

# USC Law School

## First Year Course Descriptions

### **CIVIL PROCEDURE I 545 (3 hours)**

An introduction to the Rules of Civil Procedure governing the civil litigation process, including rules regarding pleadings, discovery, joinder of parties, summary judgment, default, post-trial motions, and claim and issue preclusion.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL LAW I 525 (3 hours)**

The Structure of the Federal Government. The function of the Supreme Court in constitutional government to include the principles justifiability and standing; the development of federal power through the commerce clause and limits on state power flowing from the commerce and contract clauses; executive powers and the practice of separation of powers. The course will also generally consider the effect of the Fourteenth Amendment upon federalism, and conclude with the concept of state action as a limitation on the reach of the Amendment's guarantees.

### **CONTRACTS I 505 (3 hours)**

An introduction to the common law and Uniform Commercial Code relating to the agreement process, including the requirements of offer, acceptance, and consideration for the formation of contractual relationship. Problems on the interpretation of the contract, negotiation, drafting, and legal planning are analyzed and discussed.

### **CONTRACTS II 506 (3 hours)**

Continuation of Contracts I.

### **CRIMINAL LAW 524 (3 hours)**

An analysis of the field of criminal law, emphasizing the basic structure of the elements of a crime (act, mental state, circumstances, and consequences). Topics will include elements of just punishment, significance resulting harm (causation and attempt), group criminality conspiracy (parties and corporations) and exculpation (justification and excuse mitigation).

### **LEGAL WRITING I 535 (2 hours)**

Lectures on the court system, the trial process, appellate decision-making, and the professional obligations of lawyers, followed by instruction in preparation of basic legal documents: memoranda of law, client letters, briefs, pleadings, and contracts.

### **LEGAL WRITING II 536 (1 hour)**

Students are introduced to some of the skills required of practicing lawyers, with particular emphasis on brief writing and appellate advocacy.

### **LEGAL RESEARCH 537 (1 hour)**

During Legal Research I and II, you will receive instruction in the basic sources and research techniques of American law. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of an effective and efficient research strategy for locating state and federal cases and statutes and major forms of secondary legal literature. While some attention will be paid, of necessity, to the details of each source, the course will focus upon the use of these sources within the context of efficient legal research.

### **PROPERTY I 510 (3 hours)**

A course designed to give the student basic training in legal techniques of commercial land transactions and to introduce him or her to property concepts underlying modern donative transfers. Subject matter to cover includes a survey of the history of land law; estates in land and their rules affecting their creation; preparation of leases and landlord and tenant problems; contracts of sale; conveyances and financing; recording acts and examination of titles; control of land use through judicial, legislative, and private means.

### **PROPERTY II 511 (3 hours)**

Continuation of Property I.

### **TORTS I 530 (3 hours)**

The legal protection afforded in civil proceedings against interference by others with the security of one's person, property, or intangible interests; the analysis of intentional interference, negligence, and strict liability in the context of recognized categories of tort liability.

### **TORTS II 531 (3 hours)**

Continuation of Torts I.