

# Common Course Outline

## LGST 101

### Introduction to Law

3 Credits

## Community College of Baltimore County

### Description

**LGST 101 - Introduction to Law** is a course in which students develop a fundamental understanding of the American legal system from a variety of perspectives, both civil and criminal. Students explore historical information concerning the development of the American legal system and the working structure of our government. Students examine procedural issues in the courts, specific concepts of law, e.g., contract law, property law, etc., the distinctive characteristics of criminal law and procedure, and finally, the roles of various legal professionals and the effect of legal ethics on the practice of law. Students intending to pursue advanced legal courses develop a solid foundation in the American legal system. Students of other disciplines explore the impact of the legal system on their lives and their chosen disciplines.

### 3 Credits

**Prerequisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

### Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyze the emergence of the American legal system from its English Common Law roots, including French influences on the American legal system;
2. compare the development of the American legal system with the legal systems of other industrialized countries, including its impact on various groups in society, such as minorities, women and juveniles;
3. diagram the structure of the current American legal system, and the Maryland court system, using library and on-line resources;
4. explain the differences in various forms of legal authority;
5. research and apply statutory and judicial law to fact patterns using appropriate academic resources;
6. explain the steps of legal analysis in the review of case and statutory law;
7. analyze various positions of a legal argument through a review of case law and case briefs;
8. evaluate jurisdiction on the state and federal levels;
9. explain the pre-trial, trial and appeal/post-conviction relief stages of a trial;
10. analyze the role and evolution of ethical standards as they pertain to the various professions in the American legal system;
11. analyze the historical development of various areas of substantive law, including tort law, business law and criminal law;

12. distinguish between the elements of and defenses to areas of substantive law, including tort law, business law and criminal law;
13. examine changes in areas of substantive law and its impact on civil rights, women's rights, and minority groups in the United States and other industrialized countries; and
14. analyze current legal issues and trends from social, cultural, political and global perspectives.

### **Major Topics**

- I. History and structure of the American legal system
- II. Legal Analysis and critical thinking
- III. Substantive and procedural issues
- IV. Jurisdiction
- V. Contract law
- VI. Tort law
- VII. Business law
- VIII. Criminal law
- IX. Estate and Real Property Law
- X. Legal ethics
- XI. Diversity

### **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

### **Grading/exams**

- A minimum of one exam combining objective and analytical/critical thinking components
- A collaborative learning project conducted in groups
- Written assignments based upon coursework and class readings
- At least one written assignment worth at least 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes:
  1. Written/Oral Communication;
  2. Critical Analysis and Reasoning;
  3. Technological Competence;
  4. Information Literacy;
  5. Scientific and Quantitative or Logical Reasoning;
  6. Local and Global Diversity; and
  7. Personal and Professional Ethics.

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

### **Other Course Information**

Introduction to Law is the program-required Legal Studies General Education Course for the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree. This course is an approved General Education

course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity course. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.

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