

Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: BUAD 201

Year: 2025-2026

Course Title: Business Law I

Credit Hours: 3

I. Course Description:

This is an introduction to law which covers the basic origins, structure, procedures, and terminology of the American legal system and the foundation of law. This course enables students to understand legal aspects of common business activities, to become aware of potentially serious legal situations, and learn legal terminology to facilitate discussion of legal issues. Topics include legal procedure, constitutional law, torts, and criminal law, with significant emphasis on contract law. Prerequisites: Prior completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, ENGL 101; RDNG 116 if required by placement assessment. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall, spring, and summer semesters.

II. Additional Course Information:

1. This course is offered in both classroom and online formats.
2. This course uses Open Educational Resource (OER) materials – for most sections, no textbook purchase is required.
3. BUAD 201 is a required course for the following programs: Accounting AS, Accounting AAS, Business Administration AS, Business Administration AAS, Business Management Certificate, Entrepreneurship AAS, International Business AS, Paralegal AAS, and Paralegal Studies Certificate.
4. BUAD 201 is a course option to fulfill the BUAD requirement for the Construction and Environmental Technology AAS.
5. For other programs, BUAD 201 can be used as an Unrestricted Elective.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic structure of the US legal system.
2. Communicate legal concepts and procedures in written form.
3. Discuss legal problems and issues that arise in complex factual situations and apply proper legal concepts, distinguishing relevant information from irrelevant information.
4. Apply legal concepts and rules to unfamiliar as well as familiar situations.

IV. Tompkins Cortland General Education & SUNY Competency Goals

☒ Critical thinking (Tompkins Cortland GE Goal; SUNY Competency)

Students will learn to critically read and digest legal information from cases and other primary legal sources, and develop skills that require the acquisition, understanding, and application of legal knowledge.

☒ Social/Global Awareness

Students will become more aware of social issues by reviewing related legal issues throughout the semester. Almost all facets of American society and societal rights are reflected in the legal system.

☐ Information Management

☐ This course does not address either of these Tompkins Cortland or SUNY General Education Goals.

V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Introduction to the American Legal System and Courts
2. The US Constitution
3. Torts
4. Criminal Law
5. Contracts- Introduction, Elements, Consideration, Capacity
6. Contracts- Assent, Legality, 3 rd Party Rights, Performance & Remedies

VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Assignments (generally weekly, typically best 10 of 13 assignments)	30-70%
2. Exams (typically best 3 of 4)	30-50%
3. Participation	0-20%
4. Other (e.g. in-class projects, oral presentations, case briefs)	0-30%

VII. Texts – Required*

NOTE: Use each of the OER texts for different topic coverage; use either when both have the same material
1. OER- Open resource: Saylor.org: <i>Business Law and the Legal Environment</i> - download entire text from: https://resources.saylor.org/wwwresources/archived/site/textbooks/Business%20Law%20and%20the%20Legal%20Environment.pdf
2. OER- Open resource: Saylor.org: <i>Advanced Business Law and the Legal Environment</i> - download entire text from https://resources.saylor.org/wwwresources/archived/site/textbooks/Advanced%20Business%20Law%20and%20the%20Legal%20Environment.pdf
* Until all sections can access OER, sections should use the pre-OER text: Clarkson, Miller, & Cross. <i>Business Law: Text and Cases: Legal, Ethical, Global, and Corporate Environment</i> . 12 th ed., 2010, Cengage.

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Cheeseman, H.R. <i>Business Law</i> . 8th ed., 2014. Prentice Hall.
2. Clarkson, Miller, & Cross. <i>Business Law: Text and Cases: Legal, Ethical, Global, and Corporate Environment</i> . 14 th ed., 2018, Cengage.
3. Miller, Roger LeRoy. <i>Business Law Today: The Essentials</i> . 12 th ed., 2019, Cengage.

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

IX. Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual: None specified

Electronic:

- Legal Information Institute [LII]
- Cornell Law School
- Online statutes from all jurisdictions, US Supreme Court Cases, other free online legal information

Other: None specified

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Academic Integrity: *Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of his or her academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.*

Any written work submitted by a student must be his or her own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, he or she must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.