

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** BUS. 201 **TITLE:** Business Law **C-ID:** BUS 125
Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; 96.0-108.0 Homework hours; 144.0-162.0 Total Student Learning hours
Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only
Recommended Preparation:
 Eligibility for ENGL 100, or Eligibility for ENGL 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**
Degree Credit
Transfer credit: CSU; UC
AA/AS Degree Requirements:
 CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5d. Career Exploration and Self-Development

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**
Catalog Description:
 Introduction to law applied in business environments. Topics include The Constitution, legislative and administrative law, legal systems, enforcement agencies, contracts, crimes, torts, types of business formation, and employment law.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. Describe, use, and apply various sections of U.S. law in business and social settings.
 2. Define and analyze the concepts of contract law.
 3. Analyze ethical scenarios and cases in business and assess possible solutions.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
 Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Define, explain and apply the various schools of legal reasoning (e.g. natural rights, positivism)
 2. Distinguish the various methods of resolving a legal dispute (e.g. mediation, arbitration, courts)
 3. Name, explain and assemble the various systems of courts (e.g. State, Federal) and their jurisdiction
 4. Define, restate and apply the various ethical schools of thought that influence legal thought (e.g. universal rights etc.)
 5. Identify the relevant parts of the US Constitution that may affect businesses (e.g. Commerce clause, First Amendment etc.)
 6. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various types of torts (e.g. intentional, negligence, strict liability)
 7. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various types of crimes
 8. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various elements of the formation, execution, and termination of a contract
 9. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various rights of 3rd parties to a contract
 10. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various types of warranties and guarantees present in contracts
 11. List, identify, apply and evaluate the various elements the principal/ agent relationship
 12. List, identify, distinguish the various types of business ownership (e.g. corp. partnership, LLC etc.)
 13. Identify and distinguish rights and responsibilities as it relates to personal and real property
 14. Demonstrate an understanding of employment law
 15. Distinguish between the major components of intellectual property, such as patents, copyright and trademark protection

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**
Lecture Content:
 - A. Business and the Law
 - a. Relationship Among Law, Order, and Justice
 - b. Legal Language
 - c. Origins of the Law of Business
 - d. Legal Systems
 - B. Sources of the Law
 - a. Constitutions

- b. Statutes, Ordinances, and Administrative Regulations
 - c. Common Law and Case Law
 - d. Equity
- C. The Legal System and its Processes
 - a. The U.S. Constitution, original and amendments
 - Allocation of Power
 - b. Courts and Jurisdiction
 - Subject Matter Jurisdiction, Jurisdiction over Persons or Property, Conclusive v. Exclusive Jurisdiction
 - c. Venue and Choice of Laws
 - d. Federal, State, and Specialized Courts
- D. Business Ethics
 - a. Ethics and Morality
 - b. Ethical Theories, including A Synthesis of Ethical Decision Making, the Game Theory of Business, and the Social Contract Theory
 - c. Multinational Ethics
- E. Understanding Contracts
 - a. Contract Theory
 - b. Definition and Elements of a Contract (Offer, Acceptance, Consideration, Capacity to Contract, Reality of Consent, and Legality)
 - c. Contract Writing and Interpretations, including the Statute of Frauds, Judicial Interpretation, and the Parole Evidence Rule
 - d. The Rights and Obligations of Third Persons, including Third Party Beneficiary Contracts, Assignments, and the Uniform Commercial Code
 - e. Discharge, Breach, and Remedies (Damages or Equitable Relief)
 - f. Performance and Remedies
- F. Crimes and Business
 - a. Objectives of Criminal Law
 - b. Crimes v. Torts
 - c. Degrees of an Offense (Misdemeanor, Felony, etc.)
 - d. Selected Crimes, including Embezzlement, Fraud, Computer Crime, and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) offenses
 - e. Corporate Liability for Crimes
 - f. Defenses such as Duress, Insanity, Intoxication, and Justification
- G. Torts
 - a. Objectives and Theories of Tort Law
 - b. Intentional Torts from Assault to Defamation to Intentional Interference with Contractual Relations to Misappropriations of Trade Secrets
 - c. Negligence and its Elements (Duty, Breach of Duty, etc.)
 - d. Strict Liability, Nuisance, and Product Liability
- H. International Law
 - a. Extraterritoriality: U.S. Laws, International Applications, including Antitrust Law and Employment Law
 - b. Free Trade Zones (The European Union, The North American Free Trade Agreement, etc.)
 - c. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, World Trade Organization, International Organization for Standardization
 - d. Exports and Imports and Dispute Resolution
- I. Types of Business Formation
 - a. Selecting a Business Form
 - b. Sole Proprietorship
 - c. Partnerships (Limited, Limited Liability, etc.)
 - d. Joint Ventures
 - e. Corporations (Forms, establishment, advantages, etc.)
- J. Labor and Fair Employment Practices
 - a. Federal Labor Statutes
 - b. State Labor Law
 - c. Fair Employment Practices Laws
 - d. The American with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970
 - e. Unemployment Compensation and Worker's Compensation

- K. Agency and Property
 - a. Agency: Creation and Termination
 - b. Agency: Liability for Contracts, Liability for Torts and Crimes
 - c. Bailments of Personal Property
- L. Intellectual Property: Computers and the Law
 - a. Patents
 - b. Copyrights
 - c. Trademarks
 - d. Trade Secrets
 - e. Unfair Competition

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Discussion
- D. Field Trips
- E. Guest Speakers

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Legal Analysis Assignments:

- A. Students will read, brief, and analyze legal cases, understand and learn about the legal principle contained in the case, two cases per chapter, two pages in length, on a weekly basis.
- B. Students will look at fact patterns and attempt to apply a legal principle to solve the problem, no longer than five pages, on a monthly basis.

Reading Assignments:

- A. Course textbook readings, one chapter, 30 to 50 pages weekly.
- B. Articles, blogs, reports, etc., two to three pages weekly.

Other Outside Assignments:

- A. Students may be asked to visit the local courthouse and listen to a civil case and write a paper summarizing and analyzing the case.

To be Arranged Assignments:

Not applicable.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Field Trips
- F. Group Projects
- G. Homework
- H. Papers
- I. Quizzes
- J. Research Projects
- K. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Miller, R.L.. *Business Law Today: Texts and Summarized Cases, The Essentials*, 13th ed. New York: Cengage, 2022

Other:

- A. Aplia weekly online quizzes

Origination Date: October 2023
Curriculum Committee Approval Date: November 2023
Effective Term: Fall 2024

