

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
COURSE SYLLABUS

FACULTY MEMBER:

TERM:

COURSE TITLE: American Legal History

COURSE NUMBER: LES 213

OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT:

Technical Requirements that may be required to utilize technology in this course:

A headset or microphone.

A webcam.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the American legal system from the founding of the government of the United States of America to the system of laws that exists today. The main focus of the course is on laws and the courts and the tremendous impact of the rule of law that has developed during the last century.

MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A: Understand the development of law in America from colonial establishment to the Revolution

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

A-1 Identify the role that specific legal documents played in early American democracy: Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, the English Bill of Rights, the Stamp Act,

B-1 Discuss the ideological, social, economic, and political compromises that formed the basis of the U.S. Constitution

B-2 Identify some of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

B-3 Describe the growth of federal judicial power following the ratification of the Constitution in 1787.

B-4 Summarize Marbury v. Madison and explain its impact on the role of the federal judiciary

GOAL C: Understand the expansion of American law and its impact on the economy

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

C-1 Describe the advantages and disadvantages to the distributive governmental activities that resulted in unprecedented economic development in the early 19th century

C-2 Explain the impact that technology and urbanization had on the growth of tort law

C-3 Explain the significance that Gibbons v. Ogden had on interstate commerce

C-4 Describe the impact that McCulloch v. Maryland had on the concept of federalism

GOAL D: Understand the legal, political, and constitutional ramifications of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and segregation

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

D-

E-3 Discuss the treatment of Chinese and Latinos under the law in the 19th century

E-4 Describe some of the changes in the laws affecting women and domestic relations

GOAL F: Understand the transformation in individual rights during the 20th

Weekly Assignment (Weeks 1-7)	10	70
Discussions (Weeks 1-7)	20	140
Final Exam	100	100
	TOTAL:	660

Undergraduate Grading System

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 [Chapters 1 & 2]: Origins of American Law from 1215-1815

Week 2 [Chapter 3]: America Develops into the Active State 1812-1870

Week 3 [Chapters 4 & 5]: Crime Gender Race and Slavery 1800-1900

Week 4 [Chapter 6]: Rise of the Regulatory State 1850-1920

Week 5 [Chapter 7 and 8]: Liberty at War and Under Economic Distress 1900-1945

Week 6 [Chapter 9]: Civil Liberty and Civil Rights

Week 7 [Chapters 10 and 11]: Current Challenges and Future Developments