

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Business 125 – Business Law: Legal Environment of Business

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Legal environment of business, sources of law, constitutional bases of regulation, social and ethical influences, corporate responsibility, judicial and administrative systems, contracts, torts, agency, business organizations, bankruptcy, regulation of property and protection of intellectual property interests, consumer protection, antitrust law and e-commerce.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Definition of law. Classifications (equity, common law, etc.). Sources of and reasons for law. Administrative agencies, rulemaking, enforcement, adjudication, due process
- 2) State and federal court systems, jurisdiction, methods for alternate dispute resolution
- 3) Progress of a case through the court system, role of judge, jury, lawyers, and the parties. The appellate process, types of motions, rulings, judgments, and enforcing judgments
- 4) Law and ethics, corporate social responsibility, stakeholder relationships
- 5) Torts distinguished from crimes, intentional torts, negligence, business torts, strict liability, tort reform proposals, criminal law and protection of Intellectual Property
- 6) Contracts, classification, contract terms and elements, performance, enforcement, breach, remedies, third person beneficiary contracts, assignment of contracts under Common Law and the Uniform Commercial Code
- 7) Creation of an agency relationship, duties of agents, principals, liabilities (tort and contract) of principals, agents
- 8) Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations, corporate structure and governance
- 9) Laws governing business behavior. Antitrust and securities regulation, employment law consumer protection, employment law, e-commerce, and labor relations
- 10) International trade law, conflict of laws issues, dispute resolution

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze cases in order to identify issues and apply the appropriate legal rules to the fact patterns to reach defensible legal conclusions which can include IRAC (Issue Rule Analysis Conclusion).
- 2) Use criteria provided in class/textbook to compare and contrast the theories of jurisprudence and the classifications of law.
- 3) Categorize the types of government agencies, powers and functions, controls through congressional action, executive action, and the courts.
- 4) Differentiate the relationship between state and federal systems, jurisdiction of courts, the interaction between business managers and lawyers, and the importance of alternate dispute resolution methods.
- 5) Use the rules of Civil Procedure to demonstrate how cases progress through the court system from problem, to filing, to trial, and appeal.
- 6) Use the U.S. Constitution and similar documents to describe the constitutional basis for federal government regulation of business, including limits of government power.

- 7) Apply the various rules of ethics to appraise the relationship between law and ethics.
- 8) Use agency law to describe the various agency relationships and the duties and liabilities of agents and principals as the foundation of partnerships and corporations.
- 9) Distinguish between torts and crimes and describe the purpose of criminal and tort law.
- 10) Use contract law to evaluate when a promise is enforceable, the elements of a contract, performance, and remedies available in the event of breach.
- 11) Use contract law and the Uniform Commercial Code to distinguish between contracts governed by the Uniform Commercial Code and those governed by the common law of contracts.
- 12) Explain a corporation's legal structure and the meaning of limited liability for the owners; describe the relationship of the various stakeholders.
- 13) Use the appropriate Federal statutes to describe the major federal acts that pertain to anti-trust, securities regulation, employment law, and environmental law.
- 14) Use administrative law to compare and contrast state and federal regulation.
- 15) Differentiate between the application of domestic and legal principles. Apply legal principles to an international scenario.
- 16) Comprehend and assess the e-commerce environment.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Written assignments that measure students' ability to understand and apply the law to various real world situations.
- 2) Exams, essay and assignments that measure students' ability to apply specific areas of the law to business related situations.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Problems for discussion and response

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** materials covering legal topics, current legal issues, case studies, and more.
- 2) **Writing:** assignments focusing on legal concepts, critical thinking, and appropriate writing skills for the business world; at least one major assignment incorporating legal research and application of various legal concepts.
- 3) **Other:** quizzes and tests; exercises in teamwork, contract analysis, and cooperative learning

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative-example): Pagnattaro, Cahoy, and Magid, The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 2025 Release, McGraw Hill, 2025.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Apply the various rules of ethics to appraise the relationship between law and ethics, and the interaction between business managers, stakeholders, and society.

- 2) Use the law of business organizations to explain the various forms a business can take; the benefits and burdens of each form; the role of agency law in each; and the termination/dissolution of each, and strategy behind choosing a form.
- 3) Identify the legal issues arising from Tort, Criminal law, Constitutional law, Contract Law and their impacts on business.
- 4) Identify the various occupational opportunities in Business and their accompanying skills. (Work-Based Learning Outcome).