

Course Description

First Year Courses

Contracts

Students will study both the Common Law contractual principles relating to contracts for services and the Uniform Commercial Code contractual principles relating to contracts for goods. They will learn the rules governing the formation of contracts such as offer, acceptance, consideration and defenses, i.e., the Statute of Frauds, incapacity, illegality, misrepresentation/fraud, duress, unconscionability, undue influence and mistake. Also, students will study contractual conditions, and the law pertaining to the enforcement of contracts, liability and remedies for breach of contract, and warranty liability for goods under the Uniform Commercial Code. Finally, the students will study third-party rights and obligations, i.e., third-party beneficiaries, assignments and delegations.

Criminal Law

Students will examine Common Law and modern criminal justice systems including their classification of crimes and the necessary elements of various crimes. Students will study the criminal culpability rules applicable to perpetrators such as principals, accessories and accomplices. Students will learn the elements of various crimes committed against persons such as homicide, assault, battery, rape and mayhem. Students will also study property crimes such as larceny, embezzlement, false pretenses, receiving stolen property, robbery, burglary and arson.

Further, students will examine the inchoate crimes of attempt, solicitation and conspiracy, and will also learn many justifications and excuses including mistake, self-defense, defense of others, crime prevention, force used to effectuate an arrest, consent, insanity, infancy, intoxication, public authority, duress, necessity and entrapment.

Legal Research & Writing

An introduction to the fundamental sources and techniques of legal research, including using a law library and its various resources. The course also presents an in-depth study of legal writing, with the goal that students develop their analytical writing skills. This first year focuses on essay writing, case analysis, the legal memorandum, and legal philosophy and reasoning. Additionally, the course focuses on objective writing and computer-aided research skills.

Tort Law

This course is a survey of civil causes of action for which an injured party may seek redress and compensatory relief in court. Students will learn various theories of tort liability including intentional torts to person and property such as assault, battery, false imprisonment, infliction of emotional distress, trespass to land and chattel, and conversion. Students will also examine the law relating to causes of action for ordinary and professional negligence, wrongful death, products liability, and dignitary torts such as invasion of privacy, defamation, constitutional torts and nuisance. They will also examine strict liability causes of action such as animal and products liability. Finally, students will examine tort defenses of privilege, mistake, self-

defense, consent, necessity, immunity, contributory and comparative negligence and assumption of the risk.

Second Year Courses

Civil Procedure

This course examines the rules governing civil proceedings and the jury trial system with emphasis on California civil procedural rules. Students will study various phases of civil litigation and learn how to proceed with litigation in a court of law. Students will study and contrast California and federal civil procedure rules as they relate to federalism, allocations of power between state and federal courts, personal and subject matter jurisdiction, rules of pleading, claim and party consolidation, venue, pre and post-trial motion practice, claim and issue preclusion, discovery, summary judgment, dismissals, and the appellate process.

Professional Responsibility

This course is a survey of attorneys' legal and ethical obligations, and the standards that are attendant to the practice of law and the legal profession. Students will study California and model statutory codes and decisional law that define an attorney's legal and ethical obligations to clients, the courts, opposing counsel and the profession. They will study various legal conflicts that may arise during client representation while fulfilling the varying roles of advocate, officer of the court, public icon and working practitioner. Students will study the business and economic aspects of the practice of law, restraints on practice, the role of the judiciary and the state bar in enforcing attorney rules of professional conduct, and sanctions for violating the rules.

Real Property

The course provides doctrinal analysis of various common and modern real property rules. Students will examine ownership, possessory, alienable rights and other legal interests in freehold and non-freehold estates, future interests, land covenants, equitable servitudes and easements. Students will study the law related to the recordation, use and transfer of property interests, and landlord/tenant law.

Remedies

Students will learn equitable and legal remedies that are available to civil litigants. They will learn how to allege, measure and define the scope of monetary damage awards, restitution, legal fees, constructive trusts and apportionments in tort and contract actions. Students will explore coercive remedies such as temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, permanent injunctions, specific performance, contempt and declaratory relief.

Third Year Courses

Criminal Procedure

Students will learn the constitutional limitations of convictions as included in the Bill of Rights; Search and Seizure, Confessions, Right to Counsel, Cruel and Unusual Punishment, Habeas Corpus and other constitutional issues relevant to criminal procedure.

Constitutional Law

Students will study the United States Constitution, the three branches and structure of the federal government, limitations and scope of government power, judicial review, the role of the United States Supreme Court, the Bill of Rights, and personal liberties. Students will examine the constitutional distribution of power between the federal government and the individual states, and personal liberties under the Due Process clauses with special focus on fundamental rights, equal protection, freedom of assembly, press, religion and speech.

Community Property

Students will examine the California law relating to community, quasi-community and separate property, the division of marital assets upon divorce and death of a spouse, marital agreements, business assets, commingling of funds, property improvements, spousal liability for community and separate debts, education expenses, spousal rights to pension and disability income, lawsuit settlements, life insurance proceeds, and management and transfer of community property assets.

Evidence

This course teaches the standards that regulate the admissibility of proof at judicial proceedings placing special emphasis on the Federal Rules, California rules and general principles of evidence law. Students will study burdens of proof, relevancy, the hearsay rule and its exceptions, policy-based exclusionary rules, legal privileges, expert and lay opinions, scientific, forensic and demonstrative evidence, impeachment, authentication, character and habit evidence, and presumptions.

Fourth Year Course

Agency & Partnership

This course is a survey of the law of various unincorporated business associations. Its purpose is to acquaint students with the fundamental legal elements of these business relationships and entities. This course will focus on the laws of agency and partnership including formation, termination, fiduciary responsibilities and raising capital concern.

Corporations

This course is a didactic inquiry into the law governing American business enterprises. Students will study model, statutory and decisional law related to the formation and dissolution of private, public, close and limited liability corporations. Students will study the law governing public stock and securities transactions, dividends, mergers and hostile takeovers, and the rights of corporate shareholders. Students will study the respective roles, duties, liabilities, rights and remedies of shareholders and business decision-makers, including corporate directors, officers and subordinate employees.

Trusts

Students will study common law revocable and irrevocable trusts and the statutory, doctrinal and decisional law pertaining to trust creation, modification and termination, trust management, the powers, duties and obligations of trustees, and beneficiary rights. This course is a companion

course to Wills which may be taken concurrently.

Wills

Students will learn California probate law as it relates to the formation and validity of testamentary wills, revocation and revival, will contracts, will substitutes, intestacy succession, and disposition of probate assets. This is a companion course to Trusts, which may be taken concurrently.

Performance Exam

The Performance Exam class is a step-by-step program structured to teach a prescribed method for mastering the Performance Exam. One will learn the differences between the types of Calls presented on the Performance Exam, how to interpret the Calls properly, how to manage the materials in the testing packet itself, how to gather relevant legal and factual data in the testing packet, how to outline, how to manage test time, how to write an appropriate answer, and much more. This unique program provides all the information necessary to help prepare for the Performance Exam.