SYLLABUS

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 02/2013
CIP CODE: 22.0302
SEMESTER: Departmental Syllabus
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Law
COURSE NUMBER: PRLG-0121
CREDIT HOURS: 3
INSTRUCTOR: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE LOCATION: Departmental Syllabus
OFFICE HOURS: Departmental Syllabus
TELEPHONE: Departmental Syllabus
EMAIL: KCKCC- "issued email accounts are the official means for electronically communicating with our students."
PREREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS: Please check with the KCKCC bookstore, http://www.kckccbookstore.com/, for the required texts for your particular class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This introductory study of the legal system covers the nature and functions of law and the operation and structure of state and federal court systems and administrative agencies. Surveys the major areas of substantive law. Appropriate for students with a general interest in the law.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.
COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Paralegals
   A. Training
   B. Schools
   C. Duties & Restrictions

II. Lawyers
   A. Law School
   B. License to Practice
   C. Bar Exam
   D. Duties

III. Ethics
   A. History
   B. Model Code
   C. Codes for Legal Assistants
   D. Disclosure
   E. Unauthorized Practice of Law
   F. Conflicts of Interest

IV. Sources of Law: Cases
   A. Common Law
   B. Stare Decisis
   C. Adjudication v. Legislation

V. Legislation
   A. Legislative Process
   B. Judicial Invalidation/ Judicial Deference
   C. Statutory Interpretation
   D. Precedent

VI. Trial and Appellate Courts

VII. State and Federal Courts

VIII. Civil Procedure
   A. Jurisdiction
   B. Pleadings
   C. Discovery
   D. Trial Procedure
   E. Rules of Evidence
   F. Motions

IX. Criminal Procedure

X. Substantive Areas of Law
   A. Criminal Law
   B. Torts
   C. Contracts
   D. Commercial Law
   E. Property
   F. Family Law

XI. Administrative Law & Procedure

XII. Law in the Age of Computers
A. Future Trends  
B. Alternative Dispute Resolution  
C. Law Office Automation  
D. Introduction to Kansas Case Base  
(Research software utilizing CD ROM technology on 486 PC's)

EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:

A. The student shall be able to describe the structure of the American Legal System.  
B. The student shall be able to explain various substantive and procedural issues.  
C. The student shall be able to make jurisdictional determinations.  
D. The student shall be able to define and discuss the covered substantive areas of law.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The student shall be able to describe the structure of the American Legal System.  
1. The student shall be able to explain the function of each branch of government.  
2. The student shall be able to distinguish common law and statutes.  
3. The student shall be able to discuss how precedent and stare decisis are used in our legal system.  
4. The student shall be able to describe the functions of trial and appellate courts.  
5. The student shall be able to distinguish the federal court system and the state court system.  
6. The student shall be able to describe the process of legislation.  
7. The student shall be able to explain the function and purpose of an administrative agency.

The student shall be able to explain various substantive and procedural issues.  
8. The student shall be able to distinguish substantive law from procedural law.  
9. The student shall be able to explain the difference between a jury trial and a bench trial.  
10. The student shall be able to describe each stage of trial.  
11. The student shall be able to explain the purpose of the rules of evidence.  
12. The student shall be able to explain the exceptions to the rules of evidence.

The student shall be able to make jurisdictional determinations.  
13. The student shall be able to distinguish in personam, in rem and quasi in rem jurisdiction.  
14. The student shall be able to describe subject matter jurisdiction.  
15. The student shall be able to identify the conditions to establish federal jurisdiction.  
16. The student shall be able to explain how the domicile of a corporation is determined.  
17. The student shall be able to discuss the doctrine of forum non conveniens.

The student shall be able to define and discuss the covered substantive areas of law.  
Contracts  
18. The student shall be able to identify the elements of a valid contract.  
19. The student shall be able to explain the various types of damages and remedies.
20. The student shall be able to define the statute of frauds and discuss its application.

Property
21. The student shall be able to distinguish real property and personal property.
22. The student shall be able to explain basic obligations of landlords and tenants.
23. The student shall be able to describe the various types of multiple ownership.

Torts
24. The student shall be able to distinguish negligence, intentional torts, strict liability.
25. The student shall be able to explain the most common defenses available in a tort action.
26. The student shall be able to list the elements of assault, battery, false imprisonment, fraud, defamation, emotional distress, and negligence.

Estates and Probate
27. The student shall be able to list the requirements of a valid will.
28. The student shall be able to explain the grounds for contesting a will.
29. The student shall be able to distinguish testate from intestate distribution.

Criminal Law
30. The student shall be able to distinguish actus reus and mens rea.
31. The student shall be able to identify the parties to crime.
32. The student shall be able to explain justifiable and excusable conduct.
33. The student shall be able to list the types of homicide.
34. The student shall be able to explain the concept of double jeopardy.
35. The student shall be able to explain the constitutional rights of the accused.

Family Law
36. The student shall be able to list the requirements of a valid marriage.
37. The student shall be able to discuss the rights of cohabitating partners.
38. The student shall be able to explain the function of the courts in custody issues.
39. The student shall be able to describe the concept of no-fault divorce.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNER OUTCOMES:
Assessment methods will include the following:
Major Exams
Quizzes
Homework, attendance, and class participation.

GRADING: The grade for the course is based on total points possible using the following scale:

90-100%   A
80-89      B
70-79      C
60-69      D
Below 60   F
SPECIAL NOTES:
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is intended to provide an outline of the course and rules that the instructor will adhere to in evaluating the student’s progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome any time.

Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to an appreciation of diversity with respect for the differences among the diverse groups comprising our students, faculty, and staff that is free of bigotry and discrimination. Kansas City Kansas Community College is committed to providing a multicultural education and environment that reflects and respects diversity and that seeks to increase understanding.

Kansas City Kansas Community College offers equal educational opportunity to all students as well as serving as an equal opportunity employer for all personnel. Various laws, including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require the college’s policy on non-discrimination be administered without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical handicap, or veteran status and that such policy be made known.

*Kansas City Kansas Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodations due to a documented disability, please contact Director of Academic Resource Center, in Room 3354 or call (913) 288-7670.*
Kansas City Kansas Community College

21st Century General Education Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

Discipline knowledge and content mastery is expected of all graduates. More specifically, KCKCC is committed to the Learning Outcomes listed below. We believe that competence in the Learning Outcomes is essential for the success of graduates and will enhance their ability to become contributing members of our increasingly complex world. These areas of knowledge and skills are equally valid for all KCKCC graduates, whether they transfer to a four–year college or pursue a career after leaving college.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Communication Learning Outcomes

The learner will have the ability to express, interpret, and modify ideas/information effectively (both written and oral), including but not limited to reading text accurately and correctly; writing with a clear purpose and effective organization; speaking effectively using appropriate styles that suit the message, purpose, and content; and employing active listening techniques.

Computation Learning Outcomes

The learner will have the ability to understand and apply mathematical concepts and reasoning using numerical data.

Critical Reasoning Learning Outcomes

The learner will understand inductive and deductive reasoning and have the ability to define problems and use data (qualitative and quantitative) to make complex decisions utilizing analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

Technology and Information Management Learning Outcomes

The learner will have the ability to define, collect, organize, analyze, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. The learner will also have the ability to understand basic technology concepts and functionality in order to use technology as a tool to locate and retrieve information.
Community and Civil Responsibility Learning Outcomes
The learner will demonstrate knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse ideas, values, and perspectives of a culturally diverse world; an understanding of the ethical issues and values that are prerequisites for making sound judgments and decisions; a recognition of the obligation to become actively involved as a contributing member of the community; and a sensitivity to the awareness of aesthetic expression.

Personal and interpersonal Skills Learning Outcomes
The learner will have the ability to work cooperatively and productively with others; to understand and evaluate his/her capabilities; to manage his/her personal growth by setting realistic and appropriate goals.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES

Know your teacher’s name.

Turn off your electronic devices in class/make paying attention to the work of the class your only concern.

Miss class only when you cannot attend/acquire missed information and materials ASAP.

Know your syllabus.

Know the attendance policy.

Know the requirements for tests and assignments.

Know information about final exam and make-up exams.

Know instructor’s position on use of Wikipedia or other online sources.

Know the instructor’s preferred writing style (APA, MLA, etc.).

Always know your grade.

Contact your teacher ASAP with concerns or questions.

Know the benefits of the academic resource center.
Know if your course has a practicum, service learning component, or other exception.

Use an academic planner.

Know the course withdrawal policy.

Know your instructor’s office hours and make appointments when necessary.

Know the school’s scholastic honesty policy.

Be familiar with the course learning objectives, course competencies, and the college’s 21st century learning outcomes for general education.