

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Business Law

Career and Technical Education Series



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Business Law Course Overview

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of some of the vital legal concepts that affect commerce and trade, after first gaining some familiarity with how laws are created and interpreted. Students will then be introduced to the types of businesses that can be created to engage in commerce as well as the contractual and liability considerations that can impact a business. Laws that affect how a business is regulated will also be reviewed, particularly the impact of administrative rules and regulations on a business. Global commerce and international agreements, treaties, organizations, and courts that can affect business will be discussed to get a better sense of what it means to "go global" with a business.

Consumer and environmental protections will be explained as well as bankruptcy options, should a business go insolvent. Lastly, no business exists without experiencing some kind of dispute or another, and so we will review the options that exist for dispute resolution and alternative dispute resolution to provide a better understanding of how best to deal with such matters.

- **Unit 1: The Role of Law and Its Impact on Business:** Chapter 1 focuses on the legislative and executive branches of government and discussed the functions of each branch. In the second chapter, students begin a discussion on corporations by reviewing sole proprietorships and agency relationships.
- **Unit 2: Legal Considerations in Business Law:** In this unit, students are introduced to the three elements that must be present for a contract to be valid: offer, acceptance and consideration. Students will also examine the Uniform Commercial Code, a federal law that regulates contracts for the sale of goods, including Internet contracts. Students also learn about the three types of contract defenses – validity of formation, inability to perform the contract, and inability to enforce a contract. Torts (civil wrongs causing injury to others) and defenses are also examined, as are liability and nuisance.
- **Unit 3: Regulating a Business:** Unit 3 examines ethics and the law, including a discussion about how we determine what is right and what is wrong. Crimes against property are also probed, including white-collar crime. Criminal and civil procedure are also reviewed, including the key stages of each. An examination of administrative law and its history, the commerce clause, and employment law comprise the second half of this unit.
- **Unit 4: Global Commerce:** Unit 4 introduces the concept of intellectual property and its protections, including trademarks, patents and copyrights. E-commerce is also discussed, as is international law and free trade and the free flow of capital in an increasingly integrated global economy.
- **Unit 5: Protections and Resolutions:** In Unit 5, students examine consumer protection, environmental protection. Bankruptcy law and dispute resolution are also probed.

Course Requirements

While there are no formal requirements for this course, it is important to understand that this is a challenging course requiring your best critical-thinking skills. The ability to conduct research, make lateral connections, and consider options not clearly outlined is a function of those who successfully practice the law. This course uses scenarios and case studies to apply the concepts offered and encourages creative (but legal and ethical) thinking. For the student who is considering a career in the law, this course is a good primer.

Unit 1: Role of Law and Its Impact on Business		
Business Law	Assignments	
	1. Course Overview	9. Sole Proprietorships and Agency
	2. Sources of Law: the Legislative and the Executive Branches	10. Project: Starting a Business
	3. Project: Drafting a Bill	11. Partnerships
	4. Sources of Law: the Constitution and the Judicial Branch	12. Project: Partnerships
	5. Project: A Supreme Court Case	13. Corporations
	6. The Bill of Rights and Fundamental Guarantees	14. Project: Understanding the Tender Offer
	7. Project: Comparing the Bill of Rights with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations)	15. Quiz 2: Corporations
	8. Quiz 1: Sources Of Law and The Bill Of Rights	16. Special Project*
		17. Test
		18. Course Project – Part 1: Role of Law and Its Impact on Business*
		19. Glossary and Credits
Unit 2: Legal Considerations in Business Law		
Business Law	Assignments	
	1. Contracts: Basic Elements of Contracts	11. Project: Lulu the Runaway Dog
	2. Project: Identifying Internet Agreements	12. Torts: Strict Liability and Nuisance
	3. Contracts: Uniform Commercial Code	13. Project: You be the Author: Write Your Own Newspaper Articles
	4. Project: Buyers, Sellers, and Warranties	14. Quiz 2: Torts
	5. Contract Defenses	15. Special Project*
	6. Project: Defensible Defenses	16. Test
	7. Quiz 1: Contracts	17. Course Project – Part 2: Legal Considerations in Business Law*
	8. Torts: Intentional Torts	18. Glossary and Credits
	9. Project: Review the Lemonade Stand Fact Pattern	
	10. Torts: Negligence	
Unit 3: Regulating a Business		
Business Law	Assignments	
	1. Ethics and the Law: Crimes Against Persons	11. Project: Search the Headlines for News Stories on Federal Agencies and their Functions
	2. Project: Know your State's Penal or Criminal Code and Create Your Own Law	12. Employment, Regulation, and Discrimination in the Workplace
	3. Ethics and the Law: Crimes Against Property	13. Prepare Scenarios Using Gidgits Galore
	4. Project: Know Your White Collar Crimes	14. Quiz 2: Administrative Law, The Commerce Clause, and Employment Law
	5. Criminal Procedure	15. Special Project*
	6. Project: Create Your Own Crime	16. Test
	7. Quiz 1: Ethics and The Law – Criminal And Civil Procedure	17. Course Project – Part 3: Regulating a Business*
	8. Introduction to Administrative Law	18. Glossary and Credits
	9. Project: Federal Agencies and Their Functions	
	10. Administrative Law and Adjudication	

Unit 4: Global Commerce		
Business Law	Assignments	
	1. Intro to Intellectual Property: Patents	11. Project: The WTO Addresses Criticisms Against the Organization
	2. Project: Developing a Patent	12. International Treaties and the UN, UN Organs and Commissions, and International Courts
	3. Intro to Intellectual Property: Trademarks and Copyrights	13. Project: International Courts and Adjudication
	4. Project: Applying for a Trademark	14. Quiz 2: Globalization and International Law
	5. Electronic Commerce	15. Special Project*
	6. Project: Privacy Issues	16. Test
	7. Quiz 1: Intellectual Property and E-Commerce	17. Course Project – Part 4: Global Commerce*
	8. Globalization and Sources of International Law	18. Glossary and Credits
	9. Project: Look Up a Treaty	
	10. International Trade, GATT and the WTO	
Unit 5: Protections and Resolutions		
Business Law	Assignments	
	1. Consumer Law	11. Project: Create an Employment Dispute and Resolve it through Arbitration
	2. Project: Consumer Protection in Action	12. Career Opportunities in Business Law
	3. Environmental Law	13. Project: Career Assessment
	4. Project: Global Issues: The Future We Want?	14. Quiz 2: Dispute Resolution and Alternative Dispute Resolution
	5. Business Protection (Bankruptcy)	15. Special Project*
	6. Project: Bankrupt Your Business	16. Test
	7. Quiz 1: Consumer Law, Environmental Law And Bankruptcy Law	17. Course Project – Part 5: Protections and Resolutions*
	8. Dispute Resolution	18. Glossary and Credits
	9. Project: Create a Business Dispute and Resolve It	
	10. Alternative Dispute Resolution	
Unit 6: Course Review, and Exam		
BL	Assignments	
	1. Course Project – Part 6: Pitching Your Product	2. Review
		3. Exam

(*) Indicates alternative assignment