



COURSE SYLLABUS

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL Program office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in the courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student's preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount your time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

1. Attend every class session. Be on time.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the first class session.
3. Complete the first assignment prior to the first class session and all subsequent assignments to the best of your ability.
4. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.

If you cannot perform these four expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course. We look forward to your academic success in each course and the ultimate completion of your degree.

Course No. & Title: PSCI 233 WB1, Intro. To U.S. Legal System

Semester and Term: Spring 2014

Day and Dates: Thursdays, 1/16/14 – 2/13/2014

Time: 6pm – 10pm

Campus Location: Waterbury

Course Description:

This course will offer a comprehensive overview of the U.S. legal system, including an overview of legal practice sources and techniques with emphasis on the major substantive areas of the law. Students will begin by examining issues in constitutional law, with an overview of how government functions and how laws are made. A legal writing segment of the course will allow students to use legal analysis while refining their writing skills.

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Code: CJ-C, LA, SsC, SS

Instructor & Contact Information:

Name: Attorney Dawn M. Bradanini

E-mail: dbradani@bridgeport.edu

Required Textbook:

1. *An Introduction to the Legal System of the United States* by E. Allan Farnsworth
Fourth Edition ISBN: '9780199733101

2. The Constitution of the United States

The Constitution of the United States is available at:

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.overview.html>

To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at <http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/>
Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Identify the philosophical principles that are the basis of the US legal system.
- Explain how these principles are expressed in the US Constitution and legal system.
- Describe these areas of US law: civil procedure, torts, contracts, and criminal law and procedure.
- Recognize common legal issues that arise in personal and business life.

First Assignment Prior to the First Class:

Read the following chapters. Write/type a one page paper summarizing the chapter of your choice from the three below. This assignment will be graded as part of your participation.

Historical Background – Chapter 1 p. 1-14, Legal Education – Chapter 2 p. 15-22

Legal Profession – Chapter 3 p. 23-36

Assignments:

NOTE: THE COURSE OUTLINE HAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION. MANY TIMES WE COVER A LARGE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. I HAVE PUT THE PAGE NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH CHAPTER. NOTE: Chapters are not always in order!

*******Chapters should be “reviewed” PRIOR to each class.*******

WEEK 1: JANUARY 16, 2014

Introduction. Course Overview. Distribution of Materials.

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Historical Background – Chapter 1 p. 1-14

Legal Education – Chapter 2 p. 15-22

Legal Profession – Chapter 3 p. 23-36

WEEK 2: JANUARY 23, 2014 (CANVAS-DISCUSSION BOARD)

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Judicial System – Chapter 4 p. 37-46

Legislative System – Chapter 6 p. 61-72

*Possible Guest Speaker anticipated

WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 6, 2014

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Case Law – Chapter 5 p. 47-60

Part Two: Organization and Substance

Classifications - Chapter 9 p. 91-98

Procedure - Chapter 10 p. 99-119

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 13, 2014 (CANVAS-DISCUSSION BOARD)

Part Two: Organization and Substance

Private Law – Chapter 11 p. 121-146

Public Law – Chapter 12 p. 147-170

WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Statutes – Chapter 7 p. 73-82

Secondary Authority - Chapter 8 p. 83-90

****The instructor reserves the right to adjust dates/chapters to compensate for any unforeseen changes.**

Description of Weekly Sessions:

Class sessions will be devoted to reviewing assigned reading materials, examining key concepts and involving constructive participation for the in class discussions. Important material, not always presented in the textbook, will be incorporated into class lectures. Electronic devices such as cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom.

Grading Criteria:

Your final grade will be comprised of several quizzes worth 40 points, class participation worth 20 points, in-class presentation worth 20 points and a writing assignment worth 20 points (see below).

Grading: Point System

Quizzes:	40 points
Participation/Board:	20 points
Presentation:	20 points
Writing Assignment:	<u>20 points</u>
	100 points*

***5 points will be added directly to your lowest quiz if you write a summary on a current news article that discusses a topic related to our course material. You then should be prepared to discuss the article in class.**

Quiz Format: The quizzes may be “closed book” or “open book” which will require you to incorporate the material discussed in class. The quiz format may consist of essay, multiple choice, true/false or any combination. Generally, at the start of each class session, you will be given a quiz covering the subject matter for the prior session. The final quiz of the term will be more in depth covering all the material from the term.

Class Participation/Discussion Board:

Class participation is 20 points of the overall grade. Class participation will be derived from an assessment as to involvement in the course material. It is not solely based on speaking in class. Hopefully students will feel comfortable to speak, since the class will only benefit from various perspectives. However, students will have other means of demonstrating involvement in the course objective, including:

- Regular Class Attendance;
- Involvement in Group Discussions;
- Satisfactory completion of in-class exercises; and
- Completion of Homework Assignments

Discussion Board: This class will utilize Canvas on a regular basis. During the weeks indicated I will post discussion question(s). You are required to log online and answer the question. You will then be required to respond to another student's post of your choice.

Presentation: Each student will be required as a group to present a topic to the class utilizing one visual aid. During the first day of class, groups will be formed and topics will be chosen. You will be required to present on a topic and engage in a question/answer session. Details to follow.

Writing Project: Each student will be given the opportunity to choose a topic and write a paper. This is NOT a research paper. The paper will be 20 points of your final grade. Details of the assignment will be provided during the first day of class. See attached assignment sheet for due dates. No LATE papers will be accepted – No Exceptions – even for good cause.

Course Expectations: Success in the classroom is based upon the same behavior, which is expected of individuals employed in the work environment. Each instructor is expected to deliver a meaningful instruction and each student is expected to commit with honesty and preparation. The instructor's responsibility will include, class preparation; respect; student assistance; meaningful, clear and concise assignments; and prompt return of grades/assignments. The student's responsibility will include, class preparation; completion of assignments on time; respect towards the instructor as well as others; honesty and appropriate business behavior.

Letter Grading Scale:

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade	% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
100-94	A	76-74	C
93-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-84	B	66-64	D
83-80	B-	63-60	D-
79-77	C+	Below 60	F

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ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to attend all class sessions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student, prior to class, should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments. It is also expected that students arrive on time and not leave until the class is dismissed. Tardiness will result in a reduced grade for the course. If you cannot attend every class session you should consider dropping the course.

IMPORTANT:

- Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of “B” in the course, the final grade would be a “C”).
- Missing two or more class sessions will be cause for a failing grade.
- Note: For 15-week courses; missing two class sessions will result in a letter grade drop and three or more will cause a failing grade.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/>.

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be turned off (or placed on “vibrate”) while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

Academic Dishonesty

The IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn't have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own courses; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site:
http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp> The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. **Online Tutoring** is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account

Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet> - Click on "New UBNet Account" and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at:

<http://www.bridgeport.edu/email> and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Learning Management System (LMS) - Canvas

For all courses that use Canvas, you can access Canvas through the portal by using the myUB link. Faculty post class documents on Canvas e.g. syllabus, power points, discussion questions, case studies, current event articles, papers, reports etc. (save some trees). All students have access, and can download and copy the documents.

Canvas Tutorial For Students: <https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/985903>

For assistance contact the UB Help Desk at 203-576-4606 or email helpdesk@bridgeport.edu
<https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/829447/>

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on “myEureka Digital Library.” Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three locations:

- Bridgeport – 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/library>.
- Stamford – Room D; Check open hours at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford>
- Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: <http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury>

Course Cancellations

Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under “Latest News” on the UB home page, (www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport Campus Security	(203) 576-4911	ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu

Bursar	(203) 576-4692	bursar@bridgeport.edu
Cashier	(203) 576-4682	cashier@bridgeport.edu
Financial Aid	(203) 576-4568	sfs@bridgeport.edu
Registrar	(203) 576-4635	registrar@bridgeport.edu
Emergency Notification Phone	(203) 576-4159	
IDEAL Office	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus	Address	Telephone	Email
Bridgeport	126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604	(203) 576-4800	idealinfo@bridgeport.edu
Stamford	5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750	(203) 358-0700	ubstamford@bridgeport.edu
Waterbury	84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705	(203) 573-8501	ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations	http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp
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**To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416.
Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243**

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

- Topic:** You must approve your topic by Week 2. You may choose any topic that is pertinent to our class discussions. I suggest you look at the syllabus for ideas. This paper is not a research assignment. You should **formulate a particular question with regard to your topic**. For example, if you were interested in medical law, you may wish to examine the issue of whether or not human beings should be used for experimentation.
- Format:** 5-7 pages total; typed; double spaced with a 12 font.
- Contents:** 1-2 pages must contain an introduction to your topic. The introduction should include a description of your particular issue. You do not have to complete extensive research however you must include accurate information. The remaining body of your paper will consist of your reflection. Your reflection should include any observations, opinions, advantages, disadvantages, perceptions and conclusions. You should analyze the position you take and discuss the issue thoroughly.
- Due Date:** Your final paper is due Week 5, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** The paper constitutes 20 points of your final grade.

Any questions or concerns please let me know. I look forward to the papers.