

**BUSINESS LAW 255 COURSE GUIDE**  
**Legal Environment of Business**

*Text: The Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce – Cheesman – (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*

Primary Objective: To learn the basics of the American Legal System.

Specific Learning Standards emphasized in this course include:

*Critical Thinking:* Analyzes, synthesizes, and evaluates from a wide variety of information sources. Utilizes logic. Recognizes patterns & forms conclusions based on those patterns. Adapts textbook information to real world.

*Creative Problem-Solving:* Is open-minded, flexible and adapts to new ideas. Recognizes and evaluates alternatives.

*Ethics:* Demonstrates knowledge and application of moral & philosophical concepts. Recognizes ethical dilemmas and is aware of diverse answers to ethical problems.

*Global Awareness:* Has awareness and acceptance of cultural differences. Understands the global environment in which organizations operate.

Course Specifics:

6 Quizzes: Basis of Law, Court System, Criminal Law, Torts, Contracts, and Agency

The following indicates the learning objectives in each chapter that should be given the most emphasis in lecture, problem assignments, and testing. Other learning objectives may be covered at the instructor’s discretion. Required Coverage of Chapters: 1,2,7,5,10,11,13

| <i>Chp#</i> | <i>Chapter Title</i>                        | <i>Learning Objectives to be Emphasized</i>   |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1           | Nature of Law and Critical Legal Thinking   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define law and describe the functions of law.</li> <li>• Explain the development of the U.S. legal system.</li> <li>• List and describe the sources of law in the United States.</li> <li>• Describe the international civil law legal system used in some other countries.</li> <li>• <u>Apply critical legal thinking in analyzing judicial decisions.</u></li> </ul>  |
| 2           | Judicial and Alternative Dispute Resolution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe and compare the state court systems and the federal court system.</li> <li>• Explains subject matter jurisdiction and venue of federal and state courts.</li> <li>• Describe the pretrial litigation process.</li> <li>• Describe how a case proceeds through trial and how a trial court decision is appealed.</li> <li>• Explain the use of arbitration and other nonjudicial methods of alternative dispute resolution.</li> </ul> |
| 7           | Business Crimes and Criminal Law            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and list the essential elements of a crime.</li> <li>• Describe criminal procedure, including arrest, indictment, arraignment, and the criminal trial.</li> <li>• Define major white-collar crimes, such as embezzlement, bribery, and criminal fraud.</li> <li>• Explain the constitutional safeguards provided by the</li> </ul>  |

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|    |  | <p>Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and describe laws involving computer and Internet crimes.</li> </ul>   |
| 5  | Negligence and Intentional Torts                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List and describe intentional torts against persons and against property.</li> <li>• List and explain the elements necessary to prove negligence.</li> <li>• Apply special negligence doctrines such as negligence per se, negligent infliction of emotional distress, and res ipsa loquitur.</li> <li>• Describe the business torts of fraud, unfair competition, and disparagement.</li> <li>• Describe and apply the doctrine of strict liability.</li> </ul> |
| 10 | Formation of Traditional and Online Contracts    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List the elements necessary to form a valid contract.</li> <li>• Describe and distinguish among valid, void, voidable, and unenforceable contracts.</li> <li>• Define offer and acceptance.</li> <li>• Define consideration and analyze whether contracts are lacking in consideration.</li> <li>• Identify illegal contracts that are contrary to statutes and that violate public policy.</li> </ul>   |
| 11 | Performance of Contracts and Remedies for Breach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the genuineness of assent.</li> <li>• List and describe the contracts that must be in writing under the Statute of Frauds.</li> <li>• Describe the performance of a contract.</li> <li>• Describe compensatory, consequential, and liquidated damages.</li> <li>• Define the equitable remedies of specific performance, quasi-contract, and injunction.</li> </ul>  |
| 13 | Agency Law                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define agency.</li> <li>• Identify and define a principal-independent contractor relationship.</li> <li>• List and describe the agent's duties to the principal and the principal's duties to the agent.</li> <li>• Describe the principal's and agent's liability on third-party contracts.</li> <li>• Identify and describe the principal's liability for the tortious conduct of an agent.</li> </ul>   |