Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Spring 2018
90 total credits to receive a JD degree from FIU Law
1. JD Requirements

• Completion of (and credit for) all FOUNDATION COURSES
  - 31 credits of Foundation Courses.

• Completion of (and credit for) UPPER-LEVEL COURSES
  - 59 credits of Upper-Level Courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2017</th>
<th>Spring 2018</th>
<th>Fall 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>LSV II</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV I</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Intro. Inter. Comp. Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upper-Level J.D. Requirements

• Earn at least **90 hours of passing grades** in all courses.
  – 78 of those hours must be in graded courses.
  – A passing grade is D or above, but no more than 13 credits of D.
• Must earn a cumulative GPA of **2.0** or above at the end of every semester.*
• Complete all degree requirements within 84 months (**7 years**) of enrollment.
• Complete **Professional Responsibility** with a grade of C or better.
• Should complete LSV III no later than **fourth semester** (2L Spring) after enrollment (not counting Summer).
• Complete **two** Litigation/ADR courses.
• Complete one **Upper-Level International Law** course.
• Complete one **seminar**.
• Complete **six** credit hours of **experiential** courses.
• Complete **pro bono requirement** by end of 2L year.

* For students enrolled before August 1, 2009.
Upper-Level J.D. Requirements

• How do I know whether a course satisfies the specific J.D. requirements?
  – Registrar’s Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses and which (if any) requirements they fulfill; and

• Can a single course satisfy two or more specific J.D. requirements?
  – Yes. For example, you could satisfy both the International and Seminar requirements by taking The Sierra Leone Tribunal Seminar.
Degree Audit
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

• What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
  – 1. Doctrinal Courses
  – 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
  – 3. Experiential Courses
  – 4. Non-Classroom Work
1. Doctrinal Courses

• What is a Doctrinal Course?
  – Vast majority of courses taught at FIU Law.
  – Courses generally utilize casebooks and other sources of primary law (like statutes and regulations) to teach material.
  – Students are generally evaluated by examination (essay, short answer, multiple choice) and/or paper, and class participation.
1. Doctrinal Courses

What is a seminar?

• A *doctrinal course* that is focused on a very specific area of the law.

• Enrollment is generally capped at 15 students.

• Grade is based on a paper (generally 25-30 pages or longer), class presentations, and other class participation.

• Sample seminar course titles: *Law and Literature; The Sierra Leone Tribunal’s Contribution to International Law.*
1. Doctrinal Courses

• Do any Doctrinal Courses have pre-requisites?
  – Yes. For example, Mergers and Acquisitions requires Business Organizations (as do many other Upper-Level business courses).
  – Registrar’s Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses that have pre-requisites.
  – You can get a full list of all FIU Law courses, which includes a brief course description and all pre-requisites and co-requisites at:
Doctrinal Courses

• Other than the specific J.D. requirements, does FIU Law recommend I take any other Doctrinal Courses?
  – Yes!
    • Bar-Tested Courses
    • Other Strongly Recommended Doctrinal Courses
1. Doctrinal Courses

• Bar-Tested Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highly Recommended Courses</th>
<th>Recommended Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Organizations</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure: Investigation</td>
<td>First Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Florida Civil Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Procedure: U.S. and Florida</td>
<td>Florida Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Payment Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills and Trusts</td>
<td>Products Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remedies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secured Transactions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Doctrinal Courses

- Other Strongly Recommended Upper-Level Doctrinal Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict of Laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Income Taxation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?

– 1. Doctrinal Courses
– 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
– 3. Experiential Courses
– 4. Non-Classroom Work
2. Skills/Simulation Courses

• You must complete six credit hours of **Simulation** *or* **Experiential** courses in order to graduate.
2. Skills/Simulation Courses

a. What is a Skills/Simulation Course?
Focus on developing lawyering skills.
Do not focus on a specific area of law; rather, they use simulations from various areas of the law to train students on lawyering skills like

- Writing
- Oral Advocacy
- Trial Skills

Students in skills courses are traditionally evaluated by oral argument performance, mock trial performance, brief, paper, and/or class participation.
2. Skills/Simulation Courses

Do any Skills/Simulation Courses have pre-requisites or co-requisites?

– Yes.

• **LSVIII** requires completion of LSV I and LSV II.

• **Appellate Procedure** I requires completion of LSV I and LSV II and all Foundation Courses.

• **Trial Advocacy** requires Evidence as a pre-or-co-requisite.

• The Registrar’s Office will provide Course Registration Guide, which lists all courses that have pre-requisites.
Skills/Simulation Courses and Competition Teams:
What you need to know:
-In order to qualify for the Moot Court team, you must complete Appellate Procedure I in the Fall of your 3L year.
-You do not have to take Trial Advocacy before trying out for Trial Team.
-What is the difference between Moot Court and Trial Team?
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

A. What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
   – 1. Doctrinal Courses
   – 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
   – 3. Experiential Courses
   – 4. Non-Classroom Work
3. Experiential Courses

• You must complete six credit hours of experiential or simulation courses in order to graduate.
3. Experiential Courses

a. What is an Experiential Course?
A course that allows students to earn law-school credit for real-world legal work representing or working on behalf of a client.

b. What Experiential Courses does FIU Law offer?
   
   **Externships**
   Law-related work in off-campus field placements Classroom component.

   **Clinics**
   In-house law offices in different areas of practice. Students represent clients under the supervision of a clinical professor and/or staff attorney.
3. Experiential Courses

- What types of Externships does FIU law offer?
  - Judicial
    - Prosecutors
    - State Attorney’s Office
    - U.S. Attorney’s Office
  - Government Defense
    - State Attorney’s Office
    - Federal Public Defender
  - Private Criminal Defense
- Criminal
- Civil
  - Government Office
  - Law Firm
  - Non-Profit Organization
  - In-House Corporate Counsel
3. Experiential Courses

• d. What are the requirements to enroll in an Externship?
  – Procedural
    • You must meet with the Externship Director (Professor Kotey) before enrolling;
    • You must complete an Externship Application;
    • You must prepare a cover letter for all employers for which you wish to work;
    • You must obtain a transcript and prepare a writing sample, which the Externship Program will forward to all potential placements
3. Experiential Courses

• d. What are the requirements to enroll in an Externship (continued)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Externship</th>
<th>No. of credits that must be completed before enrollment</th>
<th>Course Pre-Requisites</th>
<th>CLI Florida Bar Clearance Required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>Completion of all Foundation Courses</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil</td>
<td>45 credit hours</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility (pre-or co-req.)</td>
<td>No (but recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>48 credit hours</td>
<td>Professional Responsibility; Criminal Procedure: Investigation; Evidence (pre- or co-req.)</td>
<td>Yes for SAO and State PD only; not for FPD, USAO, or law firm placement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Experiential Courses

e. How many Externships can I take?

- You can only take ONE entry-level Externship (Judicial, Criminal, Civil).
- You can only take ONE Advanced Externship.
  - Your entry-level Externship and Advanced Externships do not have to be in the same category.
    - Ex: You can complete a Criminal Externship and then complete an Advanced Civil Externship.
### 3. Experiential Courses

- **f. How many credits do I earn from completing an Externship?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Externship</th>
<th>Semester of Enrollment</th>
<th>No. of Credits</th>
<th>Graded or Pass/Fail?</th>
<th>In-Class/Non-Classroom Work Credit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any Externship</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Externship</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Graded 2 Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil/Criminal Externship</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 Graded 4 Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Externship</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Summer</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>All Pass/Fail</td>
<td>Non-Classroom Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester in Practice</td>
<td>Last Semester* 3L or 4L year only</td>
<td>Up to 12 for full-time work</td>
<td>Combination*</td>
<td>Combination*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Experiential Courses

• g. May I get paid from my externship placement and also receive course credit?

Yes
3. Experiential Courses

- g. What types of Clinics does FIU law offer?
  - Death Penalty Clinic
  - Immigration Clinic
  - Community Lawyering Clinic
  - Small-Business Clinic
3. Experiential Courses

h. What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?

- You must apply; the Clinic will email the application and deadlines to all students.

Look for an email from Zoraya Ledesma!
### 3. Experiential Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>No. of Credits B/F Enroll.</th>
<th>Course Pre- or Co Requisites</th>
<th>No. of Credits</th>
<th>Pass/Fail or Graded In-Class/ Non-Classroom Work Credit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death Penalty Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Death Penalty Course (P) Professional Resp. (C/P)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration and Immigrant Children’s Clinic</td>
<td>45; 48 if need to appear in state court</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) Evidence (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)</td>
<td>4, 5, or 6</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Lawyering Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) and ONE: Health Law (C/P) Admin Law (C/P) Disability Law (C/P) Immigration Law (C/P)</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-Business Clinic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Professional Resp. (C/P) Bus. Orgs. (C/P)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Credits/Hours Conversion for Clinics

- 2 credits = 112 hours / semester
- 3 credits = 168 hours / semester
- 4 credits = 196 hours / semester
- 5 credits = 238 hours / semester
- 6 credits = 280 hours / semester
3. Experiential Courses

• i. Is there anything else I need to know about Experiential Courses?

  – You may NOT enroll in more than 20 hours (combined) of
    • Trial Advocacy (12 credits maximum)
    • Appellate Advocacy
    • Clinical (12 credits maximum)
    • Externship (12 credits maximum)
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

• A. What types of Upper-Level Courses are offered at FIU Law?
  – 1. Doctrinal Courses
  – 2. Skills/Simulation Courses
  – 3. Experiential Courses
  – 4. Non-Classroom Work
4. Non-Classroom Work

a. What is Non-Classroom Work?
   – Credit-earning work that is not completed in a classroom.
   – Pass/Fail.

b. What types of credit-earning work is considered Non-Classroom Work?
   – (Some) Externship credits;
   – Law Review;
   – Moot Court/Trial Team competitions; and
   – Independent Study.
4. Non-Classroom Work

• c. Is there anything else I need to know about Non-Classroom Work?
  – Students are limited to a total of 6 credits for Non-Classroom work; no more than 4 of those can be for Independent Study.
Certificate Programs at FIU Law

- Intellectual Property Law
- Environmental and Natural Resources Law
Intellectual Property Law Certificate

• Faculty Contacts: Professor Travis and Professor Osei Tutu
• Completion of required credits in designated Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law courses.
• For more information, visit: https://law.fiu.edu/academics/curriculum/certificate/
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate

• Faculty Contacts: Professor Robbins
• Completion of required credits in designated Environmental and Natural Resources courses.
• Possible Field Study.
• For more information, visit:
  https://law.fiu.edu/academics/curriculum/environmental-law-certificate/
Summer 2018

Study Abroad in Seville, Spain

• Sports and Entertainment Law (M. Gomez)
• Comparative Property Law (Rodriguez-Dod)
• Courses satisfy the upper-level international course requirement.

It’s not too late! Visit or email (ldlima@fiu.edu) Lisbeth D’Lima at the FIU Law Office of International Programs!
Summer 2018

**On Campus Courses**

(Summer Course schedule is not finalized; if these classes are offered, these are the ones you should consider.)

- Judicial Externship (in-class portion)
- Florida Constitutional Law
- Administrative Law
- Professional Responsibility
B. How do I plan my schedule?

• Map out your requirements and the courses you want to take.
• Check out the Pathways to the Profession. (Under the Academics link on the FIU Law website).
• The Registrar’s Office will issue a Course Registration Guide for Summer and Fall courses. It will provide:
  – All courses offered;
  – What requirements those courses fulfill; and
  – Descriptions for all seminars offered in those terms.
C. How do I register for Upper-Level Courses?

• You register for classes through Panthersoft.
• For Summer 2018 courses, you will register in April.
• For Fall 2018 courses, you will register in June (not applicable to you).
• For Spring 2019 courses, you will register in November 2018.
• You will receive registration instructions and a registration appointment from the Registrar’s Office.
D. Pro Bono Requirement

• All students must complete 30 hours of pro bono work before the fall of their final year.
• Students who complete 130 hours of pro bono work will receive a graduation medallion.
• Pro bono hours may be completed at FIU Law or at an outside placement.
• You should start pro bono work by this summer!
• For approved placements, please visit: https://law.fiu.edu/pro-bono/
D. Pro Bono Requirement

• To get started, please visit the Pro Bono website and meet with Zoraya Ledesma.

• We will have a Pro Bono Program information table (where you can meet with Zoraya Ledesma) at Academic Advising Session Part II on Friday, March 23, at 12:30 p.m.