
SECOND-AND THIRD-YEAR COURSES

First year courses are prerequisites for all the following courses that have been recently offered to second- and third-year students. Additional prerequisites and recommendations are included for some of the courses. The courses are listed here in alphabetical order. Please note that not all courses are offered every year. Also, many courses can be offered for 2 or 3 credits, even if not explicitly indicated here.

Accounting for Lawyers

This course is an introduction to accounting concepts for law students who do not have an accounting background. Many business controversies are shaped by accounting thinking and business lawyers will operate in an environment where accounting is considered a universal language. The primary focus of the course will be on financial statements prepared by corporations for their shareholders in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The course will teach the core system of accounting: debit-credit entries, balance sheets and income statements, and accrual method bookkeeping, and how these are used to evaluate the financial structure and net worth of a business. There will also be a section on some basic principles of investing and financial planning. Last offered in 2025.

Administrative Law

This course explores problems raised by the functioning of administrative tribunals in governmental rulemaking, adjudication, investigation, and enforcement. There is a special emphasis upon procedure and the relationship between administrative agencies and the judicial system. Last offered in 2025.

Advanced Constitutional Law: Free Speech, Press, and Association

The focus of this course is the history and doctrine of the First Amendment, excluding the religion clauses. Topics include the history and philosophy of the free speech clause; regulations of political speech; overbreadth, vagueness, and prior restraint doctrines; content-based restrictions on such speech as false statements of fact, group defamation, commercial speech, offensive speech, fighting words, and obscene speech; time, place, and manner restrictions on speech; symbolic speech; the right not to speak; the right of association; and freedom of the press. Last offered in 2025.

Advanced Constitutional Law: US Territories

This course will focus on the history and doctrine of the United States Constitution as it applies to United States territories. Topics will include the territorial clause; territorial incorporation; citizenship; cultural preservation; religion; double jeopardy; the commerce clause; and voting rights. Last offered in 2026.

Advanced Criminal Law

Prerequisites: first-year Criminal Law and Constitutional Criminal Procedure. This course addresses the defense of complex criminal law cases in federal courts. Topics covered include: grand jury practice, bail and preventive detention, discovery, suppression motions and trial techniques such as cross-examination and closing arguments. Last offered in 2024.

Advanced Federal Civil Procedure

This course supplements the basic Civil Procedure course by an in-depth consideration of advanced topics in federal procedural law that commonly arise in more sophisticated forms of civil litigation but are omitted or only introduced in the basic course. Topics covered include: class actions and other forms of aggregate litigation; multi-forum litigation problems, such as federal abstention, jurisdictional conflicts, and international aspects; pretrial and discovery processes in complex litigation; provisional remedies and other forms of expedited litigation; and special federal statutes concerning multi-state class actions, multi-jurisdiction tort cases, and multi-district federal litigation. Last offered in 2025.

Advanced Legal Research

This course teaches in-depth legal research skills based on the principles for legal research competency developed by the American Association of Law Libraries. The course covers a bibliographic review of fundamental primary and secondary federal, state and local sources, with an emphasis on Texas state and local legal materials. Also included is an introduction to international law as integrated into US domestic law under well accepted constitutional principles. Students will learn and gain an extensive knowledge on a broad range of traditional legal research tools and bibliographic sources on specific subject areas; master online and legal databases and tools beyond Lexis and Westlaw; be able to articulate principles and best practices for cost-effective legal research; and demonstrate the ability to develop a sound research plan to solve a particular legal problem. Last offered in 2025.

Advanced Torts

This course focuses on five advanced tort causes of action which often redress purely economic losses (rather than personal injury and property damage). Those actions deal with: misrepresentation (fraud and negligent misrepresentation); defamation (libel and slander); invasion of privacy (appropriation of name or likeness, public disclosure of private facts, intrusion upon seclusion, and false light); tortious interference with contract or prospective advantage; and injurious falsehood (trade libel and slander of title). These five areas of tort liability are of particular interest to business entities (such as media defendants) and frequently raise First Amendment issues. Last offered in 2025.

Advanced Trial Advocacy

Prerequisite: Trial Advocacy. This course is designed to familiarize students with emerging technology and how it can be used, and not used, in trial presentations. Students will learn how to use effectively equipment and software such as document cameras, video conferencing (for taking testimony from remote locations), DVDs, VCRs, digital cameras, white boards, PowerPoint, and trial presentation software. The course will also address the strategy and tactics of using, or not using, technology in the courtroom. Last offered in 2025.

American Legal History

This course traces changes in American law from the colonial era to the turn of the twenty-first century. It examines the history and influence of the Supreme Court, the legal history of slavery, and the rise of the administrative state. The course also studies the evolution of doctrine, from contract, property, and tort, to criminal law, evidence, and civil and criminal procedure. The study of doctrine includes a comparison with Texas legal history. The lectures will also cover the history of the American legal profession and the varied ways in which lawyers think about law, from formalism and realism and beyond. This course was last offered in 2026.

Animal Law

This course is designed to familiarize you with the abundance of topics and legal issues within the field of animal law. In addition to relevant statutes and case law, we will examine the extent to which jurisprudence, legal systems, litigation, legislation, and societal values impact how practitioners, lawmakers, the judiciary, law students, legal scholars, and lay people perceive animals. In doing so, this course will not only facilitate learning substantive law in the field but also help you understand the framework of claims and assumptions (both explicit and implicit) against which animal law legislation, litigation, and decisions are made. Last offered in 2025.

Appellate Courts

This course examines the role and operation of appellate courts, both state and federal, in the judicial system. Topics to be covered include: appeals as of right and by permission; the scope of appellate review; and the standards of appellate review. Last offered in 2023.

Arbitration

This course examines the theory and application of arbitration in the resolution of public and private disputes, in both the international and domestic settings. Role plays will be utilized, and issues of ethics, policy and law will be explored. Last offered in 2024.

Asset Protection Planning

Course to examine the techniques and legal strategies available to maximize wealth protection, including entity formation, insurance, property exemption planning, traditional domestic asset protection trusts, self-settled trusts, and offshore planning. Course to examine income, estate, and gift tax consequences of utilizing such strategies, and will place heavy emphasis on voidable transfer principles under the newly revised voidable transfer acts. Last offered in 2024.

Bar Preparation Class

The Bar Skills Preparation Class familiarizes students with the components of the Texas Bar Exam, instructs them in study and test-taking techniques, and introduces them to ways that they can start preparing early for the Exam. The course is offered for two hours of pass/fail credit.

The Fall component of the course is targeted towards students taking the February Bar Exam and serves roughly 20 students who register on a first-come, first-served basis. The Spring course is targeted toward students who are taking the July Exam but who have been identified by virtue of their standing in the class as being most at risk of failing that Exam. As a result, for the Spring course, the administration will automatically enroll a bottom percentage of students who have earned at least 60 hours; a student may only withdraw from the class with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs or that person's delegate. A student who does not complete the class or obtain permission to withdraw from the class will not graduate until this omission is resolved. Last offered in 2025.

Business Associations

This survey course studies issues relating to the selection of an appropriate business form (partnership, limited partnership, or corporation), as well as to the formation, financing, operation, and control of business associations. The course examines issues that can arise in associations of any size and character, and the topics considered include duties and potential liabilities of owners and managers, problems in the issuance of shares of stock and other securities, proxy regulation, insider trading, derivative litigation, and the role of corporations in society. Students may choose the standard four-credit hour Business Associations course, the five-credit hour Business Associations I and II courses, or the three-credit hour Business Associations I course. The five-credit hour Business Associations I and II courses will cover in-depth material covered in the standard four-hour Business Associations course. Last offered in 2025.

Business for Lawyers

Business Basics for Law Students is an introductory skills course that is meant to provide a primer for a number of business-related concepts that lawyers utilize in connection with both transaction and litigation focused practice areas.

The course will rely upon material from selected chapters in a "Business Basics for Law Students." It will explain practical aspects of debt and interest, present value, real estate financing, accounting and financial reporting, and tax and teach students the practical skills required to apply those concepts in everyday practice.

Students will learn the material through discussion and by completing hands-on problems performed during class, both singly and in groups. Students will be required to demonstrate mastery by completing graded assignments that require, for example, students to analyze fact patterns and draft memoranda to clients (a) explaining settlement proposals involving streams of payments, (b) recommending litigation budgets based upon the financial strength of potential litigants, and (c) discussing potential capitalization structures and organizational tax strategies. Last offered in 2024.

Business Law and Ethics

This course covers the topics of: Whistleblowing; privacy & technology; workers' rights as human rights, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, environmental regulations, marketing and choice manipulation as well as allocating risk in a global marketplace. Last offered in 2024.

Business Torts

Business Torts exposes students to the class of torts that are most commonly litigated between businesses. These can be classified into two general categories: the economic torts and unfair competition torts. In the area of economic torts, students will learn the basics of the economic loss rule, misrepresentation, civil RICO, fiduciary duties, insurance torts, and tortious interference with contracts. In the portion covering unfair competition, students will learn the basics of deceptive marketing, business disparagement, misappropriation in general, and specifically misappropriation of trade secrets and trademarks, and finally will get an overview of antitrust law. While this class's coverage will inevitably have some overlap with an Advanced Torts course, the focus of the course is very different and most of the course coverage includes topics not normally found in an Advanced Torts course (such as civil RICO, insurance torts and the entire portion on unfair competition). Last offered in 2024.

Business Transactions in Europe

The course deals with some of the main private law aspects for business transactions within the European Union. It concentrates on the commercial transfer of goods and services as well as on common rules in all Member States. At the beginning it provides for a basic knowledge of the core principles and structures constituting the EU economic policy, which determine the operations of business actors in Europe. The second part focuses on European laws and regulations relevant to concluding and enforcing contractual arrangements in Europe, whereas operations by intermediaries like agents, franchisees or licensed dealers, and EU rules governing contractual content, particularly in the area of consumer protection, are emphasized. In addition, there will be some information on product liability. The final part is dedicated to the resolution of disputes, above all for cross-border cases: EU provisions on jurisdiction, the identification of the applicable law and the enforcement of foreign judgments, with a side glance on commercial arbitration. Last offered in 2024.

Clinical Program (individual law clinics below):

Clinic introduces you to the practice of law in a carefully structured and supervised practice environment. You will be an attorney for real clients with real legal problems, under the supervision of a clinical professor who is a licensed attorney. Like other law school courses, clinic includes a seminar component which teaches doctrine and lawyering skills. Unlike other law school courses, the majority of your time and work is devoted to representation of real clients. Client representation teaches you to understand the client's unique story and perspective, to evaluate and make choices in accordance with a case plan, to partner with other students to promote client goals, and to become a reflective practitioner of the law.

Consumer Protection Clinic

The consumer protection practice area focuses on economic justice for low-income tenants: specifically, community members at risk of, and/or subject to, eviction.

In 2022, St. Mary's Law received a grant from the City of San Antonio to expand the Consumer Protection Clinic's Housing Rights Project. A part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Eviction Protection Grant Program, this funding has allowed the Consumer Protection Clinic to expand its efforts to serve San Antonians at risk of and subject to evictions.

Student attorneys enrolled in the Consumer Protection Clinic carry out the work of the Housing Rights Project. Under attorney supervision, student attorneys staff the Clinic's Housing Hotline, which provides information, brief advice, and referrals in collaboration with area legal services providers.

Student attorneys also represent tenants facing eviction in the justice court, as well as in appeals to the County Courts at Law. Under supervision, student attorneys provide advice and counsel, negotiation and litigation services to our clients.

Student attorneys engage in community outreach and legal empowerment events. Recent examples of these public education efforts include the development of self-help materials shared in-person and online, volunteering with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid's Appeals Desk project, attending community resource fairs and delivering presentations to community members interested in landlord-tenant law.

Criminal Justice Clinic

Criminal Justice Clinic introduces you to the basic tenets of criminal defense practice. You will be the attorney and point of contact for actual clients charged with criminal offenses. The clinic gives you experience in client-centered representation. You will have the opportunity to work with your client's unique circumstances and legal needs and make case strategy decisions accordingly. Most of your cases will be misdemeanors such as DWI, theft, assault, possession of marijuana, etc. It is also possible that you will have an opportunity to work on an appeal or a post-conviction writ of habeas corpus. We want you to have as much diversified criminal defense experience as possible. Last offered in 2025.

The Criminal Justice Clinic provides legal services to indigents of all ages who are charged with crimes ranging from misdemeanors to capital offenses. A student enrolled in the Clinic may expect to handle five cases during a semester. In order to enroll, a student must be eligible to obtain a State Bar practice card. Last offered in 2025.

Family Law Clinic

Student attorneys represent clients in state court with simple divorces (no children, no property), adoptions and name changes. Student attorneys also serve, by court appointment only, as Amicus Attorneys in Title IV-D courts. Students in the Family Law practice area will also draft simple wills and ancillary documents as well as represent clients with probate matters before the Bexar County Probate Courts. Last offered in 2025.

Immigration and Human Rights Clinic

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic introduces students to the practice of law through the supervised representation of low-income immigrants and refugees in proceedings before Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and federal courts. The Clinic is open to second- and third-year students who interview and counsel clients, develop case strategy, organize evidence, draft motions and briefs, and appear on behalf of their clients before the agency and courts. The Clinic caseload includes a variety of immigration and nationality issues, including the defense of immigrants in removal proceedings, applications for asylum and benefits under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and claims to U.S. citizenship. Students who are enrolled in the Clinic during the fall/spring terms must have completed or be concurrently taking the Immigration Law course or an international law course. Last offered in 2025.

Real Estate Clinic

The Real Estate Clinic is a transactional practice focused on preserving homeownership. Student attorneys draft real estate documents, negotiate heirship disputes and plan estates, enabling low-income homeowners to remove clouds on title, access repair assistance programs, and protect property wealth for future generations. Student attorneys also advise on property tax matters and foreclosure prevention. The clinic works with community partners, including the Mexican American Unity Council and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, to identify potential clients and educate the community about homeownership protections. The classroom component of the Real Estate Clinic covers topics such as real estate drafting, title examination, probate avoidance strategies, client interviewing and counseling and transactional ethics and professionalism. Last offered in 2025.

Commercial Paper

One of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) courses, Commercial Paper is the study of written instruments which represent money, such as promissory notes (representing promises to pay) and drafts (e.g., checks, representing orders to pay). Topics covered include requirements for negotiability and the manner of negotiation; holder in due course, the bona fide purchaser of commercial paper; liability that may arise with commercial paper, based on contract, warranty, and conversion; checking accounts; the bank collection process; and rights and liabilities of various parties when commercial paper contains forgeries or alterations. Last offered in 2023.

Comparative Dispute Resolution

This course is designed to provide a basic overview of the seminal differences between dispute resolution in the United States and that in the EU, with a focus on the significant differences between aggregate litigation (class or collective redress). The course takes a comparative approach, first analyzing some tenets of collective redress in the United States, then comparing it to the EU system. The course then replicates this comparative approach for private dispute resolution (ADR). Last offered in 2025.

Comparative Law

This course dissects the dominant features of the civil and common law systems. It focuses on the history, legal structures, legal actors, procedure, sources of law, and legal reasoning of the West European and Latin American countries and contrasts them with the legal culture of the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the course provides an overview of the European Community and the European Human Rights System. It also addresses the legal changes in Central Europe and the newly independent states. Last offered in 2024.

Comparative Privacy Law

In an era defined by digital innovation and the rapid proliferation of personal data, understanding the complex landscape of privacy law is paramount. Building off the material in Privacy Law I, this course offers law students an in-depth exploration of privacy regimes in two influential jurisdictions: the United States and the European Union (EU) / European Economic Area (EEA). Beyond comparing these two major regimes, this course delves into the evolving challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI) in decision-making, analysis, and manipulation within the context of privacy laws and regulations. Last offered in 2025.

Compliance, Ethics and Risk Management

This course is designed to provide law students and graduate students with the situational awareness to understand how to work within a corporation or organization and to be an outstanding lawyer, manager, or participant in it.

This is an introductory course in a topic that can be useful for professionals who want to work in government, organizations, and private law firms. The course will explore the importance of CERM, and why it is so important to companies and organizations. Why has its significance grown so rapidly in recent years? Is CERM a sea-change in how businesses and other organizations are managed? What is the role of attorneys and graduate students in the area, and what should it be?

The focus of this course will be principally on the business corporation, but the course will also attend to other organizations where CERM plays a role: nonprofit firms, charities, religious organizations, and governments (among others). In these respects, the coverage of the course is broad. We will also examine CERM from the perspective of law, the legal system, and the legal profession. Last offered in 2024.

Conflict of Laws

The Conflict of Laws course addresses the special problems that arise when disputes have a connection with more than one jurisdiction — problems usually classified under the headings “choice of law,” “jurisdiction,” and “enforcement of judgments.” These issues are encountered in almost every area of practice and have constitutional, as well as legislative and judicial, dimensions. The course thus raises provocative questions regarding the nature of “law” and its role in society. Last offered in 2025.

Contract Drafting

The Contract Drafting course will teach students the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduce them to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills students will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will even be useful to litigators. On finishing the course, students should know: the business purpose of each of the contract concepts; how to translate the business deal into contract concepts; how to draft each of a contract's parts; how to draft with clarity and without ambiguity; how to add value to a deal; how to work through the drafting process; and how to review and comment on a contract. Students will perform drafting and contract negotiation exercises throughout the semester, and course grades will be based on several drafting exercises and class participation. Last offered in 2025.

Criminal Procedure

Criminal Procedure is a constitutional law course, with an emphasis on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution. Topics include arrest; search and seizure; investigative detentions; warrant requirements; confessions and other incriminating statements; and the right to counsel. Last offered in 2025.

Death Penalty in America

This course will review the historic development of the death penalty in America since 1970, as well as the practical, philosophical, and Biblical arguments for and against the death penalty, and carefully examine what the Supreme Court of the United States has done to ensure that the innocent are protected in capital murder cases. This course will focus not only on the law, but also the most troublesome policy issues that are at the center of the death penalty debate in America today. Last offered in 2025.

Debtor/Creditor and Business Bankruptcy

Prerequisite: Secured Transactions or Mortgages and Real Estate Financing Or Sales/Secured Transactions. This course is designed not only for those interested in general bankruptcy practice, but also for those who anticipate that their practice will involve structuring commercial transactions or litigating business disputes. This is a basic course in debtor/creditor law, but with an emphasis on business bankruptcy. The course includes an overview of the general principles and forms of relief offered by the federal Bankruptcy Code, focusing especially on the legal and financial aspects of business bankruptcy and the process of reorganization. The areas of emphasis will include the automatic stay; debtor-in-possession financing; operating and administering debtors' estates; treatment of executory contracts and leases; the avoiding powers of the trustee in bankruptcy; and the formulation and confirmation of plans of reorganization. Last offered in 2025.

Depositions

Depositions is an intensive and interactive skills course. Students will assume roles as plaintiff or defense counsel in a simulated case, using a fact pattern from the Civil Justice Clinic. Both parties will prepare witnesses, prepare deposition outlines, and take and defend depositions (including information gathering, obtaining admissions, and using exhibits.). Last offered in 2025.

Education Law

This course focuses on the leading legal precedents directly related to the responsibilities and rights of schools, students and teachers. The course considers the realities of providing high quality schools in an educational environment with very limited budgets and public support. For each separate issue, the course introduces the history of the law, educational theory, and recent and projected developments. Among other topics the course considers school finance, alternative methods of providing education, civil rights issues and the multiple levels of control and input into the education environment. Last offered in 2025.

Electronic Discovery

This course is designed to address discovery and evidentiary issues pertaining to electronically stored information (ESI). The course will address “meet and confer” conferences and what electronic discovery issues must be addressed between opposing counsel. Other topics include: production, mediating electronic discovery disputes, spoliation, sanctions, and privilege issues. Ethical considerations will be addressed throughout the course. Visiting attorneys will provide practical considerations, tips and recommended practices. Last offered in 2024.

Employment Discrimination: Title VII

Employment discrimination law is an important body of civil rights law and is also the fastest growing area of labor law. This course will address methods of proving a case of discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forbids employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Issues covered may include sexual harassment, affirmative action, pay equity, and retaliation against employees who file charges of discrimination. The course will also cover procedural issues concerning enforcement, as well as the types of relief available. Other statutes, such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, and the employment discrimination provision of the Americans with Disabilities Act, may be covered. Last offered in 2025.

Employment Law: Discrimination Laws

This course focuses on the major federal employment discrimination laws exclusive of Title VII, including the Employee Polygraph Protection Act, the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act, the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 et. al., the Equal Pay Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Family and Medical Leave Act, as well as their definitions, burdens of proof, damages, and administrative prerequisites. Last offered in 2025.

Entertainment Law

This is a survey course which focuses on the legal issues and practices common to all areas of the entertainment industry. Practice issues are emphasized, as well as new developments in relevant intellectual property law, and significant business law issues. Last offered in 2025.

Environmental Law

This course will address environmental problems and legal efforts to respond to those problems, including legislation and environmental litigation. In addition to surveys of state and federal controls concerning air, water, solid and toxic waste, other selected problems areas will be explored in detail. Last offered in 2025.

Estate Drafting

This is a two-hour experiential learning practice skills course that will focus on estate client interviewing, client counseling and estate and probate document drafting. We will practice client interviewing and client counseling with increasing levels of factual complexity. We also explore drafting simple “mom and pop” wills, moving on to wills with trusts for minors and other family members, and estate document provisions for specific testator or settlor goals. We will also work with other documents used in estate planning: inter-vivos trusts, engagement letters, durable powers of attorney and documents supporting planning for incapacity. We will also do an estate mediation exercise. Other projects include probate administration document preparation, ethics issues in estate planning, and fun topics such as pet trusts. Last offered in 2025.

Estate Planning

Prerequisite: Wills & Estates or Wills, Estates, and Trusts. Trusts is also highly recommended. Estate Planning focuses on the process by which individuals make comprehensive arrangements for their property and personal needs, which remain in effect during disability and after death. Topics covered in this course include disability planning for property and healthcare needs; planning for the physical aspects of death; the use of non-probate techniques; the preparation and execution of wills, trusts, and other documents; and the fundamentals of federal gift and estate taxation. Last offered in 2024.

European Union Law

This course examines the law of the European Union (EU), now the world's largest trading block. The focus is on (1) the EU as customs union with a common commercial and trade policy towards outsiders; (2) the free movement within the EU of goods, or workers, services and capital; (3) the legal structure of the EU; (4) the competition (antitrust) laws of the EU affecting US companies doing business in Europe or with Europe; and (5) intellectual property rulings of the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. Last offered in 2024.

Evidence

The Evidence course explores the process of preparing and presenting evidence in trials. Topics covered may include examination of witnesses; competency of witnesses; privileges; relevancy; demonstrative evidence; the burden of producing evidence; presumptions and the burden of persuasion; judicial notice; the hearsay rule; and proof of documents, recordings, and writings. Evidence I and II cover the same topics as the four-hour Evidence course but permit students to enroll in two 2-hour segments each semester. The Evidence requirement is satisfied through successful completion of the four-hour Evidence course, or of both Evidence I and Evidence II. Last offered in 2025.

Evidence in Practice

Prerequisite: Evidence. This two-hour course will provide students with experiential learning opportunities in evidence. It will cover advanced doctrinal review, written work, and oral presentations on evidence and related litigation topics, such as character evidence, witness's competency, credibility evidence, privileges, relevancy, hearsay, experts, and authentication of evidence. Students will prepare documents such as motions, jury instructions, and bench memos on selected evidence topics throughout the course and will present oral arguments on those documents. The goal of the course is to prepare students for the practice of law in commonly encountered evidence issues in a trial court by honing their legal writing and oral advocacy skills. The students' grades will be based on their performance on the written and oral assignments. The course will provide credit for the experiential learning requirement. Last offered in 2025.

Family Law

This course is a survey of a wide variety of legal issues concerning the family unit, with an emphasis on the policies and changing nature of family law. Topics explored may include marriage requirements and consequences, divorce grounds, property division at divorce, child support, custody, non-marital children, domestic violence, parental rights, adoption, and non-traditional families. Last offered in 2025.

Family Law Mediation

Family Law Mediation is an expansion of the Mediation Course. Students will enhance their Mediation Skills by continuing development using the three different types of mediation: Transformative Mediation, Evaluative Mediation, and Cooperative Mediation. The class will address issues of particular concern in Family Law Mediation cases, including the maintenance of continued relationships, property division settlements, an introduction to family dynamics, basic child development, and finally advanced topics, such as domestic abuse and protective orders. Students will be asked to focus on these issues while further developing their mediation abilities, such as questioning techniques, venting and listening skills, and option generating. Students will also learn to recognize tactics used by parties and attorneys to forestall the mediation process, and work on developing ways to approach these "stonewalling" tactics. Mediation is a prerequisite for Family Law Mediation. This course is intended to provide additional training for appointment as a family law mediator under 154.052(b) Texas CPRC. Last offered in 2025.

Federal Courts

This course builds on the first-year Procedure course and provides a more detailed exposure to the limited judicial power of the federal courts. Topics may include the distribution of judicial power among federal and state courts, the original jurisdiction of the federal district courts (including cases arising under the United States Constitution and statutes, and jurisdiction based on "diversity of citizenship"), federal litigation, and emerging legislative proposals concerning jurisdiction of the federal courts. Last offered in 2025.

Federal Criminal Procedure

This is a survey course of the procedure used in the federal criminal justice system from arrest and indictment (or information) through trial and sentencing. Topics covered include: grand jury practice, bail and pretrial release, pretrial motions, discovery, joinder and severance, guilty plea procedures, and trial. Last offered in 2025.

Federal Employment Law Practice

This class is designed to prepare students for the practice of federal employment law. After attending this class, students will understand the challenges of presenting employment law claims and affirmative defenses. It will help students avoid the common pitfalls practitioners face in federal court, especially when defendants are federal agencies. This course has three goals: Understanding the practice of employment law, drafting pleadings, and understanding the procedural and substantive challenges of the federal employment law practice. Last offered in 2025.

Federal Income Taxation

The Federal Income Taxation course, a prerequisite for all other tax courses, provides an introduction to the basic policies and principles of federal income taxation, which are encountered in many areas of practice, including real estate, bankruptcy, family law, and personal injury. It provides a vehicle for learning to work with statutes and regulations and does not require a business or accounting background. Last offered in 2025.

Financial Regs: Law & Policy

This is an introductory course in the law of financial institutions. The primary focus of the course is on federal regulation of banks and bank holding companies with some emphasis on insurance companies that are engaged in the business of banking. In this course, the student will acquire an understanding of the financial crisis of 2008, the changes that were made in response to that crisis under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and various legal issues relating to financial institutions with emphasis on regulation of banking, safety and soundness safeguards, geographic limitations, affiliations between banks and other companies, examination and enforcement, and bank failures. The legal principles involved will be learned and reinforced through class discussion, individual presentations, and assignments requiring critical analytical thinking. Last offered in 2025.

Fundamentals of Law & Analysis

This course will expose you to some of the fundamentals of law and methods of legal analysis. Specifically, the course will examine fundamental doctrines in contracts, torts, civil procedure, constitutional law, and criminal law in order to explore the nuances of legal analysis and the larger structure of legal methods and doctrines. Importantly, the course will focus on core strategic doctrines in these critical subjects and incorporate significant multiple choice and written practice questions to ensure memory retention and understanding. Last offered in 2025.

Global and National Security Law

This survey course addresses the definition of domestic and international conflict; its modalities (e.g., armed conflict, terrorism, economic coercion, and environmental degradation); types of threats (e.g., nuclear, biological, and chemical); the public law of conflict management; and the U.S. response to external conflict within the confines of domestic and international legal principles recognized by the United States (including constitutional issues). The course has an interdisciplinary character but is ultimately guided by the international and domestic rule of law. Last offered in 2025.

Health Law

This survey course covers the major legal issues involved in health care in the United States. The course gives students an introduction to the various state and national administrative rules and regulations regarding quality controls, licensing of health care professionals, and ethical/legal concerns involving physician/patient relationships. With the advent of new HIPAA privacy regulations and tort reform impacting medical liability issues, students will have the opportunity to obtain a working knowledge of the law. The course will survey contemporary policy issues in health law. Last offered in 2025.

Human Trafficking

This course will cover the domestic and international attempts to restrict the horrors of human trafficking. The first topic will include an introduction to the phenomenon of human trafficking, including an explanation of both labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Next the course will examine the domestic efforts seeking to eradicate trafficking. Third, the course will address questions surrounding how the United States Department of State addresses human trafficking on an international level. Fourth, the course will consider what is being done to address immigration concerns related to human trafficking. Fifth, the course examines whether prostitution should be decriminalized, detailing the experiments and the shortcomings of this approach. The chapter concerns the relatively new, so-called “Nordic approach,” which criminalizes the purchase of sex but avoids criminalizing the behavior of the person who is being prostituted.

Finally, the course concludes with an examination of what else can be done to limit the spread of trafficking, providing information on resources available to those who would seek to minimize the damage to human trafficking victims. Last offered in 2025.

Immigration Court Practice

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to: analyze a charging document and determine if a respondent is removable from the United States, to include claims of United States Citizenship, determine whether a detained respondent is eligible for release, and, if so, how to obtain it, determine if a respondent is, or is not eligible for asylum, as well as any anticipated difficulties in their application, determine if a respondent is, or is not eligible for cancelation of removal, either for a Lawful Permanent Resident or a Non-Lawful Permanent Resident, as well as any anticipated difficulties in their application, understand the appeals process in United States Immigration Court and identify any viable claims on appeal, be able to do all of the above from the perspective of an attorney representing either the government or the respondent. Last offered in 2025.

Immigration Law

This survey course covers the source of immigration power and constitutional protections for aliens. It addresses the admission of aliens as immigrants and non-immigrants; grounds of removal and waivers as well as removal procedure, refugees, and asylum. To complete the overview, it also addresses issues pertaining to citizenship, its loss and its acquisition. The course must be taken either prior to or concurrent with the Immigration Clinic. Last offered in 2025.

Independent Study

Students are permitted, with the approval and under the supervision of a member of the faculty, to engage in a course of independent study on a subject determined by the student and supervising faculty member. No student may receive credit toward graduation for more than three (3) hours of independent study, and the course may be taken on either a graded or pass/fail basis, subject to the approval of the supervising faculty member. Last offered in 2025.

Indian Law

The course examines historical and demographic issues resulting in the current state of the law regarding Indigenous people in this country. The course will consider tribal sovereignty, the federal trust responsibility, relevant Constitutional law decisions, and federal and state legislation. Given the reality that two-thirds of the Indigenous population in this country do not belong to federally-recognized tribes, the course will examine the legal status of some of those tribes and individuals, in light of Equal Protection and Due Process concerns, and in light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Last offered in 2025.

Insurance Law

The Insurance Law course focuses on the special nature of insurance contracts and the insurance industry. Included is coverage of governmental supervision and control of the industry; organization and agents; making of the contract, including insurable interest and binders; construction of insurance contracts, including coverage provisions, exclusions, and other conditions; parties with interests in the contract; the company's rights and duties upon the happening of the insured event; and rights at variance with the contract. Last offered in 2025.

Intellectual Property Law

A survey course that covers the American intellectual property tradition, including trade secret, copyright, patent, and trademark law. The course covers the nature of these property rights, and the contours of the protections (and exceptions to protections) afforded by the law. Last offered in 2025.

International Bankruptcy Law

The introductory session summarizes aspects of United States bankruptcy law that are applicable to many cross-border issues and are relevant to the comparative law portion of the course.

The Managing Cross-Border Cases module consists of seven sessions. The first four sessions will focus on chapter 15 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Chapter 15 is based upon the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency promulgated by UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law). Chapter 15 provides a mechanism by which U.S. courts can be accessed by foreign representatives charged with the administration of insolvency proceedings pending in other countries. If the foreign insolvency proceeding satisfies the requirements for recognition under chapter 15, litigation against the debtor can be stayed, U.S. business operations can be continued, information can be gathered, and assets can be collected and administered – all in aid of the administration of the foreign insolvency proceeding. Chapter 15 also facilitates cooperation among courts in countries in which related insolvency proceedings are pending. Last offered in 2025.

International Business Transactions: Investment and Finance

This course focuses on international investment and financing issues. The topics covered include (1) the use of letters of credit in international business transactions; (2) the use of foreign distributors and agents; (3) investment vehicles and investment in Europe; (4) foreign investment in NAFTA; (5) United States regulation of foreign investment; (6) economic boycotts; (7) issues confronting established investments; (8) taking an investment; (9) project financing; and (10) Third World debt, the IMF and the international monetary system. It is recommended, but not necessary, that International Business Transactions, Sales and Trade and International Business Transactions, Investment and Finance (the companion course) be taken sequentially. Each course is designed to stand on its own. Last offered in 2025.

International Business Transactions: Sales and Trade

This course focuses on the international sale of goods, including the Convention on the International Sale of Goods, regulation of international trade, and the resolution of international trade disputes. The topics covered include: (1) international documentary sales, bills of lading and other commercial forms; (2) tariff and nontariff barriers to trade; (3) the World Trade Organization, GATT, and TRIPS; (4) free trade areas and customs unions; (5) international transfers of technology; (6) protection and licensing of intellectual property; (7) resolution of international disputes; and (8) contractual choice of law and forum selection clauses. This course satisfies the IBT course requirement in the Public & International Law category of the core curriculum. It is recommended, but not necessary, that International Business Transactions, Sales and Trade and International Business Transactions, Investment and Finance (the companion course) be taken sequentially. Last offered in 2025.

International Child Abduction based on the Hague Convention

The course is intended to cover Hague application process and procedures, habitual residence determinations, custody rights, consent and acquiescence, the child's objections, grave risk/danger exception. Students would read cases in each of those areas and have in-class assignments that they would do in groups where we would then reconvene as a group and discuss (depending on amount of class time). Last offered in 2023.

International Commercial Arbitration

Investigates – with particular reference to international problems – the history of commercial arbitration, the arbitrability of commercial subject matters, arbitration agreements and their characteristics, applicable rules and procedures, along with enforcement and judicial review of awards. Last offered in 2024.

International Criminal Justice

This course studies selected aspects of criminal procedure used in the world's major legal systems, including certain international criminal tribunals. The learning objectives, or goals, of the course are: to learn select procedural rules and their applications in certain countries within the common-law (adversarial) tradition; the so-called "civil-law" (non-adversarial) tradition; a socialist or communist legal tradition; and a religion-based tradition; to become familiar with and compare the ways in which traditional and non-traditional legal systems function procedurally; why they choose to function in those ways; and how those procedures differ from, and are similar to, those of other legal systems; to study and learn the ways in which countries within the same legal tradition may apply that procedural tradition differently, and why they do so; to learn and compare the procedural characteristics of ad hoc and permanent international criminal tribunals with each other, and with the procedures employed by legal systems of various nation states; and to consider and design a procedural structure for the adjudication of criminal cases using features selected or adapted from existing legal regimes. Last offered in 2024.

International Human Rights Law

This course provides an overview of the unique nature, history, and philosophies of international human rights law. It compares United Nations, European, Inter-American, and African systems of human rights, and the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Last offered in 2025.

International Juvenile Law

The idea of a separate system for juveniles began in the United States in 1899 and has spread to most countries. We will read seminal cases that paved the way for separate juvenile systems and discuss what rights children have available within those justice systems. This will provide the opportunity to compare and contrast a few countries' treatment of children in the justice system. Specifically, we will review the laws of a few countries to discuss the difference in age limits and punishment limits. Last offered in 2024.

International Refugee Law

This course presents a unique opportunity to study international refugee law alongside students from the Universidad Veracruzana and the Universidad Autonoma del estado de Baja California. Professors from all three institutions and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have designed the course to give students an overview of the international refugee protection system, and how it is currently being implemented in Mexico and the United States. Additionally, the course will examine current challenges immigration and refugee protection issues pose to bilateral relations between the U.S. and Mexico. Please note that approximately two-thirds of the course will be taught in Spanish with English captioning available. Last taught in 2025.

Internships/Externships

Credits for Internships or Externships are available. See faculty supervisors of the Practice Credit Program.

Jurisprudence

The term “jurisprudence” is defined in a broad and all-inclusive manner as “the science or philosophy of law.” Jurisprudence has sometimes been used as a label for several course offerings that vary somewhat from one semester to another, depending on the instructor. In general, the Jurisprudence course introduces students to important schools of thought about the origins, purposes, and workings of law through the reading and discussion of edited works of legal philosophers. It focuses on the development of ideas about the nature of law and the judicial process, and the relationship between those ideas and the working of law; in other words, students will see how philosophies of law inform the practice of law. Sections of the Jurisprudence course may focus on particular aspects of jurisprudence. Examples include Jurisprudence: Law & Literature, Jurisprudence: Critical Lawyering Theory, and Jurisprudence: Gender and the Law. Last offered in 2025.

Labor Law

Labor Law is the basic course focusing on the relationship between employers and an organized labor force and on the federal law governing that relationship. Topics explored include union organization and recognition; collective bargaining; arbitration of grievances; unfair labor practice; the National Labor Relations Board; strikes, pickets, and boycotts; and lockouts, blacklisting, and contracts. Last offered in 2025.

Law and Economics

This course offers a study and critique of the use of economics analysis for clarifying legal policy and for the appraisal of court decisions. The course will focus on the extent to which virtually all areas of the law can be understood as the institutional embodiment of the principle of economic efficiency. Prior knowledge of economics is not essential, and the course will include a brief overview of basic economic theory. Last offered in 2025.

Law and International Terrorism

This is a writing seminar which focuses on matters associated with “terrorism law.” For instance, the term “terrorism” has no universally accepted definition despite the fact that the phenomenon referred to as terrorism represents a significant security threat facing the United States and many nations around the world. Accordingly, the seminar group will examine the definition of terrorism and the varied responses to the use of terrorism under various “rule of law” parameters. Study of the applicable rule of law will encompass use of force under domestic and international law, theory of national security law issues, conflict management, operational law, war crimes issues, international human rights law, intelligence law, cyber law, and interrogation practices.

Law Practice Management

The legal profession is rapidly changing with the introduction of new technologies and modification to traditional business plans. Today's client base, with access to the internet, and increased options, expects rapid response and production as compared to previous generations of law practice. This course will help students understand the current realities of the legal profession and provide them with practical skills of how to organize and operate a law practice, control overhead, organize files, utilize current technology platforms and social media outlets, market a law firm, retain and keep good clients, and handle ethical dilemmas involving lawyers and clients. Students will participate in discussions and be presented with guest speakers and materials to assist them with office management, marketing, and law firm software development.

In addition to a final examination, law practice management (LPM) students will develop a "business plan" for starting a solo or small firm, or for serving as a managing partner or decision maker for an existing firm or government position, which can be implemented after graduation and licensure. Last offered in 2025.

Legal Malpractice

This course will examine the basis for legal malpractice and will explore the basic elements of the tort of legal malpractice, the creation of the attorney-client relationship, and applicable defenses. A major emphasis of the course will be on the prevention of malpractice and will examine common mistakes made by practicing attorneys which give rise to malpractice claims. Overall, the course will seek to instill a commitment to achieve the highest ideals of the legal profession. Last offered in 2025.

Legal Spanish and Mexican Legal Systems (in Spanish)

This course provides a foundation in legal terminology and proper usage in the different areas of Mexican law. Students are exposed to the nuances associated with the Mexican legal system, fundamental legal concepts, key Latin phrases, and to the teaching techniques that characterize legal instruction at Mexican law schools. Last offered in 2025.

Mediation

Mediation explores those situations in which an impartial person, the mediator, facilitates communication among parties to promote reconciliation, settlement, or understanding among them. The course will explore all forms of mediation, whether conducted by consent or court order (court annexed mediation), and will include extensive training in mediation and negotiation. Issues concerning qualifications, confidentiality, liability, and ethics will be covered. Last offered in 2025.

Medical Malpractice Litigation

Medical Malpractice Litigation, a study of the law and procedure governing medical malpractice actions in Texas, will prepare students to evaluate properly and manage effectively a medical malpractice lawsuit. Practical applications of the course include deposing medical witnesses, motions for summary judgment, and effective use of medical resources. Last offered in 2025.

Mergers & Acquisitions - Buying or Selling a Privately-Owned Business

This seminar takes an in-depth look at common business and legal topics and issues that arise in the acquisition or sale of privately held companies, focusing on small and medium size entrepreneurial or family-owned enterprises. Areas covered will include the steps in the acquisition process, structuring the acquisition, elements of the acquisition agreement and negotiation issues and strategies. Students will be expected to participate actively in class discussions of weekly reading materials. The course grade will be based 30% on class participation and 70% on the final take-home exam. Last offered in 2025.

Military Law

The course will concentrate on the present system of military justice in the United States. It will look at the sources of military law, including the Constitution, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and the Manual for Courts-Martial (MCM). In addition to evaluating the UCMJ since its enactment by Congress in 1951, the course will also address the history of military justice, the scope of military jurisdiction, different types of crimes established in the UCMJ, military practice and procedure before, during and after trial, including a comparison between the evidentiary and procedural rules under the UCMJ/MCM and the federal courts, appellate court jurisdiction and role under the UCMJ, the role of the military lawyer as both advocate and counselor, and the ethics of the military lawyer, the role of the military commander under the UCMJ, significant military law cases decided by Supreme Court and other courts, a comparative analysis of military justice systems of other nations, and the trial of enemy combatants. Last offered in 2024.

Misdemeanor Law

This course will address various aspects of criminal law, as illuminated by misdemeanor crimes. You will learn the doctrine of various misdemeanors, starting with the statutory text, and with further explanation and illumination from case law and hypotheticals. You will also learn how each of these crimes, and the misdemeanor criminal justice system in general, implicates policy and constitutional concerns – concerns that often go unaddressed due to the routine nature of the crimes at issue. Last offered in 2025.

Mortgages and Real Estate Financing

This “real property” course covers the rights and interests of the parties to mortgages and other security devices, as well as those of transferees and of innocent third parties. Topics covered include the deed of trust; the vendor’s liens and superior title; mechanic’s and materialman’s liens, both constitutional and statutory; and remedies such as foreclosure, redemption, and marshaling of assets. Last offered in 2025.

Negotiations

Negotiations is a course in conflict prevention and resolution, designed to acquaint the student with the processes and theories surrounding conflicting human interactions, particularly in the legal world. The theories of integrative and distributive bargaining are explored, as are the interpersonal skills, including communication skills, that will aid the student in better satisfying their interests in any negotiation setting, whether interpersonal, legal or otherwise. Gender and cultural differences are reviewed, as are the dynamics of large group conflict resolution and the use of agents and intermediaries in negotiations. The ethics of negotiation are emphasized, along with the need for a mature approach to conflict resolution. Last offered in 2025.

Oil and Gas

This course is the study of the law governing interests in oil and gas, with an emphasis on Texas law. Topics explored include the nature of interests in oil and gas; oil and gas leases; lease covenants, express and implied; title and conveyancing problems; transfers; and pooling and unitization. Last offered in 2025.

Oral Depositions

The course is designed to provide practical hands-on application regarding how to take and defend a deposition. In addition, the course will engage students in the process of how to draft interrogatories from the perspective of both parties. Last offered in 2025.

Persuasive Legal Writing

The overall goal of the course is to teach students how to identify, annotate, and extract relevant information from each type of document (task memo, library and file) so they are able to write substantially above passing answers. During the course, students will practice through drills and workbook activities. Last offered in 2024.

Privacy Law

This introductory course delves into the multifaceted landscape of privacy from the vantage points of media, law enforcement, and corporations. Students will explore the dynamic interplay between these entities and their divergent approaches to privacy issues. Through a comprehensive examination of relevant case studies, legal frameworks, and contemporary debates, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the challenges and implications surrounding privacy in today's digital age, including the impact of artificial intelligence on media, law enforcement, and corporate data collection and decision making. (This course is NOT a prerequisite for Comparative Privacy Law.) Last offered in 2025.

Professional Responsibility

Professional Responsibility explores the legal, ethical and moral responsibilities of lawyers to clients, courts, the community and the legal profession. The current professional rules of professional conduct and the policies underlying them, are examined. However, consistent with ABA standards, students should be aware that the course in Professional Responsibility does not prepare students for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). As with all other bar examinations, students intending to take the MPRE should plan to take a commercial bar preparation course prior to taking the MPRE. Information on such courses will be provided to all students enrolled in the Professional Responsibility course. Last offered in 2025.

Public International Law

This basic International Law course is a survey of the law of nations and includes the nature, history, and philosophies of public international law; sources of public international law, including treaties, custom, general principles of law, adjudication, and doctrinal writings; international legal personality and recognition; territory; jurisdiction and jurisdictional immunities; state responsibility and state succession; peaceful dispute resolution; use of force; and international organizations. Last offered in 2025.

Remedies

In Remedies students explore the various types of judicial relief, equitable and “at law,” available to people who have suffered or might suffer a substantive wrong, such as a tort or breach of contract. Students examine the maxims of equity and equitable remedies, including an in-depth study of injunctions; substitutionary money damages, including compensatory and punitive damages in contract and tort cases; and restitution-based causes of action such as “quasi-contract,” subrogation, and constructive and resulting trusts. The course presumes the violation of a substantive right and attempts to answer the question, “What relief should the injured party seek from the court?”. Last offered in 2025.

Sales: UCC Article 2

Sales is a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) course. Article 2 of the UCC is explored, including the creation of sales contracts, the relationships between buyers and sellers, the rights and obligations of the parties, and the remedies available for breach of contract. Other areas explored include risk of loss on shipment or storage, commercial impracticality, letters of credit, and documents of title. A student who takes this course may not also take the combined course on Sales and Secured Transactions. Last offered in 2025.

Sales and Secured Transactions

This course will focus on Articles 1, 2, and 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, the provisions governing the sale of goods and security interests involving or related to goods. Because the course combines topics covered in the Sales and the Secured Transaction courses, students who have completed either Sales or Secured Transactions are not to be permitted to enroll in this course. Last offered in 2025.

Secured Transactions: UCC Article 9

One of the UCC (Uniform Commercial Code) courses, Secured Transactions is the study of using personal property as collateral for a loan or grant of credit. Topics considered include methods of creating and perfecting security interests; issues of priority; interrelationships between federal bankruptcy law and the UCC; and creditors' rights and obligations after debtors' default. A student who takes this course may not also take the combined course on Sales and Secured Transactions. Last offered in 2025.

Securities Regulation

This course focuses on the federal and state regulation of securities and the securities industry. Topics covered include registration, exemptions from registration, and liability under the Securities Act; reporting, proxies, tender offers, fraud, short-swing profits, market manipulation, and broker regulation under the Exchange Act; and litigation and lawyer responsibility. Last offered in 2024.

Sports Law

This course covers various amateur sports law issues and focuses on legal regulation of interscholastic, intercollegiate, and Olympic sports. This course also covers the legal framework governing the relationship between an agent and a professional athlete and analyzes ethical issues relating thereto. Topics covered may include constitutional law, tort law, contract law, Title IX gender discrimination, federal disability discrimination laws, the legal relationship between a university and its student athletes, regulatory authority of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, United States Olympic Committee, and high school athletic associations, antitrust law, resolution of disputes affecting Olympic sports (including the jurisdiction and operation of the Court of Arbitration for Sport), and regulation of private educational institutions and sports associations. Last offered in 2025.

State Pretrial Practice

Texas civil pretrial procedure, law and practice, from client engagement to trial. It is highly recommended that students have a working knowledge of the civil rules of evidence before taking this class. Last offered in 2025.

Texas Civil Procedure I

This course offers a detailed examination of pre-trial procedure, using the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure as a model, with comparisons to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics covered may include preservation of error; the Texas court system; impleader; intervention; suits on a sworn account; parties; and discovery. Students who plan to practice in Texas are required to take Texas Civil Procedure I. Last offered in 2025.

Texas Civil Procedure II

Prerequisite: Texas Civil Procedure I. This course offers a detail examination of trial, post-verdict, and appellate procedure, using the Texas rules of Civil Procedure as a model, with comparisons to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Topics covered include continuances; recusal; summary judgments; jury selection; directed verdict; jury argument; jury change and verdict; post-verdict motions; findings of fact and conclusions of law; jury misconduct; res judicata and collateral estoppel; and introduction to appellate procedure. Last offered in 2023.

Texas Criminal Procedure

Pre-requisite: Constitution Criminal Procedure. This course focuses on the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and the cases interpreting the Code. Students analyze the various provisions of the Code as it relates to the prosecution and defense of criminal defendants from arrest through conviction. No pre-requisite when the course is offered in the Evening Program. Last offered in 2025.

Texas Land Titles

Texas Land Titles builds upon the first-year property course and explores in more detail the basic tools and steps necessary to examination of title to real property, as well as the procedural and substantive methods of clearing or eliminating title defects. Also included in the course are methods of title assurance, mineral title, and the Texas adverse possession statutes. Last offered in 2025.

Texas Supreme Court Practice

Our learning objectives for this course are to enable a student to understand and explain the petition for review process in the Supreme Court of Texas, including strategies for improving chances for getting the petition granted; understand and explain the case selection process used by the Supreme Court of Texas; understand and explain briefing strategies when briefs on merits are requested; learn how to write an internal study memo to the justices providing initial analysis; understand and explain strategies for rehearing of denial of petition for review; understand and explain oral argument strategies; understand and explain the analytic processes used by the Court in deciding cases; learn to write a case opinion; and learn about decision making philosophies and strategies for seeking rehearing of an unfavorable decision. Last offered in 2025.

Texas Water Law

This course will consider rights and interests in water, emphasizing the unique law of Texas. Topics will include interstate allocations of water affecting Texas, public rights in water, private rights in surface water and private rights in groundwater. Last offered in 2024.

Trademark and Unfair Competition

This intellectual property and business course examines the nature of the legal protection afforded to those who use trademarks. Also included are problems relating to trade secrets, franchising, false advertising, commercial bribery, and unfair trade practices and competition. Last offered in 2024.

Trauma Informed Lawyering

Clients often need lawyers because something bad happened: an accident, a crime, a divorce, a death. This is especially true in the practice of family, criminal and immigration law. Trauma-informed lawyering is an approach to the practice of law that equips students with the knowledge and skills to navigate these difficult environments. We will discuss what lawyers need to know about the science behind traumatic experiences; the various forms of trauma, including vicarious trauma, which can afflict those who are exposed to the stories of trauma that others have endured; and how our own trauma may be triggered or amplified in the experiences we encounter as legal professionals. Last offered in 2024.

Trial Advocacy

Prerequisite: Evidence. Trial Advocacy classes are designed to give students an introduction to specific trial advocacy techniques such as voir dire examination of jury panels, opening statements, and direct examination of witnesses. The techniques are demonstrated by instructors and students are given opportunities to perform, and receive instruction concerning, exercises in many aspects of the trial of civil and criminal cases. Last offered in 2025.

Trial Skills

The Trial Skills course is an introduction to fundamental trial litigation skills. This one-hour, graded, course, will cover the basic advocacy skills and techniques that students would be expected to use in a trial courtroom — pretrial matters and motions practice, opening statements, examination (direct and cross) of witnesses, introducing exhibits, using the rules of evidence effectively, and conducting closing arguments. The course will also include instruction on using a case file and developing case themes and theories. The grade for the course will be based on students' demonstrated mastery of trial skills and a short examination at the end of the course. Last offered in 2025.

Trusts

Trusts are one of the most frequently used and beneficial of the tools available to the modern estate planner. A trust is a special type of property transfer which separates the equitable interest in property from the legal interest. The holder of the legal interest, the trustee, manages the property according to the directions contained in the trust instrument and state law for the benefit of the beneficiaries who own the equitable title. The trustee is a fiduciary and must deal with the property exercising a high standard of care and with the utmost degree of loyalty. This course deals with the creation, administration, and enforcement of private and charitable trusts under the Texas Trust Code. Coverage of resulting trusts and constructive trusts is also included. Last offered in 2025.

Voting Law

This course will focus on the different constitutional, statutory and administrative law affecting elections and will focus on issues of redistricting and equality of access to voting. Last offered in 2025.

Water Law

Water Law surveys the subject of rights and interests in water. The topics covered include the common law development of the two major methods of determining water rights in surface water in the United States ("riparian rights" and "prior appropriation"), issues concerning ground water allocation, modern statutory administration of water, public trust doctrine, transboundary water issues, and federal and state authority in water management. Last offered in 2025.

White Collar Crime

This course examines both the substantive and procedural law concerning various white-collar crimes that occur transnationally. Areas of criminal law include money laundering, tax evasion and corruption among others. Procedural issues such as prisoner transfer, evidence gathering and extraditions are also addressed. Last offered in 2025.

Wills and Estates

Wills & Estates is the study of the disposition of property at death, whether by non-probate transfers, intestate succession, or will. The course examines the different types of inter vivos transfers that have testamentary effect, such as multiple-party bank accounts and life insurance; analyzes how property passes if a person does not have a will; and details various aspects of wills including validity, revocation, interpretation, and construction. The estate administration process consisting of collecting the decedent's property, paying debts, and distributing property to heirs or beneficiaries, is also studied. The course also provides brief coverage of other estate planning issues such as professional responsibility, planning for incompetency and death, and the drafting of wills. Last offered in 2025.

Wills, Estates and Trusts

Wills & Estates is the study of the disposition of property at death, whether by non-probate transfers, intestate succession, or will. The course examines the different types of inter vivos transfers that have testamentary effect, such as multiple-party bank accounts and life insurance; analyzes how property passes if a person does not have a will; and details various aspects of wills including validity, revocation, interpretation, and construction. The estate administration process consisting of collecting the decedent's property, paying debts, and distributing property to heirs or beneficiaries, is also studied. The course also provides brief coverage of other estate planning issues such as professional responsibility, planning for incompetency and death, and the drafting of wills. Last offered in 2025.

Wrongful Convictions

This course examines the American criminal justice system through an unusual prism: that of cases in which innocent people have been convicted. The course covers the principle causes of wrongful convictions as well as various reform efforts. Last offered in 2025.