

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: PL 101: Introduction to the Legal System

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: RD 100, EN 060

Description: This course provides students with an overview of the areas of law typically encountered by a paralegal. Students will learn the basic structure of the legal system, its process, and the fundamental rules of law which govern the citizens. Integrated into the course material is an introduction to legal ethics and its implications to the role of the paralegal and the attorney. Emphasis is also placed on a thorough understanding of the courts and recognition of the structure of the state and federal system in handling matters. Specific areas to be covered include constitutional law, crimes, torts, contracts, and professional responsibility

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the sources, types, and classifications of law.
- Describe the function and jurisdiction of the federal and state court systems
- Explain the basic principles of areas of common law most commonly encountered by the paralegal.
- Identify and apply the rules of professional responsibility in a fact situation.

Topical Outline:

- Introduction to Law
- The Constitution
- The Court System
- Attorney-Client Relationship and Dispute Resolution
- Administrative Law
- Crimes: Public Wrongs
- Torts: Private Wrongs
- Contracts: Enforceable Agreements
- Family Law
- Motor Vehicles and Personal Property
- Renters and Landlords
- Home Ownership
- Employee and Employer Rights and Duties
- Wills, Trusts, and Probate

Text: Carper, Donald, L. & McKinsey, John A. (2012). *Understanding the Law* (7th Eds.). South-Western Cengage Learning: OH.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Tutoring & Project Assist

If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) **BEFORE** withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.