Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: BUS 204

Course Title: The Legal Environment of Business

Department: Business/Computer Science and Technologies
Effective Date: Summer 2026
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 52.0101
Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Public law and legal environment in which business must operate; background of legal principles and systems. Examines major laws affecting commerce, competition, labor relations, product liability, and consumer protection; contracts, agency, principles of torts, methods of organizing businesses.

General Course Objectives

- Describe how law and the legal system, including legislatures, courts, and administrative agencies, regulate and facilitate business conduct.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of government regulation and regulatory agencies in a free market economy.
- Compare and contrast the social responsibility and legal responsibility of businesses.
- Demonstrate how major ethical theories can be used in business decision making.
- Describe major employment laws, their impact on the employment at will doctrine, and the various administrative agencies that regulate employment relationships.
- Describe major consumer protection laws and the various administrative agencies that protect the interests of consumers.
- Describe major securities laws and the regulatory role of the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Describe basic principles of contract law and their impact on business operations.
- Identify legal and ethical issues in factual scenarios and apply principles of law and ethics to resolve those issues.
- Compare and contrast forms of business operations.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites
None

Methods of Evaluation
12 focused group discussions, applying the law, 7 objective exams.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies
Legal Environment Today, current edition, Miller/Cross

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction	1. Describe law and jurisprudence. 2. List and discuss the classifications and sources of law. 3. Examine the functions and limitations of the courts, including the role of interpreting legislative law and the role of stare decisis. 4. Contrast law and equity with focus on the remedies. 5. Contrast substantive law and procedural law. 6. Use current events to demonstrate law in action.	3	0	0
Ethics and Business Responsibility: A. Business ethics and its importance; B. Business ethics and the law; C. Creating ethical codes of conduct; D. Approaches to ethical reasoning; E. Professional responsibility; F. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; G. Business ethics on a global level	1. Explain business ethics. 2. Compare and contrast ethics and law. 3. Assess the importance of business ethics. 4. Demonstrate practical application of ethical reasoning. 5. Assess the reasons for passage of Sarbanes-Oxley Act and the impact of the Act on professional responsibility. 6. Examine the challenges of business ethics at a global level.	2	0	0
The Court System	1. Discuss the role of the judge, jury, and attorney in the legal system. 2. Explain the state and federal courts. 3. Examine the jurisdiction of the various courts and procedural law. 4. Identify civil procedural steps.	2	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Litigation and Other Methods for Resolving Disputes	1. Identify the importance of judicial procedure and the court rules. 2. Examine the challenges of litigation, role of discovery, and use of ADR. 3. Explain the concept of standing to sue and judicial controversy. 4. Discuss the reasons for class action lawsuits. 5. Contrast a civil and criminal court case.	2	0	0
Constitution and Business	1. Explain the importance of the U.S. Constitution and evaluate its role as the base of our legal system. 2. Evaluate the relationship between the Constitution and business under the commerce clause and taxing and spending clause. 3. Discuss the supremacy clause, checks and balances, and separation of powers.	2	0	0
Bill of Rights and Business	1. Evaluate the limitations placed on the government by the Bill of Rights, including freedom of speech and religion, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, double jeopardy, and self incrimination. 2. Evaluate the role of the 14th Amendment on State Action. 3. Demonstrate understanding of the role of due process, both substantive and procedural. 4. Evaluate the concept of Equal Protection and differentiate the standards of evaluating equal protection issues. 5. Demonstrate the dynamic nature of the Constitutional Amendments.	1	0	0
Introduction to Torts	1. Demonstrate examples of business liability. 2. Analyze injuries to person, property, or reputation and defenses to such allegations. 3. Contrast the theories of tort liability. 4. Evaluate actual tort cases.	3	0	0
Product Liability in the Marketplace	1. Evaluate the current state of product liability. 2. Describe the effects of product liability on businesses, including increased insurance rates, consumer awareness, and loss of business opportunities which results in loss of product and services. 3. Identify the historical background, theories of product liability, duty to consumer, warranties, and possible legislative reform.	2	0	0
Criminal Law: A. Civil law vs. criminal law; B. Classification of crimes - felonies and misdemeanors; C. Elements of a crime; D. Types of crimes; E. RICO; F. Defenses to crimes; G. Constitutional safeguards including 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th Amendments; H. Exclusionary rule	1. Compare and contrast a civil and criminal court case. 2. Identify difference between felony and misdemeanor. 3. Identify the elements of a crime and the types of crimes. 4. Analyze RICO. 5. Differentiate the various defenses to crimes. 6. Assess the role of the amendments in a criminal investigation and prosecution. 7. Analyze the exclusionary rule.	2	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Intellectual Property: A. Definition of intellectual property; B. Trademarks and related property including statutory protection; C. Cybermark and cybersquatting; D. Lanham Act; E. Types of protection; F. Patents and patent infringement; G. Copyrights and Copyright Act of 1976 and NET of 1997; H. MP3 and file-sharing technology; I. Trade secrets; J. International protection	1. Demonstrate examples of intellectual property. 2. Identify the requirements for patent protection, copyright protection, trademark, and trade secret protection. 3. Identify the protection afforded under each. 4. Describe Cybermark protection and cybersquatting. 5. Identify the Lanham Act. 6. Demonstrate current challenges in intellectual property right protection, both domestic and international.	2	0	0
Introduction to Contracts	1. Recognize and use the basic requirements for a valid contract. 2. Contrast and differentiate the various contract remedies. 3. Evaluate various contract situations as demonstrated in real world setting.	6	0	0
Agency Law and Business Organizations	1. Identify the principal agency relationships, the duties of each, and types of relationships. 2. Describe the contract liability and tort liability of each relationship. 3. Analyze respondeat superior and demonstrate the impact on business. 4. Differentiate forms of authority. 5. Identify the forms of business organizations. 6. Describe the differences between the various forms, the advantages, and disadvantages of each. 7. Demonstrate understanding of the corporate entity and the role of the board of directors, officers, and shareholders.	4	0	0
Discrimination in Employment	1. Identify and apply the major provisions in Federal Law which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, and national origin as well as age and disability. 2. Evaluate the role of employer testing and qualifications as well as the defenses of bona fide occupational qualifications and business necessity. 3. Describe and apply Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 4. Examine the seniority system and affirmative action.	3	0	0
Legal Aspects of Labor-Management Relations	1. Describe the historic development of the labor-management relationships. 2. Demonstrate the regulatory power of the National Labor Relations Board. 3. Demonstrate collective bargaining process, election process, and the impact of the Norris LaGuardia Act, Wagner Act, Taft-Hartley Act, and the Landrum Griffin Act. 4. Examine examples of unfair labor practices. 5. Identify impact on global competition.	2	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Administrative Agency Law	1. Describe the administrative process. 2. Distinguish the quasi legislative, quasi judicial, and quasi executive functions of administrative agencies. 3. Identify and use the limitations placed on agencies, common criticisms of the administrative process, and the reasons for the proliferation and growth in power of agencies. 4. Describe how agencies come into existence and are empowered and controlled.	2	0	0
Consumer Protection	1. Identify laws that protect consumers, including credit regulatory laws, Truth in Lending Act, truthful advertising, and UCC. 2. Demonstrate current consumer protection challenges, including regulation in e-commerce.	1	0	0
Environment, Business, and Pollution Control	1. Identify the increasingly complex issues of environmental law and its impact on society and the economy. 2. Identify the regulatory schemes of the National Environmental Policy Act and the role of the EIS. 3. Identify the role of the EPA. 4. Evaluate the various laws that regulate the private sector. 5. Demonstrate the technology forcing aspects of legislation. 6. Demonstrate private sector enforcement of environmental protection. 7. Demonstrate current trends in environmental law.	2	0	0
Introduction to Antitrust	1. Evaluate the impact of the Sherman Act on competition. 2. Evaluate the role of the FTC and the Justice Department Antitrust Division. 3. Identify court decisions which define illegal behavior under rule of reason or illegal per se approach. 4. Demonstrate price fixing, territorial restrictions, retail price maintenance, and conscious parallelism in pricing. 5. Demonstrate current examples of antitrust cases.	1	0	0
Additional Antitrust Laws: The Clayton and Federal Trade Commission Act	1. Evaluate the impact of the Clayton Act and the FTC Act. 2. Demonstrate price discrimination, predatory pricing, tying contract, and unfair methods of competition. 3. Identify the Robinson Patman Act. 4. Describe the types of mergers and the role of the FTC in allowing or disallowing mergers. 5. Demonstrate current merger trends.	1	0	0
Securities Regulation	1. Evaluate the major federal legislation regulating securities. 2. Recognize securities. 3. Discuss role of the SEC, its powers, and functions. 4. Demonstrate examples of securities governed by the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. 5. Compare and contrast regulation under Section 10b and Rule 10(b)-5 and Section 16. 6. Evaluate current challenges in regulation of securities.	2	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0