

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: March 2014

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: May 2014

Effective: Fall 2014

1. **Course Number:** LGS130  
**Course Title:** Introduction to Substantive Law
2. **Description:** (formerly BIT130) This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of law and the judicial system. Students will obtain an overview of criminal law, torts, property, contracts, wills, trusts, and employment law. Particular attention will be given to general skills required of paralegals.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives: intellectual skills):  
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
  - Engage in critical thinking by reading, writing and explaining the history and development of the laws of our society.
  - Describe the role of the paralegal in law offices which practice in diverse areas of the law
  - Analyze statutes, rules and cases, and their component parts in order to understand the elements and remedies of each.
  - Apply the law of cases and statutes to specific sets of factual information in diverse areas of law, and distinguish between fact and opinion.
  - Recognize legal and ethical issues and devise solutions.
  - Draft a formal written informational summary of legal issue research.
  - Listen and actively respond to and build on ideas from readings as well as those generated in class.
  - Engage in critical thinking with respect to the interdependent rights and obligations of citizens and the legal system and its agencies.
  - Explain and compare many areas of law in order to build a foundation upon which to explore advanced paralegal and law courses in more detail.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the laws that affect students, their families, businesses and the society in which they live.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisites:** None
7. **Semesters Offered:** Fall
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** The student's final grade is based on exams and written assignments. An oral and written presentation as well as meaningful class participation demonstrates the ability of the student to apply logic, reasoning and critical thinking skills. Integrated into the evaluation of the student is assessment of their ability to communicate effectively as well as to examine their own values.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
  - Emergence and Development of a Career in Law – Paralegal Employment
  - Regulation of Paralegals – Attorney and Paralegal Ethics
  - Introduction to Law and the Constitution – The Court System
  - Criminal Law
  - Torts
  - Contracts
  - Administrative Law
  - Employee Rights and Duties
  - Law and the Small Business
  - Motor Vehicle Law
  - Landlords and Tenants
  - Real Property
  - Wills, Trust and Probate
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution