



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 course 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. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
- 2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
- 3. Login and participate in your course a minimum of three times per week.
- 4. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
- 5. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
- 6. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.

If you cannot perform these six 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 DL2, Intro. To U.S. Legal System

Semester and Term: Spring 2014 Day and Dates: 3/9/14 - 5/3/14

Time: Online

Campus Location: Distance Learning

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: <u>dbradani@bridgeport.edu</u>

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 chapters below. Prepare a one page paper researching a law school of your choice. Include information such as the location, admission process, tuition price, ranking etc. The paper must be emailed no later than the first day of class!

Historical Background – Chapter 1 p. 1-16 Legal Education – Chapter 2 p. 17-26

Assignments:

MOTE: 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!

WEEK 1: March 9

Introduction. Course Overview.

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Historical Background – Chapter 1 p. 1-16 Legal Education – Chapter 2 p. 17-26

WEEK 2: March 16

Part One: Sources and Techniques

Legal Profession – Chapter 3 p. 27-42 Judicial System – Chapter 4 p. 43-52

WEEK 3: March 23

QUIZ ONE: CHAPTERS 1-4

Legislative System – Chapter 6 p. 69-80

WEEK 4: March 30

Case Law – Chapter 5 p. 53-68

WEEK 5: April 6

Statutes – Chapter 7 p. 81-90 Secondary Authority – Chapter 8 p. 91-100

WEEK 6 April 13

QUIZ TWO: CHAPTERS 5-8

Part Two: Organization and Substance

Classifications – Chapter 9 p. 101-108 Procedure – Chapter 10 p. 109-132

WEEK 7: April 20

Private Law - Chapter 11 p. 133-156

WEEK 8: April 27

QUIZ THREE: CHAPTERS 9-12

Public Law – Chapter 12 p. 163-188

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

Description of Weekly Sessions:

Class sessions will be utilizing Canvas.

Grading Criteria:

Your final grade will be comprised of weekly assignments, quizzes, discussion postings and overall participation.

Discussion Posts: 40%
Quizzes: 15%
Assignments: 25%
Article Assignment: 10%
Overall Participation:10%

Letter Grading Scale:

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
100-94	Α
93-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-84	В
83-80	B-
79-77	C+

% of Points Earned	Letter Grade
76-74	С
73-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-64	D
63-60	D-
Below 60	F

<u>Discussion Posts:</u> In order to receive full credit for the discussion board, you must log on regularly and respond to the current question as well as interact with your classmates. You <u>MUST</u> respond according to the Announcement Instructions. Generally, it is at least two other postings for each question in order to receive full credit. You will be graded on how completely you answer the assigned question and by the quality of your responses to other postings. Remember the bulletin board consists of 40% of your final grade. NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR LATE POSTINGS! PAY VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DUE DATES.

Quizzes: Please see the course outline for the release dates regarding the quizzes. If the Bulletin Board Postings are lacking in overall substance and/or participation, an unannounced quiz will be given at anytime. The quizzes are generally multiple choice and worth 15% of your final grade

<u>Assignments:</u> Various Assignments will be given throughout the term. Details and due dates of each assignment will be posted under the proper Week. The total value of all assignments will be 25% of your final grade.

<u>Missed Assignments/Exams Policy:</u> You are generally given a period of time to complete the assignments/discussion board, etc. I will NOT accept any late work. Therefore, you should pay special attention to release/due dates!

<u>Article Assignment:</u> Each student will be given the opportunity to choose an article relating to a topic of discussion. You must then prepare a two-page paper. The article assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade. Details of the assignment will be discussed in depth during the first week of class. You may also view the assignment on the homepage. See attached course outline for due dates. No LATE papers will be accepted – No Exceptions – even for good cause.

Overall Participation: Overall participation will be derived from an assessment as to involvement in the course material. I have the ability to track each student's participation. Students will also have other means of demonstrating involvement in the course objective, including:

- Involvement in Group Discussions;
- Satisfactory Completion of Class Exercises; and
- Completion of any Assignments.

<u>Attendance Policy:</u> You are required to log on regularly and perform tasks and assignments according to the syllabus. I will NOT accept late assignments, quizzes, bulletin board postings, etc. Failure to complete work accordingly may result in a lower grade.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Course attendance via online participation is an integral part of the online academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments.

IMPORTANT:

- An absence (lack of participation) in any week of the course, 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").
- An absence of two or more weeks will be cause for 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 coworkers 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 <u>without citing his sources</u>. 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 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: <u>http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford</u>
- 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
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Directions to IDEAL Campus locations http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp

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