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: Fall  Year: 2017

D. Effective Term: Spring 2018

E. Sponsoring Department: Business and Public Service

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3  Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0
   Out of class student work per week: 6

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, annemarie.anderson@raritanval.edu, Terence Lynn Terence.Lynn@raritanval.edu

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, AAS in Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Business Management, 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 hearings
H. Participation
I. Attendance

Modes of 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


Open Textbooks:


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%20Legal%20and%20Ethical%20Environment%20of%20Business.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 Option

NA