

BLAW 205, Section 11, MWF 10-10:50am
Legal Environment of Business
Fall 2017 Syllabus

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND LEGAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

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Office Hours: By appointment

Text: Legal Environment of Business, Custom text for College of Charleston, available at the bookstore. Chapter readings are from this text and you are required to read them carefully and completely. Other materials may be provided throughout the semester. PowerPoint slides, when applicable, will be posted to Oaks or emailed.

Course Description: This is a foundation course for students with a minimum of sophomore standing; covering the primary business law issues in the United States, including substantive legal topics and ethics. At the completion of this course students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the following:

1. A background of the law
2. The legal framework within which businesses must operate
3. The legal limitations and consequences of strategic business decisions
4. The social and ethical implications and responsibilities of businesses

In addition, the course will give students the ability to recognize and be able to appraise ethical issues involved in making strategic business decisions. Critical thinking, effective communication, and problem solving ability will be a centerpiece in the curriculum while providing students the opportunity to discuss complex legal issues and how they interact with current events, social settings, and small or large corporate matters.

Note: I find the law to be fascinating. Our class covers a variety of legal topics – we will concentrate on the areas that will provide you a baseline of knowledge and see how it relates to your everyday life – either now or in your future.

Evaluation: Students are expected to read assigned material and participate in class discussions.

1. Each class period will begin with a **daily briefing** of current events relevant to business and the law. Students are required to produce at least three (3) article summaries during the semester. These articles will be brought up during the briefing session and discussed by the class. Students will turn in a minimum of 250 word summary of each article noting its source and date, explaining why the article is important to business law, and any personal anecdotes pertaining to the article. Articles should be current (within a week of class session).
 - a. Only one (1) article per class session.
 - b. Each student with an article should be prepared to stand in front of the class and discuss.
 - c. You can decide when you want to bring in your article – every class we will take a moment to review current events available to us. At least 3 are required for credit; more will incur some extra credit in participation (still only 1 per class).
2. There may be small group in class assignments throughout the semester. In class group work will be assigned that class period. Small group work cannot be made up and is considered part of your participation grade.

3. While there is no formal attendance policy, students are encouraged to attend for the in class assignments as well as for the benefit of lectures and discussions. Participation during class, as well as small group and daily briefing assignments, *make up a large portion of your grade*.
4. **Two exams** will be given. The final examination will be cumulative, materials will come from lectures, daily briefings and in class assignments (anything happening in class is fair game for the exam). The mid-term will likely include multiple choice and short answer questions. The Final Exam may be multiple choice, short answer and/or long answer.
 - a. Exam review session will take place prior to the exam – on those dates we will discuss format.
5. **Paper:** minimum two pages, single-spaced, no larger than 12 font, 1" margins. Topic can be anything you want related to topics covered during this class; must obtain Professor approval. Examples include: interviewing a business owner discussing impacts of the law on them and their business, times using an attorney, etc. OR, select a topic of law that impacts business and discuss, in detail, the premise of the law and its repercussions on the business community. **Paper is due October 20** (second class following Fall Break). Grading will be based on relation of topic to business law, research, analysis, and grammar. (Hint: there is no time too early to write and turn in your paper. I am available to help with drafts, grammar, topic, etc).
6. **Participation** (how it will be graded) revolves around attendance, participation in class discussion, enthusiasm for daily briefings, willingness to participate in Small Group assignments, and preparation for class through reading assigned materials. A short pop quiz is possible during any class period. This class is *part lecture and part class discussion*. If you attend class, participate in class, and work to find some enjoyment in the topics we discuss – you should be fine.

Final Grade will be computed as follows:

Exam 1:	15%
Final Exam:	35%
Paper	15%
Small Group/Pop-Quiz/Participation:	35%

Grading Scale: 95-100% = A, 90-94% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 84-86% = B, 80-83% = B-, 77-79% = C+, 74-76% = C, 70-73% = C-, 67-69% = D+, 64-66% = D, 60-63% = D-, 59 and below = F

Laws, Policies and Communications

Students are expected to act appropriately in class. Cell phones and all electronics, except a laptop, should be turned off. Any cell phone use in class shall result in your cell phone being confiscated for duration of class. Students should be respectful of their colleagues and the forum. Laptops should be opened to notes or something consistent with class topics. Professor reserves the right to require any and all laptops to be closed at any time.

Students as well as the professor have an expectation of privacy in the classroom, so no recording of class discussions (video or audio) will be allowed without getting all necessary permissions. No photography will be allowed without permission. The professor also reserves his copyright in his work product.

There will be NO make-up exam granted by me. If you miss an exam you will have to go through the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies to get an official excuse to be given some discretion for missing that exam. That discretion will depend on the nature of the excuse. If you anticipate missing an exam see me as soon as possible before that exam.

It is your responsibility to read, understand and follow the College of Charleston Honor Code. Official communications through email or via Oaks. No member on campus may discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or other legally protected classification:

<http://policy.cofc.edu/documents/9.1.10>

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services, Lightsey Center in Suite 104. Students needing accommodations should notify me as quickly as possible, preferably during the first week of class.

Academic Honesty: Incidents where the Professor determines the student's actions are related to more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. Cases of suspected dishonesty will be reported by the Professor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students.

SYLLABUS

No dates are given on the syllabus for reading requirements. Reading assignments will be given at the end of each previous class period. This syllabus serves to depict the direction and topics for the class. The overall speed of the class will depend on student involvement, participation and reading. Involved classes should result in a more in-depth review of material and thus less reading required for future classes/mid-term/final exam. Some topics may require one class period; others will require several. Some topics may be added to the listed material. If this occurs, a new syllabus overview will be provided. Student group assignments and pop-quizzes are possible on any topic below (special notice to the Constitution and Administrative Agencies).

Oct 16	NO CLASS – Fall Break
Nov 22 & 24	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday
	Topic / Assignment
Class 1	Orientation –
Class 2	Chapter 1 – Nature and Sources of Law
	Chapter 4 – Constitution and Federal Law System
	Chapter 2 – Court System and Dispute Resolution
	Chapter 5 – Government Regulation of Competition and Prices
	Chapter 5 – Regulation of Supply Chain and Trade Restraints
	Chapter 6 – Administrative Agencies
	Chapter 7 – Crimes (focus on White Collar Crimes)
Sept 20	Mid-Term Review and Prep
Sept 22	Mid-Term
Sept 25	Mid-Term Review
	Chapter 8 – Torts – General Principles and Overview
	Chapter 8 – Torts – Intentional Torts, Negligence and Strict Liability
	Chapter 11 – Nature of Contracts
	Chapter 12 – Formation of Contracts
Oct 16	PAPER DUE
	Chapter 13 – Contract Capacity and Assent
	Chapter 14 – Contract Consideration
	Chapter 16 – Writing, Electronic Forms, Interpretation of Contracts
	Chapter 17 – Third Persons and Contracts
	Chapter 40 – Business Organizations
Last day (or 2) of scheduled classes	Final Exam Review – Q&A – Class will be held for everyone to ask questions about exam format, topic review, etc.
	Final Exam on Scheduled Date