

ELON UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL *of* LAW

MEMORANDUM

To: Elon Law Students
From: Eric Fink
Date: August 2024
Re: Course Selection for Students Interested in Civil Rights, Human Rights,
& Public Interest Law

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
Evidence¹
Trial Practice and Procedure

¹ 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:

Client Interviewing & Counseling
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:

Administrative Advocacy
Advanced Legal Research
Cause Lawyering
Civil Rights Actions
Consumer Protection
Depictions of Discrimination
Employment Law
Environmental Law
Family Law
First Amendment: Speech
First Amendment: Religion
Gender & the Law
Guardian ad Litem Clinic
Humanitarian Immigration Law Clinic
Immigration Law
International Law: Public
Judicial Process
Prisoners' Rights
Public Interest Legal Writing
Race & the 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 Project

Moot 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.

Professor Eric M. Fink

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