of political and cultural integration. Consists of sections in Illinois and abroad, interacting extensively via the worldwide web.
<i>FIN 221: Corporate Finance</i>	3	Introductory study of corporate financial management, in particular how the financial manager's choices add value to shareholder wealth through investment financing and operating decisions.
<i>FSHN 101: The Science of Food and How it Relates to You</i>	3	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.
<i>GLBL 100: Intro to Global Studies</i>	3	Foundation course for understanding a range of contemporary issues and learning to analyze them from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Students consider globalizing trends within themes of wealth and poverty; population, cultures, and human rights; environment and sustainability; and governance, conflict, and cooperation. Course objectives are to enhance knowledge of human cultures, their interactions, and impacts on the world; develop skills for successfully negotiating realities of contemporary societies; and promote values for global learning, diversity, and sustainable futures.
<i>GLBL 200: Foundations of Research</i>	3	Introduction to the foundations of interdisciplinary social science research. Topic include understanding the purpose for research, identifying researchable issues, finding evaluating and using sources effectively, recognizing methods associated with different types of data and disciplines, and writing a literature review. Prepares students for course-based research papers and advanced research methods courses. Guest faculty present their Global Studies-relevant research as students (b)log their own research interests.
<i>HIST 100: Global History</i>	3	Broad introduction to global history, by exploring the global structures and transnational forces that have shaped human history, from the emergence of agriculture and urban centers to our contemporary global village.
<i>HIST 273: Terrorism, Past and Present</i>	3	Explores the history of terrorism, its goals and practices. We recognize that it is not specific to any one ideology, religion, or people. Terrorism is political violence, psychological warfare meant to manipulate a large target audience.
<i>LEAD 380: Leadership in Groups and Teams</i>	3	Theory and practice of group and team leadership, including leadership assessment, group dynamics, group process, goal-setting, conflict management and resolution, leadership skill development, and case study analyses. Students engage in group activities throughout the semester.
<i>RHET 233: Adv Rhetoric &amp; Composition</i>	3	Instruction in developing research-based arguments of moderate complexity within a special topics format. Introduction to the use of multimodal or other non-print resources as evidence in written arguments.

<i>RST 130: Foundations of Sports Management</i>	3	Examines career opportunities within the sport industry and provides knowledge relevant to the management, marketing, legal, and financial operations of sport organizations. Incorporates applications in a variety of sport entities including intercollegiate athletics, campus recreation, event and facility management, professional sport, management and marketing agencies, and international sport.
<i>SOCW 410: Social Welfare Pol and Services</i>	3	Examination of social welfare within a historical context, addressing the economic, political, social and ideological influences that have shaped the social welfare system and programs. Critical study of the income maintenance system in the United States as a response to the problems of inequality of opportunity and income, poverty, and income security; consideration of alternative approaches with discussion of the social worker's role in the system.
<i>UP 160: Race, Social Justice, and Cities</i>	3	Study of the history and politics of American cities as sites of everyday struggles against systemic racialized exclusions rooted in patterns of residential segregation. Frame everyday racial encounters as surface symptoms of submerged and systematic forms of racism rooted in centuries of genocide, land theft, racial slavery and decades of Jim Crow segregation and neoliberal exclusions. 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. Final student projects will focus on social struggles against systemic and everyday racisms in a self- selected city of their choice.