Selecting Upper-Level Courses

Spring 2016
I. 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 2015</th>
<th>Spring 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>Intro. to International and Comp. Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>Civil Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
<td>Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV I</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LSV II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
90 total credits to receive a JD degree from FIU Law
Upper-Level J.D. Requirements

- Earn at least **90 hours of passing grades** in Upper-Level 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 (full-time students).
- 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**.
- Should complete **pro bono** requirement by end of 2L year.
II. Selecting Upper-Level Courses

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

a. What is a Doctrinal Course?
   - Vast majority of courses taught at FIU Law.
   - Designed to teach a specific area of law (ex: Torts, Intellectual Property, Family 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

b. Are there specific types of Doctrinal Courses that I am required to take?

– Yes.

  • Two Litigation and Alternative Dispute courses (could also be satisfied by one or more Skills Courses);
  • One Upper-Level International Law course;
  • One seminar;
  • Professional Responsibility

– Wait! What is a seminar?

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

• c. 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

• d. 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.
1. Doctrinal Courses

• e. 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.
1. Doctrinal Courses

• f. 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><strong>Criminal Procedure: Investigation</strong></td>
<td>First Amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td><strong>Florida Civil Practice</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Law and Procedure: U.S. and Florida</strong></td>
<td>Florida Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td><strong>Payment Systems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills and Trusts</td>
<td>Products Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Remedies</strong></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>
2. Skills Courses

• a. What is a Skills 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 Courses

b. Are there any Skills Courses that I am required to take?
   – Yes.
     • LSV III.
     • Two Litigation or Alternative Dispute Resolution Courses (can also be satisfied with Doctrinal courses).

c. Do any Skills Courses have pre-requisites or co-requisite?
   – 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.
2. Skills Courses

• d. Is there anything else I need to know about Skills Courses?
  – Yes. In order to qualify for the Moot Court team, you must complete Appellate Procedure I in the Fall of your 2L 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?
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

• c. What types of Externships does FIU law offer?
  – Judicial
  – Criminal
  – Civil
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 agencies 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</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>Externship</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2 Graded 2 Pass/Fail</td>
<td>In Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>
</tbody>
</table>
g. What types of Clinics does FIU law offer?
   – Death Penalty Clinic
   – Immigration and Immigrant Children’s Clinic
   – Medical-Legal Partnership
     • Neighborhood HELP
     • Domestic Violence Project
     • Veterans’ Project
   – Small-Business Clinic
3. Experiential Courses

• h. What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?
  – Procedural
    • You must apply; the Clinic will email the application and deadlines to all students.
3. Experiential Courses

h. What are the requirements to enroll in a Clinic?
   - Pre-Requisites and Co-Requisites

<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>Medical-Legal Partnership</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>4</td>
<td>Graded In-Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Credits/Hours Conversion for Clinics

• 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)
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.
Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate

• Faculty Contacts: Professor Robbins and Professor Stoa
• Completion of required credits in designated Environmental and Natural Resources courses.
• Field Study in Cuba (Spring 2016)
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 2016 courses, you will register in April 2016.
• For Fall 2016 courses, you will register in June 2016.
• For Spring 2017 courses, you will register in November 2016.
• You will receive registration instructions from the Registrar’s Office.