

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix/No:	LEG 125
Course Title:	Introduction to the Legal System
Lec Hours/Week:	3.0
Lab Hours/Week:	0.0
Credit Hours/Semester:	3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)

[Textbook Information](#)

Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to laws that affect them in their professional and personal lives including contract, tort, family, criminal, administrative and property law. The student will also learn methods of resolving disputes through trial procedures and alternative dispute resolutions.

Course Competencies

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be competent to complete the following tasks:

Module 1 – BASIS AND STRUCTURE OF AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

- Describe the history of the American legal system
- Define the historical and current structure of the American legal system
- Discuss the structure, role, and functions of the courts in the American legal system
- Outline the legislative process from conception to judicial review
- Explain the structure, role, and functions of the executive branch in the American legal system
- Recognize the actors within the American legal system, their duties, and the knowledge necessary to perform each role
- Discuss the interplay of law and ethics
- Identify ethical standards for legal professionals and the repercussions of violating ethical standards

Module 2 - PROCEDURE VS. SUBSTANCE IN THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

- Define the difference between civil and criminal law
- Discuss the difference between substantive and procedural law
- Describe the application of civil procedural law to pre-trial matters, trials, alternative methods of dispute resolution, evidence, and appeals
- Explain the procedures and substantive laws for determining the proper court to exercise jurisdiction over cases and controversies

Module 3 - LAWS AFFECTING OUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES

- Describe the fundamental concepts of contract law, including the elements of a valid contract, third party involvement, problems with contracts, and actions regarding breaches of contract
- Discuss property law, including the laws applicable surrounding real and personal property
- Outline the tenets of tort law, including negligence, strict liability, intentional torts, product liability, employment and torts, defenses, and damages

- Define business law relationships, including agency, sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations and how each operate
- Explain the law as it relates to probate and estates, including inheritance, valid wills, and contesting wills
- Discuss the primary concepts of criminal law and procedure
- Explain family law concepts relating to divorce, property division, and custody

MINIMAL STANDARDS

Minimal standards of performance on all course competencies for receiving credit for the course are indicated by 60% overall accuracy on evaluation instruments that address the course competencies listed above.

Required standards of performance on all course competencies for enrollment in subsequent higher-level legal courses are indicated by 70% overall accuracy on evaluation instruments that address the course competencies listed above.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for attending all scheduled class meetings until they have completed all course assignments made in all classes. Students who are absent from a class more than 20% of the hours assigned will be withdrawn. Any student caught cheating or involved in other academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING

Module 1

Test(s) – 25% of final average

Homework/Quizzes/Class Participation – 8.333% of final average

Module 2

Test(s) – 25% of final average

Homework/Quizzes/Class Participation – 8.333% of final average

Module 3

Test(s) – 25% of final average

Homework/Quizzes/Class Participation – 8.333% of final average

Grading Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60- 69	D
Below 60	F

Prerequisites: RDG 100 and ENG 100 – minimum grades of “C”

Co-requisites: None