

**Midland College  
Syllabus  
LGLA 1311  
Introduction to Law**

**Notice:** For **Online** classes, students **MUST** actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official census date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

**Course Description:**

Presents legal terminology relating to substantive areas of law and the federal and state judicial systems. Emphasizes the paralegal's role in the legal system.

**Text, References, and Supplies:**

*Carper & Mietus (2015). Understanding the Law (7th ed.). Cengage Learning (ISBN 9780538473590)*

Westlaw and Westlaw Form Builder

**Students Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies:**

*Upon successful completion of the course, students will:*

<b>Competencies</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Chapters or Projects</b>
Exhibit ethical behavior	To prepare to assist in the practice of law	Throughout course
Develop a legal vocabulary	To ensure students are able to understand legal directions and complete meaningful work	Throughout course
Describe and explain the American legal system and the role of attorneys	To understand our sources of law, the Constitution, and the court system.	Ch. 2, 3 & 4 Courthouse tour Courtroom observation
Identify, describe and explain the operation of Administrative Agencies	To help clients who may have problems in social security or other areas.	Ch. 5. Class Activity

Identify, describe and explain crimes against persons and property, defenses to crimes, statutes of limitations, criminal trial procedures and punishment.	To understand the concepts of criminal law because you may be working in a criminal law office or prosecutor's office.	Ch. 6. Guest Speaker Courtroom observation Class Activity
Identify, describe and explain the concepts of negligence, premises liability, products liability and intentional torts.	Primary area of law for trial lawyers.	Ch. 7. Guest Speaker Class Activity
Identify, describe and explain the basic elements of contracts. Distinguish between valid and invalid contracts	To understand the elements of contracts, the basis of most business law disputes..	Ch. 8 Class Activity Guest Speaker
Identify, describe and explain types of marriages. Describe and explain the dissolution of marriages and areas of concern such as child support, custody and visitation, and property division. Distinguish between community and separate property	To become familiar with family law concepts. To enhance ability to prepare family law documents.	Ch. 9 Guest Speaker Courtroom observation Class Activity
Identify, describe and explain the various types of leases and the rights and duties of the parties to those leases. Describe and explain the rights and duties of buyers and sellers	To understand home ownership rights and duties.	Ch. 11. Ch. 12 Guest Speaker Class Activity
Identify, describe and explain the legal classification of employee, the laws against discrimination, the basic rights and duties of employers and employees	To increase understanding of employee rights and duties.	Ch. 13 Guest Speaker Class Activity
Identify, describe and explain the different types of wills and trusts	To become familiar with the requirements for a valid will.	Ch. 14 Guest Speaker Class Activity

### **Student Contributions, Responsibilities, and Class Policies:**

Students will be expected to exhibit professional behavior during class and are expected to attend class virtually through participation in Zoom, Canvas Conferences, Discussions, Interview groups, Weekly warm-ups, etc. If it becomes necessary for a student to miss, it will be the

student's responsibility to contact the instructor during scheduled office hours in order to receive missed assignments.

Late work will not be accepted. Students may turn in assignments early.

**A Lock Down Browser** and **LDB+Monitor** are required for students to use for designated gradable items. A fee will be paid by the student per course to add the Monitor feature for proctoring the final or other exams. It is the responsibility of the student to pay to add Monitor to LDB prior to the exams due date.

Turn It In software is used when students have to write and submit papers for grading to evaluate authentic work.

- Involvement with the material is essential – students must read, take notes, and ask questions.
- Students must attend class regularly by checking Canvas.
- Students must come to class prepared (participate in webinar/canvas conference/ Zoom/Skype/etc) and prepare for on-line assignments in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to be able to read, write, and understand standard English: the course is based on extensive amounts of material given in lecture and/or notes, audio visual aids, and assigned readings.
- A schedule of class events will be given to each student at the beginning of the semester. Additionally, information will be posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to know exam dates and when assignments are due.
- It is also the responsibility of the student to know their progress in the course.
- If a student is absent when exams are given or assignments are given or due, the student is still responsible for having the work done on time or making up the exam, at the discretion of the instructor.
- If the student takes the initiative the instructor will advise them on their progress in the course.
- Instructors cannot drop students with a "W", this must be accomplished officially by the student.
- Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Services. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Student Services when requesting accommodation.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and courteously in the classroom and/or the on-line environment.
- Students are expected to have academic integrity and to adhere to the guidelines in the Midland College Student Handbook.

**Evaluation of Students:** Exams, essays, quizzes, reports, written and/or oral projects/presentations (research, debates, informative overviews, drafting court documents, interviews, etc.), In-Class Activities, and participation via discussion boards will be used to meet objectives in the course.

Students will receive a final letter grade based on the following scale:

A = 90 to 100%

B = 80 to 89%

C = 70 to 79%

D = 60 to 69%

F = 59% or less

**Course Schedule:**

See schedule posted in Canvas.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA):**

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit Midland College Accommodation Services and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Tana Baker, Title IX

Coordinator/Compliance Officer, 3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131, Midland, TX 79705, (432) 685-4781, tbaker@midland.edu. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit U.S. Department of Education or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

**Spanish**

Midland College no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, sexo, discapacidad, o edad en sus programas o actividades. La siguiente persona ha sido designada para responder a cualquier pregunta o duda sobre estas políticas no discriminatorias: Tana Baker, Title IX  
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**Division Information: SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES & BUSINESS**

Division Dean: Dr. Frank De La O	176 MHAB – 432.685.6830
Department Chair: Dr. Sondra Richards	151MHAB – 432.685.6815
Division Secretary: Angelina Dolaptchieva	174 MHAB – 432.685.6830