



Excelling in Academics

"Can you recommend any classes that will help me as a Prelaw student?"

In general, Prelaw students should seek to improve their writing, reading comprehension, logical reading and analytical thinking skills through their coursework. Success in law school (and success on the Law School Admission Test) relates to these skills, not to specific information you might have learned as an undergraduate. Thus it is important to take classes that exercise your mind by asking you to read what might be **difficult prose**, to analyze and **construct logical arguments**, and to test your **understanding through writing**.

It is very important that Prelaw students choose classes that will help them prepare for law school, but also faculty that will guide them successfully through the skills they need to learn. Faculty are eager to help you understand the *learning process*. Actively search for professors that will help you understand how to be a better student. You can begin your search by considering ["Faculty Thoughts From the Other Side of the Desk"](#), available on the TTU Prelaw Program website.

Courses that are taught through the **Socratic method**, in which you take responsibility for analyzing and discussing texts are key; courses that stress memorization and rote learning, regardless of the subject matter, will be less useful in the long run. In general, History courses (at the 4000 level), English (composition and literature), and Philosophy courses will help you develop these skills. One specific class to take is PHIL 2310, Introduction to Logic. This class provides experience with **formulating formal arguments**, a practice that is extremely valuable for anyone preparing for the logical reasoning section of the LSAT exam.

Other courses may be helpful in providing background information helpful in law school. For example, some students report that the knowledge of the American economic system acquired in macroeconomics courses (ECO 2302 or 2305) is helpful in law school. Classes in political science (for example POLS 3341 Administrative Process, POLS 3346 Public Policy Analysis, POLS 3350 Criminal Process, POLS 3351 Judicial Process, POLS 3352 Constitutional Law—Powers, and POLS 3353 Constitutional Law—Limits) will help you to understand the forms and practices of American government and politics.

Legal history courses (HIST 4327 Gender Race and Class in U.S. Law) will provide you an opportunity to study the history of U.S. law through the themes of economic development, race and gender, and free speech and will provide you the opportunity to read, discuss, and write about law and court decisions.

Philosophy courses such as Ethics (PHIL 2320, PHIL 4320) and Philosophy of Law (PHIL 3321) will be of interest to any concerned with an understanding of law and the theoretical analysis of its place in society.

Course Recommendations

(Organized by Core Curriculum groupings on Pg. 40-45 of the University Catalog)

Multi-Cultural Core Electives

- HDFS 3350 Development in Cross-Cultural Perspectives (Diversity)
- PSY 3398 Ethnic Minority Psychology (Diversity)
- SOC 3324 American Minority Problems (Diversity, Social Justice)

Communication: Oral—Speech

- COMS2300 Public Speaking (Communicating)
- COMS3358 Business and Professional Communication (Communicating)

Mathematics

- PHIL 2310 Logic (Critical Thinking & Reasoning)

Natural Sciences

- ANTH 2300/2100 Physical Anthropology and Lab (**IF interested in Criminology ONLY**)
- Other as Potential Specializations may direct.

Technology & Applied Science

- PFP 2310 Technological Applications in Personal Financial Planning (Technology, Communicating, Research)
- Other as Potential Specializations may direct.

Humanities

- ENGL 2391 Introduction to Critical Writing (Writing Intensive)
- ENGL 2308 Introduction to Nonfiction (Writing Intensive)
- ENGL 2307 Introduction to Fiction (Writing Intensive)
- HIST 4327 Gender Race and Class in U.S. Law (Judicial System, Precedents, Social Policy)
- PHIL 2300 Beginning Philosophy (Critical Thinking and Reasoning)
- PHIL 2320 Introduction to Ethics (Critical Thinking and Reasoning)

Visual & Performing Arts

- TH A 2301 Introduction to Acting (Communicating & Self Awareness)

Social & Behavioral Sciences – Individual or Group Behavior

- COMS 3313 Persuasion (Communicating, Critical Thinking and Reasoning)
- COMS 3356 Leadership and Communication (Communicating)
- PHIL 3321 Philosophy of Law (Critical Thinking and Reasoning)
- POLS 3341 Administrative Process
- ECO 2305 Principles of Economics - Abridged (Economic Theory vs. Public Policy)
- ECO 2301 Principles of Economics I (Microeconomics, Economic Theory vs. Public Policy)
- ECO 2302 Principles of Economics II (Macroeconomics, Economic Theory vs. Public Policy)
- PFP 3301 Personal and Family Finance (Financing Law School, Financial Health, Debt Management)
- POLS 3351 The Judicial Process (Judicial System)
- PSY 1300 General Psychology (Human Behavior)
- SOC 1301 Introduction to Sociology (Human Behavior)
- Other as Potential Specializations may direct.

Other Electives (Optional but Recommended)

- LIB 1100 Library Research Methods (Research)
- COMS 3314 Argumentation and Debate (Critical Thinking & Reasoning, Communicating, Human Behavior)
- ECO 3312 Intermediate Economics Theory – prerequisite 2301 (Economic Theory vs. Public Policy)
- PHIL 1310 Reasoning (Critical Thinking & Reasoning)
- POLS 3333 Contemporary Political Theory (Public Policy, Judicial System, Legislative System)
- POLS 3346 Public Policy Analysis (Public Policy, Judicial System, Legislative System)
- POLS 3350 Criminal Process (Executive System, Judicial System)
- POLS 3352 Constitutional Law—Powers (Judicial System, Legislative System)
- POLS 3353 Constitutional Law—Limits (Judicial System, Legislative System)