The absolute “must take” course for any federal clerkship is Federal Courts, which covers the structure of the federal court system and the jurisdictional and procedural rules that govern its operation. A course in Evidence is also important, essential for those clerkships at the district-court level and still very helpful for clerkships at the appeals-court level. As to substantive law, a given judge’s caseload will vary in content and is often hard to predict. But on non-specialized courts, one can expect a heavy dose of criminal law cases (for which courses in ACJ II, Sentencing, and Corporate/White Collar Crime will be helpful), civil rights cases (for which courses in Civil Rights Litigation, Employment Discrimination, and Employment Law will be especially helpful), and immigration cases (for which Immigration Law and Administrative Law will be especially helpful). Students interested in clerking on specialized federal courts (such as Bankruptcy Courts, the Court of Federal Claims, or the Federal Circuit) will want to focus their study on these courts’ respective areas of specialization.

Strongly Recommended Courses:
5603 Federal Courts 3 cr. Fall and Spring
5605 Evidence 3 cr. Fall and Spring
5606 Civil Rights Litigation 2 cr. Spring
5401 Administration of Criminal Justice II 3 cr. Fall and Spring

Recommended Courses:
5422 Employment Discrimination 3 cr. Spring
5400 Employment Law 3 cr. Fall
5402 Administrative Law 3 cr. Fall and Spring
5434 Introduction to Intellectual Property 3 cr. Fall
5442 Immigration Law\(^1\) 3 cr. Spring
5650 Federal Complex Litigation 3 cr. Spring

Additional Recommended Coursework:
5403 Labor Law 3 cr. Spring
5405 Antitrust Law 3 cr. Spring
5417 Admiralty\(^2\) 3 cr. Fall
5421 Constitutional Law II 3 cr. Fall and Spring
5435 Corporate and White Collar Criminal Law 2 cr. Spring
5509 Patent Law\(^3\) 2 cr. (tentative for Spring ’16)
5710 Bankruptcy\(^4\) 3 cr. Fall and Spring

Related Experiential Course:
6003 Judicial Externship 2-3 cr. Fall and Spring

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\(^1\) Highly recommended for clerkships in border districts and the Fifth Circuit.
\(^2\) Highly recommended for clerkships in jurisdictions with significant waterways or coastline, such as the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Southern District of Texas, or the Fifth Circuit.
\(^3\) Helpful for clerking for a federal district court, highly recommended for clerking in the Eastern District of Texas; unlikely to be helpful for clerking in federal appellate court except the Federal Circuit.
\(^4\) Vital for clerking for a federal bankruptcy court.