

University of Colombo, Faculty of Law
Department of Commercial Law
CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS LAW COURSE

1. Introduction

This is the first Certificate Course of the Faculty of Law and it is being introduced by the Department of Commercial Law. The certificate in Business Law programme is designed to provide basic knowledge in business law for interested persons who have not obtained any formal and basic knowledge in the field of business law. This is also a great opportunity for those who are engaged in business to get to know the applicable business law in Sri Lanka. This course is at an introductory level and the curriculum of this course is framed to introduce the areas of law that are part and parcel of the day-to-day life of an ordinary citizen.

2. Objectives

The course seeks to provide the basic understanding of important areas falling under the sphere of Commercial Law. It is designed to provide enthusiastic knowledge seeking personnel the legal background of the areas that they normally engage into without the knowledge of the relevant legal framework.

3. Learning outcomes

By the end of this course participants will be able to-

- Understand the legal framework that is required in their day-to-day work/life.
- Comprehend the reason behind certain work they normally carry out.
- Apply the business law in their work/businesses to ensure smooth function of the transactions.
- Explain the basic business law to their colleagues/ family members.
- Handle the work confidently with a satisfaction that they are aware of the expectation of the relevant authorities.

4. Language

The course will be conducted in Sinhala, Tamil & English. However, the applicant should possess the capacity to read and understand material in English.

5. Regulation relevant to the Certificate Course

All the relevant rules and regulations of the University of Colombo as well as the University Grants Commission apply.

6. Target Group

This certificate course can serve as a valuable academic training for those non-legal officers at junior management/executive level in public and private sector; those who are self-employed and those interested personnel who want to enhance their knowledge.

7. Admission Requirement

The applicants should possess a minimum of five credit passes in one and the same sitting of the GCE (Ordinary Level) examination with a credit pass in English. However, the Department of Commercial Law reserves the right to interview the applicants if it decides so. Prior knowledge in the subject of law is not necessary.

8. Resource Persons

The lectures will be delivered by resource persons from the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo as well as from outside.

9. Teaching & Learning Method

Participant centered teaching and learning methods will be adopted. Students are expected to participate in the lectures, discussions and other forms of facilitative instructions conducted by the Department. Students are required to actively participate in order to meet the learning objectives set up for the program. 70% of attendance is compulsory to be eligible to sit for the examination.

10. Evaluation

i. Evaluation structure:

The evaluation will comprise two forms, namely, Continuous Assessment and End of Course Assessment

- A) Continuous Assessment may have a minimum of two components -
 - a) 10% for Active Class Participation on continuous basis –
 - b) 20% for Assignment/s which take different forms, including, but not limited to, Take Home Assignments, Field Surveys & Report Presentation, Group work & Oral Presentation, etc.

- B) End of Course Assessment – 70% [Course-End Examination (one paper)/Submission of ‘Papers’ and *viva voce* examination]

ii. Achievement structure:

The achievement structure will be as follows:

- Pass – 50% - 64% of total marks
- Merit pass – 65% - 74% of total marks
- Distinction pass – 75% of total marks or above

11. Number of Attempts:

A candidate who fails to secure a pass mark in the first attempt will be permitted to undertake additional TWO attempts only. Attendance will not be considered for the 2nd or 3rd attempt. In such an event, the candidate will be marked out of 20% for an assignment component which the candidate has to do afresh and he/she will be marked out of 80% for the Course-End Examination. The pass mark will remain the same as prescribed above. However, such a repeat candidate will not be eligible for Merit Pass or Distinction Pass even though he/she might have secured marks equivalent to them.

A candidate who could not sit for the Course-End Examination due to medical reasons or any other valid reasons, supported by documentary evidence acceptable to the University may be excused from sitting the Course-End Examination and such Examination will not be considered as an attempt. However, the candidate shall take the Course-End Examination at the very next attempt when it is held.

12. Location & Duration

The proposed certificate course will be held in the premises of Faculty of Law, Philip Gunawardene Mawatha, Colombo-07. The duration of the course is 12 weeks. Lectures will be conducted every Saturday, 4 hours per week. [4 1/2 hrs X 12 = 54 hrs]

13. Fees:

Total fees for this course is Rs.25,000/-.[Rupees Twenty Five Thousand] which include application fee, processing fee, registration fee, tuition fee, course material fee and examination fee. [tentative budget attached.] It should be once and for all payment.

14. How to Apply

Application forms to be obtained from the Department of Commercial Law. Completed applications together with copies of relevant certificates should be posted to reach the Department of Commercial law by post to the following address within the stipulated time frame. Late applications will not be entertained.

Department of Commercial Law
Faculty of Law
University of Colombo
Philip Gunawardene Mawatha
Colombo 07.

Telephone No: 011 2590564/ 011 2500942/ 011 2502750

Fax No: 011 2502750

13. Course Content:

The Certificate Course in Business Law consists of 06 compulsory modules of 9 hours each. Each hour lecture requires 3 hours of self-study of guided reading.

Module 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 Introduction to Law
- 1.2 Introduction to Commercial Law in Sri Lanka
- 1.3 Common law and applicable law
- 1.4 Divisions of law; private & public, civil & criminal
- 1.5 Court hierarchy and jurisdiction

1.6 Importance and Applicability of case law

Module 02 - Formation of contract & consideration

- 2.1 Elements and requisites of contract
- 2.2 Different types of contracts
- 2.3 Offer and acceptance
- 2.4 Consideration and *justa causa*

Module 03 – Terms of Contract & Termination of contracts

- 3.1 Contractual terms and their importance
- 3.2 Factors vitiating a valid contract
- 3.3 Modes of Termination
- 3.4 Remedies
- 3.5 Measure of Damages

Module 04: Consumer Rights

- 4.1 Consumer Rights under the Consumer Affairs Authority Act
- 4.2 Rights under the Sale of Goods Ordinance
- 4.3 Rights under the Common Law
- 4.4 Unfair Trade Practices
- 4.5 Remedies

Module 05: Payment methods in commercial contract

- 5.1 Promissory notes
- 5.2 Cheques
- 5.3 Special features of Bills of Exchange Ordinance
- 5.4 Payment system under International Sales

Module 06: Information Technology Law

- 6.1 Inevitable combination of Commerce and IT
- 6.2 Emerging issues in Information Technology
- 6.2 Electronic offer & electronic acceptance
- 6.3 On-line marketing
- 6.4 Law applicable to Social Media Network

14. Reading

1. Wickrema Weerasooriya, A Textbook of Commercial Law
2. Cooray LJM, An Introduction to the Legal System of Sri Lanka
3. Paul Dobson, Charlesworth's Business Law

4. Varshney GK, Fundamentals of Mercantile Law
5. Peddonna Mohana Rao, Mercantile Law
6. Nigel Savage & Robert Bradgate, Business law
7. Sunil DB Abeyratne, Introduction to information and Communication and Communication Technology Law
8. John N Adams & Roger Brownsword, Understanding Contract Law
9. Kalinga Indatissa, Law Relating to Computer Crimes and a Commentary on the Computer Crimes Act 24 of 2007
10. Kalinga Indatissa, Basic Principles of electronic Commerce and a Commentary on the Electronic Transactions Act No 19 of 2006
11. Nandan Kamath, Law Relating to Computers, Internet & E-Commerce

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