

**Date:** February 2006

- I. Course Name:** Business Law I  
**Course Prefix & Number:** BUS 227  
**Credit & Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours - 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:**

A study of legal principles applied to business transactions. Topics covered include: court systems, constitutional authority, torts, contracts, criminal law and business, and commercial paper.

**II. Course Outcomes and Objectives**

**Learning Outcomes:**

The general goals of this course are that the student gains a basic understanding of:

1. The nature and origin of legal rights.
2. The structure and procedure of the federal and state court systems.
3. Constitutional Law as it relates to business.
4. Torts, strict liability and product liability.
5. Criminal law and Cyber crimes.
6. Elements of contracts, the statute of frauds, and third party rights
7. Contract performance, breach and remedies
8. Basic concepts of commercial paper, negotiability, liability and discharge of obligations

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:**

This course is a required course for many of the business degrees. All students in the college may take this course regardless of their majors.

**College Competencies Addressed by the Course:**

Writing  
Ethics/Values  
Oral Communications  
Citizenship  
Reading  
Global Concerns  
Mathematics  
Information Resources  
Problem-Solving  
Professional Competency  
Computer Literacy

### **III. Methods of Instruction**

#### **Types of Course Materials:**

Textbook: West's Business Law, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Clarkson, Miller, Jentz & Cross, West Publishers

Internet resources

Current Periodicals

#### **Methods of Instruction:**

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to:

Lecture

Written Assignments

Group Projects

Case Study Analysis

Authentic Projects/Assignments

Discussions

Internet

Guest Speakers

#### **Assessment Measures:**

Faculty may use a variety of assessment measures including, but not limited to: informal writing, non graded quizzes, and discussions

#### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Faculty may use a variety of evaluation methods, including but not limited to:

Class participation

Written assignments completed and turned in on a timely basis

Tests

Final exam

### **IV. General Outline of Topics Covered**

1. Legal Environment of Business
  1. Introduction to law and legal reasoning
  2. Business ethics
  3. Courts and alternative dispute resolution
  4. Court procedures
  5. Constitutional authority to regulate business
2. Torts and Crimes

1. Torts and strict liability
  2. Basic business torts
  3. Product liability
  4. Intellectual property and cyberlaw
  5. Criminal law and procedures
  6. Comparative law
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3. Contracts - Part I
    1. Nature and terminology
    2. Agreement
    3. Consideration
    4. Capacity
    5. Genuineness of assent
  
  4. Contracts - Part II
    1. Legality and the statute of frauds
    2. Third party rights
    3. Performance and discharge
    4. Breach of contract and remedies
  
  5. Negotiable Instruments
    1. Basic concepts, negotiability and transferability
    2. Holder in due course and defenses
    3. Liability and discharge
    4. Checks and electronic fund transfers