

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW FIRST-YEAR CLASSES



*The curriculum of the School of Law covers a period of three academic years. **All courses within the first year are required and will add up to 31 total credits.** Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and Constitutional Law II are also required for graduation. All other courses in the second and third-year are elective. You will complete the first portion of the Lawyering Skills I class during the 1L orientation program. It will serve as an introduction to the law and will prepare you for your other courses.*

Fall Semester - 16 credits

Contracts I - 2 credits

Property - 4 credits

Torts - 4 credits

Civil Procedure I - 3 credits

Lawyering Skills I - 3 credits

PROPERTY - #130 4 CREDITS

This course examines the origins and contours of modern property law in the United States. Major topics include: the acquisition and extent of rights in real property (land and buildings) and personal property (everything else); private and governmental limits on owners' uses of real property; methods of transferring interests in property; the nature and extent of current and future interests in real property; co-ownership and marital interests in real property; the rights and responsibilities of concurrent owners of real property; covenants and easements on real property; contracts for the sale of land; land deeds and titles; and Landlord-Tenant law.

TORTS - #110 4 CREDITS

This course introduces students to civil actions for personal injuries, property damage, and other compensable wrongs including wrongful death. The course specifically includes a discussion of intentional torts, negligence actions, and strict liability. The course will also address limits on monetary damages and common defenses to tort actions like consent, assumption of risk, and contributory negligence.

CONTRACTS I - #120 2 CREDITS

Contracts I is the first part of a two-semester Contracts course. The two semester Contracts course generally covers the principles that govern the formation and performance of legally enforceable promises, as well as the consequences for failure or refusal to perform legally enforceable promises. The focus for the first part of the two-semester course is on contract formation, including offer and acceptance; the concept of "consideration," which is generally required for the formation of a contract; substitutes to consideration for enforcement of promises; the issues and challenges that arise during the period of contract negotiation; standard form contracts; and the statute of frauds.

CIVIL PROCEDURE I - #182 3 CREDITS

Civ Pro I focuses on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as they relate to a civil lawsuit. The course includes coverage of rules related to pleadings, notice and service of a complaint, the joinder of parties, the basics of discovery, motions to dismiss, appealability, and both res judicata and collateral estoppel. Students should finish the semester with a strong understanding of how a civil lawsuit proceeds through the federal court.

LAWYERING SKILLS - #160 3 CREDITS

This course is designed to teach the first-year law student the fundamental skills of legal research, analysis, and written and oral communication, as well as introduce the rudimentary principles of the American legal system. Students will learn how to research, analyze, and predict the likely outcome of legal problems and then will communicate their predictions through a number of commonly used legal vehicles, including law office memoranda. Methods of instruction include lecture, individual and small-group writing conferences, group exercises, and written critique. The course begins before the other first-year courses to provide a foundation for those other courses.





Spring Semester - 15 credits

Contracts II - 3 credits

Professional Foundations - 2 credits

Civil Procedure II - 2 credits

Constitutional Law I - 3 credits

Lawyering Skills II - 2 credits

Criminal Law - 3 credits

CONTRACTS II - #122 3 CREDITS

Contracts II is the second part of a two-semester Contracts course. The focus for the second part of the two-semester course is on subject matter relating to the contents of a contract, such as considering what extrinsic evidence will be considered when determining the terms of a contract, how the express terms of a contract may be supplemented or explained, what terms the law will imply, and when the terms of a contract will be deemed to have been modified; when the law will intervene in the enforcement of an otherwise enforceable contract, including a review of illegality, public policy and unconscionability; remedies for breach of contract; and excuses for nonperformance.

CRIMINAL LAW - #140 3 CREDITS

Analysis of general doctrines of criminal liability and the relationship between those doctrines and the moral and social problems of crime. Includes definitions of principal crimes and defenses to criminal prosecution and consideration of limitations on the use of criminal sanctions.

PROFESSIONAL FOUNDATIONS - #140 2 CREDITS

This course introduces students to concepts of professional role, identity, and practice for lawyers. A key objective of the course is to assist students in beginning to cultivate a reflective mindset about professional life in the law and to develop the habits needed to exercise sound professional judgment as lawyers. Students will be provided with repeated opportunities to take on the role of the lawyer in realistic situations that require them (1) to act as a fiduciary responsible for the welfare of others and (2) to define what it means to reconcile personal and professional values. Students will develop the skill of practiced self-reflection in legal settings and, in exploring the kind of lawyers they want to become, deepen their ability to apply these professional values.

LAWYERING SKILLS II - #142 2 CREDITS

This course builds upon the skills acquired in Lawyering Skills I by teaching the student to make the shift from objective, predictive analysis to persuasive analysis. Students will further develop their research and analytical skills by advocating their hypothetical client's position through clear written and oral communication. For the first half of the semester, each student will interview a mock client, develop a case, and negotiate a settlement. For the second half of the semester, each student will research and draft an appellate brief and argue it against an opponent in moot court.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I - #150 3 CREDITS

This course introduces students to the constitutional system of the United States and the modes of thought and criticism appropriate to constitutional law. It will provide a broad introduction to the Court's constitutional decisions to ascertain the political values and processes it has defended historically, the standards it has developed to implement its principles, and its relationship to other institutions in the American political system. The course will focus on three major themes of constitutional law: the role of the Supreme Court ("judicial review"), the relationship between the national government and the states ("federalism"), and the structure of the national government ("separation of powers").

CIVIL PROCEDURE II - #183 2 CREDITS

Civ Pro II builds on Civ Pro I but focuses on where the lawsuit takes place and what law the court will apply to resolve the dispute. The course looks at both constitutional and statutory questions of procedure. Jurisdiction is the focus of the semester, and topics include subject matter jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction, the removal and transfer of claims between courts, and the Erie doctrine on choice of law.

