NEW

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

BUSI 131 – Business Law I

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: BUSI 131 – Business Law I

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2019

D. Effective Term: Fall 2019

E. Sponsoring Department: Business & Public Service

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3.0 Lecture: 3.0

Laboratory: 0.0

Out of class student work per week: 6.0

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Anne Marie Anderson, <u>annemarie.anderson@raritanval.edu</u>, Patrice Marks, <u>Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu</u>

II. Catalog Description

This course is an introduction to the study of law as it relates to society with special emphasis on business applications. General areas covered include: an overview of law, court systems and procedure, alternative dispute resolution, torts, and contracts. This course is also based on a broader premise that the law is worthy of the study and respect of all educated persons irrespective of discipline. Service Learning opportunities offered.

III. Statement of Course Need

- **A.** This course is an essential element in both transfer and career degree programs since it provides students with a functional familiarity with some major legal principles affecting business persons and business transactions. In addition, Business Law I familiarizes students with a legal vocabulary and enables them to navigate within our complex legal system.
- **B.** No lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a business program requirement or as an elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for AS in Business Administration, all options, AAS in Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Business Management, all options, and Paralegal Studies, and CPA and Event Planning/Meeting Management Certificates
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. The Legal Environment of Business
 - 1. Sources of Law
 - 2. Judicial Process
 - 3. Litigation Process and Alternatives
- B. Torts and Crimes
- C. Contracts and E-Contracts
 - 1. Offer
 - 2. Acceptance
 - 3. Consideration
 - 4. Capacity
 - 5. Legality
 - 6. Mutual Assent
 - 7. Statute of Frauds
 - 8. Third Party Rights
 - 9. Performance, Breach and Discharge

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze actual cases and hypotheticals using legal analysis. (GE-NJ *)

2. Apply problem solving and decision making skills to resolve legal issues. (GE-NJ *)

(* embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Explain the major legal principles in contract law.
- 2. Differentiate between common law and statutory law and between the federal and state court systems.
- 3. Demonstrate command of the New Jersey court system/structure.
- 4. Analyze actual cases as well as hypotheticals (case problems).
- 5. Solve legal problems by recognizing legal issues and applying the applicable law to a given set of facts in order to reach a reasonable solution.

C. Assessment Instruments

- 1. Examinations
- 2. Research Papers
- 3. Presentations
- 4. Journals
- 5. Video Production
- 6. Case analyses
- 7. Mock Trial and Hearing

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Examinations
- B. Research Papers
- C. Presentations
- D. Journals
- E. Video Production
- F. Case analyses
- G. Mock Trial and Hearing
- H. Attendance
- I. Participation

Methods for teaching and learning:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. simulation/role playing
- E. student collaboration

VIII. Texts and Materials

Textbook: Kubasek, N. et. al., Dynamic Business Law, McGraw Hill, 4th edition

Open Textbooks: Business Law and the Legal Environment, Don Mayer, University of Miami, Daniel Warner, Western Washington University, and George Siedel, University of Michigan Business School/New York Law School. The text was originally published by Flat World Knowledge, 2012, and can be accessed under creative commons license at https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/BookDetail.aspx?bookId=273.

This text is now published by Saylor Academy and can be found here: https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_business-law-and-the-legal-environment-v1.0-a/

A reading on Alternative Dispute Resolution is taken from The Legal Environment of Business, Mayer, Warner, Siedel and Joseph Lieberman, New York Law School. This text was published by Flat World Knowledge, 2013, and can be accessed under creative commons license at

http://www.saylor.org/site/textbooks/The % 20 Legal % 20 and % 20 Ethical % 20 Environment % 20 of % 20 Business.pdf.

This text is now published by Saylor Academy.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

This course will require access to a computer with audio capability. The course will require the use of a CATT room.

X. Honors Options

<u>Definition</u>: According to the Honors Council, an Honors course is one that enriches and challenges students beyond a course's regular scope and curriculum. An Honors course will offer a sophisticated use of research, introduce intellectually stimulating readings and critical perspectives, promote a higher level of critical discussion and written work, and encourage independent study projects, at the option of the instructor.

Business Law I introduces students to the American Legal System and provides students with an in-depth look at the law of contracts. At the culmination of the semester, the student will produce a research paper on an emerging topic in the area of contract law, of which there are many options, including topics at the intersection of law and technology. In addition, they will conduct an informative discussion with the class about their

research and their findings, and/or present their topic to another campus audience.

A. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes:

General Education Outcomes

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Analyze actual cases and hypotheticals using legal analysis. (GE-NJ *)
- 2. Apply problem solving and decision making skills to resolve legal issues. (GE-NJ *)
- 3. (Honors Only) Produce written documents which include legal analysis. (GE-1)

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Explain the major legal principles in contract law.
- 2. Differentiate between common law and statutory law and between the federal and state court systems.
- 3. Demonstrate command of the New Jersey court system/structure.
- 4. Analyze actual cases as well as hypotheticals (case problems).
- 5. Solve legal problems by recognizing legal issues and applying the applicable law to a given set of facts in order to reach a reasonable solution.
- 6. (Honors Only) Conduct legal research

(* embedded critical thinking)

B. <u>Honors Option Content</u>: The student and the professor will together develop a legal research task for the honor option. The student will identify a topic or topic that the student would like to research from the topical outline above. The professor will then work with the student to develop a legal research task that is pertinent to the topic of the student's interest. Together, the professor and student will determine a deliverable for the research task.

C. Assessment Instruments for Honors Option Work

- 1. Research Papers
- 2. Presentations
- 3. Video Production
- 4. Mock Trial and Hearing
- 5. Posters/Flyers

D. Grade Determinants for Honors Option Work

- 1. Research Papers
- 2. Presentations

- 3. Video Production
- 4. Mock Trial and Hearing5. Posters/Flyers