

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

BUS 8 - Legal Environment of Business

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level III; Math Level II

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course covers fundamental legal principles pertaining to business transactions and affecting managerial decisions. It introduces the law as an instrument of social and political control in society. Topics include sources of law and ethics, contracts, torts, agency, judicial and administrative processes, employment law, forms of business organizations, and domestic and international governmental regulations. (C-ID BUS 120).

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Analyze cases using the IRAC method (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion). Identify issues and apply the appropriate legal rules to the fact patterns to reach defensible legal conclusions.
- B. Perform legal research, to include evaluating and interpreting a court citation and locating a court case on an assigned topic.
- C. Compare and contrast the theories of jurisprudence and the classifications of law.
- D. Categorize the types of government agencies, powers and functions, controls through congressional action, executive action, and the courts.
- E. 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.
- F. Demonstrate how cases progress through the court system from problem, to filing, to trial, and appeal.
- G. Describe the constitutional basis for federal government regulation of business, including limits of government power.
- H. Appraise the relationship between law and ethics.
 - I. Describe the various agency relationships and the duties and liabilities of agents and principals as the foundation of partnerships and corporations.
 - J. Distinguish between torts and crimes and describe the purpose of criminal and tort law.
 - K. Evaluate when a promise is enforceable, the elements of a contract, performance, and remedies available in the event of breach.
 - L. Distinguish between contracts governed by the Uniform Commercial Code and those governed by the common law of contracts.
- M. Explain a corporation's legal structure and differentiate it from other forms of business organization, the meaning of limited liability for the owners; describe the relationship of the various stakeholders.
- N. Describe the major federal acts that pertain to antitrust, securities regulation, employment law, and environmental law.
- O. Compare and contrast state and federal regulation.
- P. Differentiate between the application of domestic and international legal principles.
- Q. Evaluate and develop effective strategies for reducing potential enterprise liability in the areas of tort law, products and service liability, respondent superior, etc.
- R. Identify the scope and methodology of governmental authority to regulate private business activity and assess the effect of constitutional limitations on that authority.

- S. Distinguish and compare alternative methods and procedures for resolving business related disputes, including traditional civil lawsuits, small claims, arbitration, administrative hearings, etc.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Definition of law. Classifications (equity, common law, etc.). Sources of and reasons for law. Administrative agencies, rule making, enforcement, adjudication, due process.		6.00
2. State and federal court systems, jurisdiction, methods for alternate dispute resolution.		4.00
3. Progress of a case through the court system. The role of judge, jury, lawyers and the parties. The appellate process, types of motions, rulings, judgments and enforcement of judgments.		3.00
4. Law and ethics, corporate social responsibility, stakeholder relationships		2.00
5. Torts distinguished from crimes, intentional torts, negligence, business torts, strict liability, tort reform proposals, criminal law and business.		6.00
6. Contracts, classification, contract terms and elements, performance, enforcement, breach and remedies.		6.00
7. Creation of an agency relationship, duties of agents, principals, liabilities (tort and contract) of principals, agents.		4.00
8. Sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited partnerships, and limited liability partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations, corporate structure and governance.		6.00
9. Application of the U.S. Constitution to business activities		2.00
10. Laws governing business behavior, including antitrust, securities regulation and employment law.		6.00
11. International trade law, conflict of laws issues, dispute resolution.		2.00
12. Laws protecting consumer privacy and the environment.		4.00
Total Hours		51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- C. Discussion
- D. Reading Assignments
- E. Multimedia Presentations
- F. Case Analysis
- G. Small Claims Court Visitation

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Papers
- D. Class participation

- E. Case Brief Submission Using the IRAC Method (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion)
- F. Small Claims Court Visitation Write-Up

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1. Read the text material about torts and prepare for in-class discussion about how businesses can protect themselves from tort liability.
2. Read the text material about Constitutional law and search online for a current case being considered by the Supreme Court. Be prepared for in-class discussion about the arguments for or against the case.

B. Writing Assignments

1. Select a recent Federal Supreme Court decision. Read a case summary of the opinions, research outside opinions on the Internet, and prepare a 3-5 page written evaluation of the opinions and decision. Use the IRAC format (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion).
2. Analyze a written case study based on a hypothetical scenarios prepared by the instructor. Analyze the facts, identify the legal issues involved, and apply the appropriate legal principles. Write a 3-5 page report using the IRAC format (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion).

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Visit a law library and look up a particular statute of interest to you. Prepare a 3-5 page written evaluation of the three cases that have been decided regarding interpretation of the statute, including brief facts from cases and rationale for interpretations.
2. Visit a small claims court and independently observe one small claims court case involving an area of law covered in the course material. Prepare a 3-5 page written evaluation identifying the legal issues involved, the applicable principles of law, and the reasoning supporting the outcome of the case.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Meiners, R., Ringleb, A. and Edwards, F. . The Legal Environment of Business. 11th Edition. Cengage Learning, 2011.
- B. Luizzo. A.. Essentials of Business Law. 8th Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2012.
- C. Reed, O.L., Shedd, P.J., Pagnattano, M.A. and Morehead, J.W.. The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business. 16th Edition. McGraw/Hill/Irwin, 2012.
- D. Cheeseman, H.R.. The Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce. 7th Edition. Pearson, 2012.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Instructor provided sample cases, business documents, graphs, diagrams, etc.

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