

Course Description

BUL2241 | Business Law 1 | 3.00 credits

Law in relation to the proper conduct of business, including a consideration of the nature and source of law, courts and courtroom procedure, contracts, sales of goods, negotiable instruments and secured transactions.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will understand the sources of law and fundamental legal rights by:

1. Describing the different sources of law
2. Defining legal rights, including individual rights such as the right to privacy and freedom of speech
3. Explaining the distinctions between substantive and procedural law
4. Explaining the difference between a court of equity and a court of law

Competency 2: The student will understand the composition of the court system by:

1. Describing the composition and organization of the federal and state of Florida trial courts
2. Discussing the differences between original, limited, and appellate jurisdiction
3. Explaining the process by which a case goes through court from pretrial to trial
4. Distinguishing between the different types of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

Competency 3: The student will become familiar with federal constitutional principles by:

1. Explaining how the constitution works to establish state and federal government structure and powers
2. Analyzing the powers enumerated in the commerce clause
3. Discussing the financial powers given to Congress in the constitution, including the authority to collect taxes and spend money
4. Identifying the different individual rights protected by the constitution, including due process, equal protection, and privileges and immunities clause

Competency 4: The student will understand the purpose, function, and operation of administrative agencies by:

1. Discussing the general nature of administrative agencies
2. Discussing how administrative regulations are formulated and reported
3. Explaining the unique features of administrative hearings
4. Explaining the legislative powers of an administrative agency
5. Defining the judicial and investigative powers of administrative agencies, including exhaustion of administrative remedies and appeals from administrative agency rulings

Competency 5: The student will understand the nature of crimes, criminal penalties, and the constitutional protections afforded to defendants by:

1. Describing the nature of crimes and the types of criminal penalties for crimes
2. Distinguishing between the different types of white-collar crimes
3. Explaining the crimes of larceny, robbery, burglary and destruction of property
4. Identifying the myriad of computer crimes and penalties assessed for these crimes
5. Explaining the procedures and rights for defendants in a criminal proceeding
6. Distinguishing between the contract, tort, criminal law, and intellectual property issues associated with cyber law

Competency 6: The student will understand the elements of torts by:

1. Explaining the nature of a tort
2. Identifying the different elements of intentional torts, negligence, and strict liability
3. Distinguishing between the different types of defenses to tort claims
4. Identifying the issues in tort reform

Competency 7: The student will understand the nature of contracts by:

1. Defining the nature and elements of a contract
2. Explaining the parties to a contract and how a contract is formed
3. Distinguishing between the different types of contracts, including formal/informal, express/ implied, valid/void, executed and executory, bilateral/unilateral, and quasi-contracts
4. Discussing the different ways that parties form a contract using the internet and other types of electronic communication
5. Identifying the different requirements for a valid contractual offer
6. Explaining how an offer is accepted and terminated

Competency 8: The student will understand how to analyze capacity and genuine contractual assent by:

1. Explaining factual and legal capacity to form a contract
2. Discussing the unique legal consequences of minors entering into contracts
3. Examining the legal effects of mental incapacity
4. Distinguishing between the different types of mistakes in a contract and their effect as defenses
5. Describing the different types of physical and economic pressures that may affect the validity of a contract

Competency 9: The student will understand the importance and legal consequences of consideration and the formalities required to form a contract by:

1. Defining consideration and the legal consequences in a contract, including when there is the absence of consideration
2. Explaining what constitutes valid consideration
3. Identifying the exceptions to the requirement for valid consideration
4. Discussing the requirements of the statute of fraud
5. Explaining the dynamics of electronic contracts
6. Analyzing the parole evidence rule

Competency 10: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how to interpret contracts and the legal significance of third persons in the formation of contracts by:

1. Explaining contractual intent and its legal significance
2. Distinguishing between objective and subjective contractual interpretation of contracts
3. Identifying the rules for contradictory, ambiguous, and implied contract terms
4. Discussing customs and trade usage in contracts
5. Analyzing choice of law forum clauses
6. Explaining third-party beneficiaries and their rights as parties to a contract
7. Distinguishing between incidental and donor beneficiaries
8. Analyzing the limitations imposed in third-party contracts
9. Discussing assignments and delegations
10. Explaining the different contractual provisions that are necessary to form a contract
11. Analyzing different contracts, including publishing and sports contracts

12. Drafting a simple contract, including contracts relating to bill of sale, purchase order, promissory note, and employment

Competency 11: The student will become familiar with how a contractual obligation is discharged and understand the consequences and remedies for breach of contract by:

1. Explaining when performance in a contract has occurred and how this may act to discharge contractual obligations
2. Identifying adequate performance and its consequences
3. Discussing how duties are discharged under a contract, including unilateral discharge, impossibility, frustration of purpose, and discharge by operation of law
4. Defining a breach of contract
5. Explaining anticipatory repudiation and waiver
6. Analyzing the different remedies available for breach of contract, including rescission, specific performance, and all types of damages
7. Distinguishing between liquidated damages and limitation of remedies in contracts

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society