

COURSE OUTLINE

BMGT-151
Business Law I
3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

First in a series of two courses that survey the areas of law that are likely to affect any modern business entity. After a successful completion of this course, the student will be able to identify and maneuver through basic legal issues arising in criminal law, negligence, intentional torts, strict liability offenses, contract law, and sales. Business ethics, litigation and alternative dispute resolution techniques, as well as historical aspects of the American legal system are covered. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Discuss the basic structure of Federal, state, and local governments.
2. Identify sources and types of laws.
3. Discriminate between basic dispute resolution techniques, including litigation, and apply the rationale for choosing each one.
4. Anticipate and balance ethical issues that face business entities against the other needs of the business entity.
5. Compare and contrast civil and criminal actions by and against the business entity.
6. Anticipate the effect of criminal and civil laws on business entities and how they will effect personal liability within the business entity.
7. Identify and analyze the legal issues and pitfalls within the common law of contracts.
8. Compare the statutory differences between the common law of contracts and contracts for the sale of goods under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).
9. Identify the statutory remedies that exist under the UCC for business entities and individual consumers.
10. Identify and discuss rules for the performance, and remedies for breach, of sales contracts.
11. Discuss general legal issues effecting business entities.
12. Discuss current major legal trends in business law and apply them to hypothetical situations.

Major Topics

- I. Basic Legal Structures
 - A. Law and its sources
 - B. Alternate dispute resolution techniques
 - C. Litigation

- II. Business Ethics
- III. Civil and criminal offenses
 - A. Crimes
 - B. Negligence
 - C. Intentional torts
 - D. Strict liability
- IV. Common law of contracts
 - A. Offers
 - B. Acceptances
 - C. Consideration
 - D. Capacity
 - E. Consent
 - F. Illegality
 - G. 3rd party rights
 - H. Performance and remedies
- V. UCC Article 2 sales contracts
 - A. Differences between statutory and common law rules
 - B. Warranties and product liability
 - C. Performance and remedies

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

A minimum of two exams.

Quizzes.

Assigned formal writing assignments consisting of two or more of the following: legal research brief, reflective paper, memos and pleadings.

Participation in the form of socratic dialogue.

Other Course Information

Attendance Policy: Since the teaching methods employed in the study of law rely not just on lecturing and a general knowledge of the material, but also on an active classroom participation and open discussion, class attendance is imperative.