



ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

DIVISION: Natural Sciences and Business

COURSE: BUL 2000 The Legal Environment of Business

Date: Spring 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Complete all that apply or mark "None" where appropriate:

Prerequisite(s): None

Enrollment by assessment or other measure? Yes No

If yes, please describe:

Corequisite(s): None

Pre- or Corequisite(s): None

Consent of Instructor: Yes No

Delivery Method:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture	3 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar	0 Contact Hours (1 contact = 1 credit hour)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lab	0 Contact Hours (2-3 contact = 1 credit hour)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical	0 Contact Hours (3 contact = 1 credit hour)

Offered: **Fall** **Spring** **Summer**

CATALOG DESCRIPTION and IAI NUMBER (if applicable):

This course deals with the legal environment in which businesses operate. The general areas of study are: the legal framework of business, antitrust law, consumer law, securities law, labor law, and the social environment of business. Some specific topics include: the judicial system, the Clayton Act, Sherman Act, FTC, product liability, truth in lending agency, S.E.C., labor law, the constitution, agency, and international law.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENTS AND COURSE NOTES:

None

COURSE TOPICS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

Business Law
Courts and court procedures
Legal Ethics
Torts
Product Liability
Intellectual Property
Contracts
Business Entities
Employment Law

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Lecture, Online

EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

Multiple Choice tests, Essay tests, Quizzes, Papers, Discussion Boards (online)

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Textbooks

The Legal Environment of Business by Cross and Miller. Cengage.

Resources

United States Constitution
Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS)
Wall Street Journal
Forbes
United States Reports (Supreme Court Cases)
Federal Reporter, 2nd Series
Federal Supplement, 1st and 2nd Series
Illinois Decisions
Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOALS:

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- 1) Communication – to communicate effectively;
- 2) Inquiry – to apply critical, logical, creative, aesthetic, or quantitative analytical reasoning to formulate a judgement or conclusion;
- 3) Social Consciousness – to understand what it means to be a socially conscious person, locally and globally;
- 4) Responsibility – to recognize how personal choices affect self and society.

Course Outcomes and Competencies

1. Understand the fundamentals of law and legal reasoning.

- a. The student will be able to understand the sources of American law.

- b. The student will appreciate the Common Law tradition including *stare decisis* and both legal and equitable remedies.
 - c. The student will understand the basic aspects of legal reasoning.
 - d. The student will be able to find Primary Sources of Law.
- 2. Gain an understanding of the United States Constitution and its relationship to business transactions.**
- a. The student will understand the federal form of government and the separation of powers.
 - b. The student will understand the Commerce and Supremacy Clauses.
 - c. The student will appreciate how the Bill of Rights affects businesses.
 - d. The student will understand Due Process and Equal Protection guarantees as established by the 14th Amendment.
- 3. Appreciate Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution.**
- a. The student will understand basic aspects of the legal system including jurisdiction, venue and standing.
 - b. The student will recognize differences between the state and federal systems and how they interact with each other.
 - c. The student will understand nonjudicial ways to resolve differences such as Mediation, Negotiation, and Arbitration.
- 4. Gain familiarity with basic court procedures.**
- a. The student will understand the role attorneys play in resolving disputes and how they are compensated for such services.
 - b. The student will understand the basics of the pretrial litigation process such as pleadings, how and when claims can be dismissed, how discovery is conducted.
 - c. The student will understand how trials are conducted including opening statements, the presentation of witnesses and evidence, closing arguments, and verdicts.
 - d. The student will understand post-trial practice such as post-trial motions and appeals.
- 5. Understanding the interplay between ethics and business.**
- a. The student will appreciate the importance of sound ethical practices by businesses.
 - b. The student will recognize the interplay between the law and operating a business.
 - c. The student will recognize the challenges Social Media poses for contemporary businesses.
- 6. Gaining a basic understanding of Torts, Product Liability and Strict Liability in the context of operating a business.**
- a. The student will understand the meaning and purpose of Torts.
 - b. The student will understand the differing types of damages that could be appropriate for tort actions.
 - c. The student will recognize intentional torts relevant to business activities including False Imprisonment, Defamation, and the Invasion of Privacy, and both Fraudulent and Negligent Misrepresentation.
 - d. The student will understand the concept of negligence in commercial settings and common defenses to such claims.
 - e. The student will understand the principles of Product and Strict Liability, including their rationale and potential defenses.
- 7. Recognizing Intellectual Property issues in a business setting.**

- a. The student will appreciate the differences between and appropriate uses of Trademarks, Patents, Copyrights, and Trade Secrets.
- b. The student will know how to best safeguard interests arising from illegal infringement of Trademarks, Patents, Copyrights, and Trade Secrets.

8. Understanding how the Internet and Social Media impact businesses.

- a. The student will appreciate how Social Media can influence commercial litigation.
- b. The student will recognize the impact of The Electronic Communications Privacy Act and the threat of online defamation on business practices.
- c. The student will appreciate the interplay between Privacy concerns and business practices.

9. Understand the law of Contracts.

- a. The student will understand how Contracts are formed and thus legally binding.
- b. The student will understand defenses to the enforceability of contracts.
- c. The student will understand the principles of "Offer and Acceptance" in the context of contract formation.
- d. The student will understand the definition of legal Consideration relative to Contract formation.
- e. The student will appreciate the significance of Contractual Capacity, Legality, and Third-Party Rights with respect to the formation and enforcement of Contracts.
- f. The student will know when a Contract is performed, discharged, or breached and potential remedies (including those arising from equity) or damages in the case of breaches.
- g. The student will understand special legal concerns arising from Sales and leases, including an appreciation of the Uniform Commercial Code.

10. Understanding the basics of Creditor-Debtor Relations and Bankruptcy.

- a. The student how security interests and actions arise including liens, garnishment, sureties and guarantors, and mortgages.
- b. The student will appreciate available protections available for debtors.
- c. The student will understand the basics of bankruptcy including the Automatic Stay, the role of the Trustee, Exemptions, Claims, and Discharge.

11. Understand the various types of business entities.

- a. The student will know the strengths and limitations of operating a Sole Proprietor type business.
- b. The student will know the strengths and limitations of operating a business as a Partnership.
- c. The student will know the strengths and limitations of the Limited Liability Corporation type of business.
- d. The student will know the advantages of operating a business as a traditional Corporation.

12. Understanding the basics of Employment Law.

- a. The student will appreciate the significance of Employment at Will and exceptions to such, including Wrongful Discharge.
- b. The student will appreciate legal issues arising from how employees are compensated and protected.