

ELON UNIVERSITY  

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SCHOOL *of* LAW

MEMORANDUM

To: Elon Law Students  
From: Eric Fink  
Date: August 2023  
Re: Course Selection for Students Interested in Civil Rights, Human Rights,  
& Public Interest Law

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The following guidance about course selection may be helpful for students who are interested in pursuing a career in civil rights, human rights, and public interest law. This area of the law may involve both litigation and policy-oriented work in non-profit organizations, governmental and international agencies, and private law firms. Consequently, the suggestions below cover a wide range of subjects, and your own choices will be guided by the particular areas of civil rights, human rights, or public interest law practice you wish to pursue.

Please note that not all courses are offered every year and that some courses have enrollment caps. Please plan accordingly.

**Essential Courses**

The following courses are **essential** preparation for civil rights, human rights, and public interest law practice. Students interested in these areas should take **all** of these courses at the **earliest opportunity**:

Administrative Law  
Evidence<sup>1</sup>  
Trial Practice and Procedure

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<sup>1</sup> Required for all students.

### **Priority Courses**

The following courses are **especially helpful** preparation for civil rights, human rights, or public interest law practice. Students interested in this field should take as many of them as possible, subject to enrollment restrictions:

Legislation

Negotiations

In addition, you should try to participate in a Residency, externship, or summer work with an organization, government agency, or law firm engaged in civil rights, human rights, or public interest law.

### **Beneficial Courses**

The following courses may be **beneficial** to a civil rights, human rights, or public interest law practice:

Advanced Legal Research

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Cause Lawyering

Civil Rights Actions

Constitutional Law Appellate Advocacy Clinic

Consumer Law

Employment Law

Environmental Law

Family Law

Federal Courts

First Amendment: Speech

First Amendment: Religion

Guardian ad Litem Clinic

Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic

Immigration Law

International Law: Human Rights

International Law: Public

International Law: Refugee & Asylum

Judicial Process

Prisoners' Rights

Public Interest Legal Writing

Race Law

Remedies

### **Co- and Extra-Curricular Activities**

It is useful to participate in co- and extra-curricular activities related to civil rights, human rights, and public interest law. Some examples are:

The Innocence

ProjectMoot Court

Board

Mock Trial Team

Public Interest Law Society

Judicial Externships

Please do not hesitate to contact Professor Fink with any questions about these recommendations.

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