

**STUDENT COURSE OUTLINE
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF BUSINESS, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
LEGAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

INSTRUCTOR:
OFFICE ROOM #
COURSE TITLE:

TELEPHONE:
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

CREDITS & HRS: 3 credits (3 lec.)

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE

DESCRIPTION: **LGL-101 Fundamentals of Law** is an introduction to the principles of substantive law in the fields of contracts, torts, and business organizations.

TEXTBOOK: *Introduction to Law for Paralegals*. Currier and Eimermann, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, Aspen College Series, New York (2012 5th or most recent edition).

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS: Legal Memo – Examination of the duties and responsibilities of the paraprofessional in the legal workplace environment with specific examination of attorney client relationship.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Introduce students to the fields of law. This course shall include discussion regarding the role of the paralegal and legal nurse consultant; the market, the duties and responsibilities and relationship of the paraprofessional with the attorney.

Measure:

A. The instructor will distribute current articles relating to the above topic for the student to read and understand.

B. Students are required to view the films “My Cousin Vinnie” and “Erin Brokovich” (on reserve in the Library) and write a report on how each film demonstrates the duties and responsibilities of a paralegal/paraprofessional and how it benefits the lawyer.

2. Provide a foundation in substantive law so that the student is prepared for advanced courses in the Paralegal and Legal Nurse Consultant Programs Curriculum. (All Sections)

A. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, interpret

and apply principles of fields of substantive law to client's cases. (All Sections)

Measure: Students will solve essay questions on exams that requires students to interpret and apply laws to hypothetical legal problems.

Standards (As applying to all Learning Objectives): Students will take 3 exams given at intervals in the course. At least 70% of all students will receive an average of "70" or better on these examinations.

COURSE CONTENT:

	<u>SESSION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SECTION (S)</u>
(3 hrs)	1	Paralegals and the American Legal System; Introduction to the Paralegal and Legal Nurse Consultant Careers – Academic, Curricular and Practical; Licensure, Certification; Opportunities	View "My Cousin Vinnie" and "Erin Brokovich" and prepare a 2 page memo on each film; see also Ch2 and 11
(3 hrs)	2	The Role and Importance of the Paralegal/Legal Nurse Consultant and other non-attorney legal professionals; Introduction to the Study of Law – Rules of Professional Responsibility (RPC's)	Ch 1-2 plus Lecture review and discuss film
(3 hrs)	3	Introduction to the Study of Law - Functions and sources of law, classification of the law	Ch 3-4
(3 hrs)	4	Structure of the court system Federal, State, Administrative, Trial v. Appellate Administrative, Limited Jurisdiction	Ch 5
(3 hrs)	5	Civil Litigation and Alternatives: ADR's, lawsuits	Ch 6
(1.5 hrs)	6	Torts – Intentional Torts, Negligence	Ch 12
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(1.5 hrs)	7	Contract Law – UCC, Types of Contracts	Ch 13
(1.0 hr)	7	Test #1	

COURSE CONTENT:

(CONTINUED)

	<u>SESSION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SECTION (S)</u>
(1.5 hrs)	7	Elements of a Binding Contract: Offer and Acceptance	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	8	Contracts - Consideration	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	8	Contracts - Interpretation	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	9	Contracts – Defenses to Valid Contract	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	9	Contracts – Termination of Contractual Duties	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	10	Contracts – Third Party Rights	Ch 13
(1.5 hrs)	10	Contracts – Damages Midterm Review	Ch 13
(1 hr)	11	Contracts – Drafting and Reviewing Contracts	Ch 13
(1 hr)	11	Midterm	None
(1 hr)	11	Property and Estate Law – Real Property	Ch 14
(1.5 hrs)	12	Property and Estate Law – Estate Law and Planning	Ch 14
(1.5 hrs)	12	Laws Affecting Businesses – Basic Business Forms: Review for Mid-term	Ch 15
(1 hr)	13	Laws Affecting Businesses – Borrowing Money, Agency Law, Employment Law	Ch 15
(1 hr)	13	Family Law; Marriage, Parent/Child Relationship	Ch 16
(1 hr)	13	Criminal Law	Ch 17
(1.5 hr)	14	Criminal Procedure	Ch 17
(1.5 hr)	14	Summary and Review for Final Exam	
	15	Final Examination	

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

There will be one 60-minute test during the semester, which will count 20% of grade. There will also be a 60-minute mid-term, which will count 35% of the student's grade and a 60-minute final examination, which will count 35% of the student's grade. The mid-term will be cumulative from the beginning of the course and the final will be cumulative from the mid-term to the end of the course. Homework assignments will count 10% of grade (which shall include the memorandum on the films). Attendance shall be taken at each session and is subject to the rules of the College.

EXAMINATION POLICY: If you miss a scheduled exam, you must take a make-up and be prepared to take the exam by the first class after which the exam was administered. You will take the make-up exam on or before the day you return to class after missing the exam. Failure to do so will be a grade of "0" (failure) on the exam. You are only allowed one missed exam. A second missed exam will be a grade of "F" for the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course requires attendance and class participation to understand the important legal concepts discussed in class. You are permitted 2 absences. Arriving at class 30 minutes or more after the start of the class is an absence. Your third (or more) absence results in a grade of "F" for this course.

FACULTY ABSENCE PROCEDURE: IMPORTANT

A daily listing will appear in the glass case located in the front lobby of the main building (administrative wing) and in the Evening Office (across from the bookstore), which will indicate all classes which are canceled. Another listing will appear in the glass case adjacent to the Hotel/Restaurant bulletin board in the Ender Hall Building. Students should consult these bulletin boards or the college website before going to class. If such a class does not appear on the day's cancellation notice, this information should be conveyed either to the Evening & Saturday Office (across the hall from bookstore – Room) or the Department Office (W-225).

SUBMISSION OF LATE PROJECTS SHALL BE ASSESSED A QUARTER GRADE PENALTY FOR EACH DATE THAT THE PROJECT IS LATE. ALL PROJECTS (INCLUDING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND ALL TESTS/EXAMS) MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SEMESTER'S END FOR THE STUDENT TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE COURSE. IF ALL PROJECTS ARE NOT SUBMITTED BY THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE, STUDENT SHALL RECEIVE AN "F" GRADE FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SUBMITTED.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR COURSE CREDIT AS ASSIGNED AND REQUIRED BY THE PROFESSOR.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: MAY BE PROVIDED BY PROFESSOR IN BOOKLET AND HANDOUT FORM. EACH STUDENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING A COPY OF THESE

MATERIALS AND THE COMPREHENSION OF THESE MATERIALS.

CELL PHONES and CLASS RECORDING: CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN CLASS. CELL PHONES SHOULD BE OUT OF SIGHT AND EITHER TURNED OFF OR ON VIBRATE MODE. RECORDING OF CLASS LECTURE IS PROHIBITED. RECORDING AND TAKING OF PICTURES IN CLASS IS ALSO PROHIBITED.

LEGAL STUDIES NOTE: THIS COURSE IS CONSIDERED A LEGAL SPECIALTY COURSE. ALL LEGAL STUDIES STUDENTS MUST ATTAIN A “C” GRADE OR BETTER IN ALL LEGAL SPECIALTY COURSES AS A PREREQUISITE TO REGISTERING FOR REQUIRED COOP COURSE (LGL-462).

CLASS CONDUCT: STUDENTS ARE BOUND BY AND SUBJECT TO THE BCC CONDUCT RULES.