

Pre-Law Courses – Fall 2025

As you choose your classes, remember that the American Bar Association says that “**students are admitted to law school from almost every academic discipline**”.

You may choose to major in subjects that are traditionally considered to be preparation for law school – such as History, English, Philosophy, Political Science, Economics or Business – as well as including classes in varied topics. Taking a breadth of classes can open up opportunities to apply your law degree in diverse areas. For example, a major in Digital Media and Communications could be helpful in practicing law with a focus on intellectual property (copyright, trademark), media and telecommunications law (free speech, defamation, privacy), and the legal aspects of digital media and emerging technologies.

Whatever major you select, you are encouraged to pursue an area of study that interests and challenges you, while developing research and writing skills. Taking a broad range of difficult courses from demanding instructors is excellent preparation for legal education.”

Classes from most academic areas can help you prepare for law school if they allow you to dive deeply into a topic, provide context for a law-related degree, and provide opportunities to develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills. Talk to your academic advisor or a pre-law advisor if you have any questions.

AC 415: Federal Income Taxation

Introduction to federal income tax law as it applies to individuals, with some corporate and partnership tax concepts. The course focuses on computing federal income tax liabilities and identifying opportunities in federal income tax law to minimize income taxes. Emphasizes problem solving and application of tax concepts to practical scenarios.

AC 451: Auditing

Introduction to the fundamentals of auditing. Topics include professional standards which govern the performance of audit services and a review of concepts and procedures critical to successful performance of a financial statement audit, from risk assessment through audit reporting.

AM 101: Introduction to American Studies:

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

Using a case study approach, this course exposes students to a sample of the broad range of sources and methods that are to be found in the history, literature, politics, religion, art, and popular culture of America. Possible course themes include the 1930s, 1950s, 1960s, slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, women's rights, and the frontier.

ANT 109: Intro to Cultural Anthropology

****Fulfills History & Society and Engaging Diverse Identities requirements**

An introduction to the principles and processes of cultural anthropology. The course not only provides students with basic insights into facts and theories, but also, most importantly, the anthropological attitude of a commitment to understanding and tolerating other cultural traditions.

BU 103: Managerial Ethics

Managerial ethics examines the ethical context in which managers operate. This course discusses the functional areas of business, ethical principles, and models of ethical decision-making. Sections covered include moral philosophy, ethical implications of government policies and markets, business ethics, and stakeholders. Students will apply ethical decision-making to situations that managers face.

BU 175: Microsoft Excel

The course aims to develop skill in the core and advanced functions in Microsoft Excel software. Core Excel functions include create and manage worksheets and workbooks, create tables, and perform operations with formulas and functions. Advanced Excel functions include apply custom data formats and create advance charts and tables. This course provides a pathway to the MOS Excel Certification, an external test administered through a testing center for additional fee (not part of the course).

BU 218: Analytics in Operations

Businesses leverage to gain and sustain competitive advantage through fact-based decisions that use business/data analytics techniques such as descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics. Students will learn how to use application software (such as Microsoft Access and Excel, R-Studio, SPSS, Tableau, etc.) to analyze business key performance indicators (KPIs) and make fact-based decisions and recommendations. As part of this course requirement, students must conduct a gap analysis on a real company's KPIs.

BU 260: Entrepreneurship

This active and experiential course empowers students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset by transforming ideas into viable business models. Through teamwork and individual projects, students will explore key business disciplines through case studies, site visits, guest speakers, and design-thinking strategy sessions.

BU 321: Human Resources Management

This course covers a broad range of human resource areas: job design and analysis, human resource planning, recruitment and selection, training, performance appraisal, compensation, health and safety, and employee and union relations. Also considered are government regulations and contemporary issues in HRM.

BU 361: Business Strategy

This course concentrates on the total business environment and how the various functional areas of business are integrated by managers. The course is based upon the study of strategy formulation and implementation. Using a combination of assignments, the course gives students the opportunity to see how managers can lead firms to attain organizational goals.

CR 201: Theories: Crime, Justice, Race****Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities Requirement**

This course will introduce students to classic and contemporary theories of crime and justice while encouraging students to develop a grasp of the way race, ethnicity, gender, as well as other forms of historic inequality shape the way we understand crime and carry out justice in the US and beyond. Course materials include chapters, articles, and films. The instructor has developed community partnerships for students seeking career and internship opportunities.

CR 218: Issues in Contemp Policing****Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities Requirement**

This course will explore a variety of factors that influence modern policing in the US. We will engage with issues of race and bias, economics, public health, technology and more to develop an understanding of interactions and effects of police and communities.

CR 318: Victimology

The US criminal justice system has historically paid little attention to the role of victims of crime, instead focusing on delivering justice through offender punishment. This tendency has begun to change as police, courts, and social service agencies have started to take increasing measures to address the needs of victims following a crime. In this course, students will examine victimization in the US and abroad, analyze justice mechanisms, and explore varied understandings of victim-centric practice.

CY 201: Cybercrime and Govern

This course explores the critical role of governance in mitigating cybercrime and ensuring the integrity of digital environments. You will learn how governments detect and stop cybercrimes, and become familiar with the laws and policies in place to deter cybercriminals. Develop and implement robust security policies procedures that align with legal and ethical standards and help create a resilient, compliant digital ecosystem. This online class has optional live sessions.

DMC 101: Media Revolutions****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

Interdisciplinary in its focus, the course combines psychology, sociology, history, political science, and communication studies to challenge students to think critically about the mass media revolutions that are currently taking place. In addition to teaching the course in an interdisciplinary way, the professors encourage

students from many majors to bring the expertise of their field to the class discussions, research essays, and class projects.

EC 103: Principles of Microeconomics

Introduction to how economists interpret the everyday decisions of consumers, businesses, and workers. Develops concepts and models that explain what is produced, how it is produced, and how output is distributed. Applies the insights of economic analysis to real-world questions such as minimum wage, business profits, taxes, outsourcing, and environmental policies.

ES 106: Environment & Society

This course is a social science based investigation of the complex relationship between humans and their environment, with emphasis on the impact people have on the environment in relation to the social, economic, and political contexts in which they take place. Important concepts such as environmental ethics, resource use, sustainable development, climate change adaptation/mitigation are overviewed as well as political economy, institutions for environmental governance, and issues of environmental economics.

ES 211: Water Resources

A geographical examination of human-environment relations in the context of water. Built on a foundation of hydrology/water resource management, the course examines the development and resolution of conflict over this critical natural resource. Topics may include the hydrological cycle, surface and groundwater processes, the distribution and development of water resources at a variety of spatial scales; water quality and human health; water law; globalization and the commodification of drinking water supplies; international conflict over water supplies; water and human rights.

ES 215: Introduction to Climate Change

This course examines the ecological, social, and economic consequences of the planet's changing climate system, exploring how to live sustainably in today's world. Topics include the science of Earth's climate system, the historical patterns of climate change, the role of human activity, the impacts on socio-ecological systems, and projections of future effects. This course focuses as well on responses to climate change, including adaptation, mitigation, climate policy, climate justice, ecological grief, and climate activism.

EQ 333: Borderlands Migrant Journey

****Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities and Catholic Intellectual Traditions if combined with EQ-334 Study Trip)**

In this course focused on the US-Mexico border, students will gain a foundational understanding of the complex circumstances that cause migration, the lived experiences of migrants, and evolving policies that define those experiences. Students will explore individual and community stories that bring a human lens to the statistics that often define our politics and policies.

HI 101: U.S. History to 1865

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

This course presents an overview early American history, from the sixteenth century to the end of the American Civil War, including the colonial era, the American Revolution, Jacksonian Democracy, slavery, expansionism, and other diverse themes. The course examines trends in American social relations, economics, politics and culture, and explores the lives of ordinary people as well national leaders. By learning how past generations lived and acted, students will deepen their own perspectives on contemporary America.

HI 222: Civil War & Reconstruction

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

In this class we will examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Civil War, the experience of the soldiers and civilians who lived through it, and how American politics and society functioned under enormous stress. Finally, we will look at the outcomes of the conflict, how American society was changed by it, and how we are still dealing with the repercussions of the bloodiest conflict in US history.

HI 351: Topics: Race & Ethnicity (EDI)

****Fulfills History & Society AND Engaging Diverse Identities Requirements**

The examination of historical topics exploring the issues of Race and Ethnicity from a local and/or global perspective. Topics may include histories of BIPOC communities, civil rights and resistance movements, history of Race and Ethnicity in US or abroad. Topics will vary depending on the interests of the faculty.

PB 101: Introduction to Public Health

This course provides an introduction to the field of public health. Students will learn of the connectivity of public health and health care and the roles of personal behavior, social determinants, race, ethnicity, and income. Students will learn about prevention, protection and health promotion, as well as the domestic and global implications of public health.

PH 233: Healthcare Ethics

An introduction to the major ethical issues faced by healthcare professional along with an introduction to the relevant ethical theories and philosophical techniques used to clarify and to help direct healthcare professionals in handling these issues.

PH 235: The Philosophy of Disability

****Fulfills Engaging Diverse Identities AND History & Society requirements**

Disability is a reality of the human condition. Yet, philosophers have only started to investigate the meaning of disability within the last decade. What, then, is a disability? What is disability itself? Is it a biological given, a social construction, or a mere difference? How does disability affect the lives of humans? This course will examine these questions and more from historical and contemporary thinkers in disability studies.

PH 358: Power, Resistance, & Race

****Fulfills History & Society AND Engaging Diverse Identities requirements**

This course examines questions about race, identity, power, oppression, resistance, and liberation. Is race central to subjectivity? Are we free in determining who we are, given powerful forces of socialization and domination in our racialized world? Does human nature lead to conformity and oppression? How can we overcome oppression? We will examine ideas from thinkers and leaders around the world who have challenged systems of racial and ethnic domination and inspired movements for liberation.

PJ 205: Theories of Conflict Resolution

This course surveys various theories with the goal of helping students develop a repertoire of tools for analyzing a conflict and formulating resolution techniques. Theories are drawn from philosophy, psychology, political science, general semantics, economic philosophy, religion, and other appropriate disciplines. Students will apply the theories to issues of social justice at the local, national, and global levels.

PO 120: Intro to U.S. Politics

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

Is the U.S. a democracy? Does the U.S. system of federalism improve or hinder good governance? How can democratic governance be strengthened? This course provides an introduction to the political institutions of the various governments in the U.S., and how the actions and behavior of the people within the U.S. affect governance.

PO 261: European Political Thought

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

This course traces the main developments in European political thought from the break-up of the feudal system until the mid-nineteenth century. It involves a close, critical reading of some of the major original works of prominent political thinkers from Hobbes through Marx, locating their thought in its social and political context.

PO 290: Canadian Government & Politics

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

A survey of Canadian government and politics. Specific topics will include a study of the parliamentary system of government, Quebec nationalism, Canada-U.S. relations and Canada's place within the global economy. Students may also participate in a regularly scheduled field trip to Ottawa, Canada.

PO 332: U.S. Const'l Law: Govt. Power

The first of two courses on U.S. Constitutional Law, this course examines the powers and structure of the American national government through a political and judicial lens. Specific topics include examining sources of constitutional authority, constitutional change, the nature of judicial review, and the separation of powers. Students should take this course as well as PO 334 for a complete study of U.S. Constitutional Law, but they do not need to be taken in order.

PO 334: U.S. Const'l Law: Liberties

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

The second of two courses on U.S. Constitutional Law, this course examines the constitutional relationship between the individual and the government. Specific topics include the First Amendment freedoms of speech, and Fourteenth Amendment theories of equal protection of the law, especially relating to racial and gender equality. Students should take this course as well as PO 332 for a complete study of U.S. Constitutional Law, but they do not need to be taken in order.

PO 338: Criminal Justice

An analysis of the various agencies involved with the administration of criminal justice. Topics include the definition and measurement of criminal behavior, pre-trial procedure, the adversary trial process, the imposition of punishment, and the judicial supervision of the rights of the accused. Emphasis is always on moral and constitutional values and institutional performance.

PO 348: U.S. Foreign Policy

A study of the formulation and conduct of U.S. foreign policy. Analysis of constitutional principles, institutions and historic traditions that influence the formulation of foreign policy. Case studies of contemporary policies towards specific countries and challenges.

PO 351: Politics Global AIDS Pandemic

This course uses the lens of political struggles to examine the global health crisis created by HIV/AIDS. The first part of the course concentrates on the development of HIV/AIDS policy in the United States, and the second looks at HIV/AIDS in a global context, with a focus on policy struggles within and among developed and developing countries.

PS 101: General Psychology

General Psychology is an introduction to the field of psychology, its methods, major perspectives, theories, and applications. The course explores basic sub-discipline areas of psychology such as neuroscience, perception, learning and memory, cognition, development, social psychology, personality, psychological disorders, and treatments.

SO 101: Intro to Sociology

+Honors Section

****Fulfills History & Society requirement**

This course is an entry level introduction to basic institutions of society such as education, religion, and the economy, as well as examination of culture, population, groups, the individual, socialization, social stratification, interpersonal interaction, and community. The "sociological imagination" and standard methods of research and theories are included.

SO 318: Restorative Justice

The U.S. criminal justice system asks: What laws have been broken? Who did it? What punishment do they deserve? Restorative Justice asks: Who has been hurt? What are their needs? Whose obligations are these? Directly explore and experience various restorative approaches to harm in this highly interactive course.

ST 120: Elementary Statistics

****Fulfills Quantitative Reasoning requirement**

Description of sample data; probability distributions including the Normal distribution; correlation and regression; sampling; hypothesis testing; statistical inference; other topics may include Chi square tests, multiple regression, and ANOVA.

The following classes are not currently being offered but may be of interest for a later semester

- BU-209: Legal Environment of Business
- ES 305: US Environmental History
- ES-306: Environmental Justice
- ES 325: The Politics of Food
- ES 327: Environmental Policy
- ES 351: American Wilderness
- ES 355: Animal Studies
- PH 250: Logic: An Introduction
- PH 355: Logic: Laws of Thought
- PO 180: Current Issues in World Politics
- PO 207: Parties, Elections, & Politics
- PO 220: Topics in Political Science
- PO 222: Careers In Politics
- PO 230: Politics of Cities
- PO 240: Social Movmts & Contentious Pol
- PO 243: Env Stdy Of Sustainable Places
- PO 245: Intro International Relations
- PO 250: Buisness, Gov't, & Hlth Care
- PO 255: Health Policy
- PO 285: Intro to Comparative Politics
- PO 286: Politics of the World Economy
- PO 292: Global LGBTQI+ Polit & Cultr
- PO 299: Identity in Politics
- PO 320: Topics in Political Science
- PO 325: The Politics of Food
- PO 327: Environmental Policy
- PO 336: Law and Social Change
- PO 340: Social Movmts & Contentious Pol
- PO 350: State Violence and Justice
- PO 371: Feminist Political Thought
- PO 390: Comparative Politics of Racism
- SO 221: Race and Ethnic Relations