

Course unit title:	INTRODUCTION TO BASIC LEGAL CONCEPTS AND COMMERCIAL LAW		
Course unit code:	ATML 101		
Type of course unit:	Compulsory		
Level of course unit:	Bachelor (1 st cycle)		
Year of study:	1 st		
Semester when the unit is delivered:	2 nd		
Number of ECTS credits allocated :	6		
Name of lecturer(s):	Georgia Demetriou		
Learning outcomes of the course unit:	<p>By the end of the course, the students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give students a thorough understanding of the fundamental legal principles. • To guide the learner through a course of study • Enable the learner to gain knowledge of the principle theories of common law jurisdictions such as Cyprus and United Kingdom. • To provide the students with sufficient understanding of the basic principles of law with an emphasis on contract law, torts law and company law. • To provide learning environment, which will enable the student develop the analytical skills required to apply their legal knowledge to various scenarios. 		
Mode of delivery:	Lectures and class discussions		
Prerequisites:	None	Co-requisites:	None
Recommended optional program components:	None		
Course contents:	<p><u>1. General Introduction to law</u></p> <p>1.1 What is Law?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, Characteristics and Rules. <p>1.2 Legal Systems Description :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Law and Common Law <p>1.3 Common Law and Equity</p> <p><u>2. Sources of Law :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources of Law in the Republic of Cyprus • Sources of Law - UK <p>2.2 EU Law as a source of Law : Primacy of EU Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Legislation 		

- Secondary Legislation

2.3 Sources of English Law

- Primary Legislation
- Secondary Legislation
 - i. Statutory Instruments
 - ii. Orders in the Council
 - iii. By – Laws
 - iv. Codes of conduct and professional Regulations
- Case Law
- Precedents, the Hierarchy of courts, binding precedents
- Books of Authority
- Customs

3. LEGAL PERSONALITY

3.1 Legal Capacity of the natural persons

- The Legal Personality
- Nationality and domicile
- Infants or minors
- Mental incapacity and intoxication

3.2 Artificial Persons

Classification

- Chartered Corporations
- Statutory corporations
- Registered companies
 - ❖ Limited liability
 - ❖ Companies limited by shares
 - ❖ Companies limited by guarantee
 - ❖ Unlimited liability
 - ❖ *By number of members*
 - ❖ Public Companies
 - ❖ Private Companies

Corporate personality

- The veil of incorporation (Salomon v Salomon & Co Ltd (1897))
- Lifting the veil of incorporation

Ultra vires doctrine

- Shareholders Meetings
- Entry into Shipping transactions

4. CONTRACTS

4.1 OFFER

- To the world at large
- To a particular person
- Invitation to treat
- Acceptance of offer
- Rejection of offer

4.2. Acceptance

- Form of acceptance
- Communication of acceptance
- Tenders

4.3. CONSIDERATION

- Types of consideration
- Rules
- Performance of existing duties
- Waiver of existing rights
- Promissory estoppel

4.4. INTENTION TO CREATE LEGAL RELATION

- Domestic and social agreements
- Commercial agreements
- Collective agreements

4.5. CONTENTS OF CONTRACTS

- Conditions and warranties
- Express and implied Terms
- Exemption clauses

4.6. VITIATING FACTORS

- Mistake
- Misrepresentation
- Duress
- Undue influence

4.7 Discharge of Contracts

- by agreement
- by performance
- by frustration
- by breach

Remedies for breach of contract

5. AGENCY

- Creation
- The authority of an agent
- Principal and agent
- Duties of principle
- Rights of an agent
- Termination of agency

6. SALE OF GOODS LAW

- The sale of goods law
- Express and Implied Terms in Contracts of Sale of Goods – the duties of Seller and Buyer
- Transfer of Property and Risk
- Export Sales (CIF, FOB, Ex-works)

7. THE LAW OF TORTS

- Nature of tortious liability
- Capacity and defence
- Vicarious liability
- Negligence
- Breach of statutory Duty

	<p><u>8. INTRODUCTION TO SHIPPING LAW</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of Shipping Law
Recommended and/or required reading:	Keith Owens, <i>Law for NON-LAW Students</i> , third edition, Cavendish Publishing Limited
Textbooks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Owens, <i>Law for NON-LAW Students</i>, 3rd edition, Cavendish Publishing Limited Charles Wild & Stuart Weinstein, <i>Smith & Keenan's English Law text and cases</i>, 16th ed., Pearson Education
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brenda Hannigan, <i>Company Law</i>, 1st ed., Oxford University Press. Ewan McKendrick, <i>Contract law, Text, cases and Materials</i>, 2nd ed., Oxford University Press. John Cooke, <i>Law of Tort</i>, 7th ed, Pearson Longman Paul Richards, <i>Law of Contract</i>, 7th ed, Pearson Longman Phil Harris, <i>An Introduction to Law</i>, 6th ed., Butterworths Vivienne Harpwood, <i>Modern Tort Law</i>, 6th ed., Cavendish Publishing
Planned learning activities and teaching methods:	Lectures, discussions, presentations
Assessment methods and criteria:	<p>Mid-term exam: 40%</p> <p>Final exam: 60%</p>
Language of instruction:	English
Work placement(s):	Not applicable