

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**FACULTY MEMBER:**

**TERM:**

**COURSE TITLE: American Legal History**

**COURSE NUMBER: LES 213**

**OFFICE HOURS/METHOD OF CONTACT:**

**Technical Requirements that may be required to utilize technology in this course:**

A headset or microphone.

A webcam.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the American legal system from the founding of the government of the United States of America to the system of laws that exists today. The main focus of the course is on laws and the courts and the tremendous impact of the rule of law that has developed during the last century.

**MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:**

**GOAL A: Understand the development of law in America from colonial establishment to the Revolution**

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to:

- A-1 Identify the role that specific legal documents played in early American democracy: Magna Carta, Mayflower Compact, the English Bill of Rights, the Stamp Act, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights, and other selected documents
- A-2 Distinguish between civil law and common law systems
- A-3 Explain the adoption of English common law in America
- A

- B-1 Discuss the ideological, social, economic, and political compromises that formed the basis of the U.S. Constitution
- B-2 Identify some of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
- B-3 Describe the growth of federal judicial power following the ratification of the Constitution in 1787.
- B-4 Summarize Marbury v. Madison and explain its impact on the role of the federal judiciary

**GOAL C: Understand the expansion of American law and its impact on the economy**

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to:

- C-1 Describe the advantages and disadvantages to the distributive governmental activities that resulted in unprecedented economic development in the early 19th century
- C-2 Explain the impact that technology and urbanization had on the growth of tort law
- C-3 Explain the significance that Gibbons v. Ogden had on interstate commerce
- C-4 Describe the impact that McCulloch v. Maryland had on the concept of federalism

**GOAL D: Understand the legal, political, and constitutional ramifications of slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and segregation**

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will be able to:

- D-

- E-3 Discuss the treatment of Chinese and Latinos under the law in the 19th century
- E-4 Describe some of the changes in the laws affecting women and domestic relations

**GOAL F: Understand the transformation in individual rights during the 20th**

Weekly Assignment (Weeks 1-7)	10	70
Discussions (Weeks 1-7)	20	140
Final Exam	100	100
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>660</b>

### Undergraduate Grading System

#### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

- Week 1 [Chapters 1 & 2]: Origins of American Law from 1215-1815
- Week 2 [Chapter 3]: America Develops into the Active State 1812-1870
- Week 3 [Chapters 4 & 5]: Crime Gender Race and Slavery 1800-1900
- Week 4 [Chapter 6]: Rise of the Regulatory State 1850-1920
- Week 5 [Chapter 7 and 8]: Liberty at War and Under Economic Distress 1900-1945
- Week 6 [Chapter 9]: Civil Liberty and Civil Rights
- Week 7 [Chapters 10 and 11]: Current Challenges and Future Developments