BLAW 205-Spring 2017
Legal Environment of Business
12:15PM-1:30PM
Prof. Chip McQueeney

Contact information: Phone:
Email:

Office Hours: Please feel free to contact me to make an appointment if you would like to meet with me.

Text material: Anderson’s Business Law and the Legal Environment, by Twomey, Jennings and Greene, 23rd edition, Cengage Publishing (ISBN: 978-1-305-57511-0) or loose leaf edition (ISBN: 978-1-305-87032-1). This is the textbook for all BLAW 205 sections. Any class materials will be posted to OAKS.

Course Description: This course is designed to emphasize the legal environment of business and the pluralistic nature of the economy of the United States. The principal federal and state regulations as well as common law relationships applicable to businesses are presented to provide the student with an understanding of the limitations and consequences of business decisions, as well as the social and ethical responsibilities implicit in decision making. Topics to be covered include: introduction to law and legal system; white collar crimes and torts; ethics and social responsibility; negligence and product liability; administrative law; law of agency, partnership, corporations, and securities; ownership of real and personal property; bailments; overview of real and personal property; and overview of antitrust.

Course Objectives:

(1) Global and Civic Responsibility: To introduce students to the legal framework within which businesses must operate and to introduce students to the social and ethical implications and responsibilities of businesses operating within this framework.

(2) Intellectual Innovation and Creativity: To provide students with an awareness of the legal limitations and consequences of strategic business decisions.

(3) Communication Skills: To challenge students to communicate in a professional manner through verbal and written assignments using current technological tools.

This course will give students a general understanding of the legal environment of business and the basic legal precepts and regulatory framework impacting business. Students should be able to identify basic legal issues in the business context.
School of Business Learning Goals:

(1) This course will give students the ability to recognize and be able to appraise ethical issues involved in making strategic business decisions.

(2) This course will give students a necessary tool for critical thinking in identifying and evaluating problems and opportunities faced in the business environment.

(3) Students will be asked to communicate through article presentations, thus challenging them to communicate effectively.

(4) Students will engage in small group work designed to exercise their problem solving ability.

Expectations/Grading:

(1) Assignments: The student will be expected to read assigned material and participate in class discussions.

(2) Daily Briefings (20%): Each class period will begin with a daily briefing of current events relevant to business. Students will be required to present a daily brief based on a current event article. Each student will present his or her article, and the class will discuss the business law issues raised. The student will turn in a one-page summary of the article, noting its source and date and explaining why the article is important to business law. Articles must be dated no more than a week before the class period in which they are discussed. The daily briefing will count 20% of each student’s final grade, and the subject matter may be included on exams.

(3) Small Class Group Assignments (10%): No more than five (5) in-class, small group assignments will be made during the semester. This in-class group work will be assigned during such class period and will count 10% of each student’s final grade. Assignments may not be made up if a student is absent.

(4) Attendance: Students are expected to attend class. Students should attend not only for the in class assignments, but also for the benefit of lectures and discussions.

(5) Exams (75%): Three (3) exams will be given. The final is not cumulative. Material for exams will come from the lectures, daily briefings and in-class assignments. A review will be given prior to each exam. Exams will be short-answer and objective in nature, with some critical thinking. Each exam will count as 25% of each student’s final grade.

To summarize, the final grade will be computed as follows:

Exam I: 25%
Exam II: 25%
Exam III (Final Exam): 25%
Daily Briefing: 20%
Small Group Assignments: 10%


Policies and Guidelines

A student must have sophomore standing to be in this class.

Students are expected to act appropriately in class. Cell phones and all electronics should be turned off. Students should be respectful of their colleagues and the forum. Student conduct in class should not be disruptive.

Students are advised to download class materials, which will be posted on OAKS before class, in the form that will assist them in taking notes. Please bring such materials to class for use during lectures and to take notes. This will help students study for exams.

Students and professors have an expectation of privacy in the classroom. Recording of class discussions, video or audio, is not allowed without receiving all the necessary permissions. No photography will be allowed without permission. The professor also reserves his copyright in his work product.

There will be no extra credit. As a result, please do not rely on extra credit to pass or to receive a particular grade. To receive the best possible final grade, students should read the assignments, attend class, take good notes, bring articles and participate.

If you are experiencing trouble during the semester, please contact me to discuss the issue. Do not wait until the week before the final exam to attempt to salvage a bad semester.

Students should have an active College of Charleston e-mail account. These accounts can be set up to forward to other addresses, but students must check for official notifications from the College.

I do not give make-up exams. 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. The Dean’s discretion will depend on the nature of the excuse. If you anticipate missing an exam, please see me as soon as possible before that exam. Exams are your responsibility. Do not miss an exam.

Final exams will be rescheduled pursuant to the terms of the catalogue. Unless it is a hardship situation, the student must provide documentation to the instructor that exigent circumstances warrant a make-up of the final exam. The instructor, in consultation with the department chair, will make that determination.
If a student anticipates the need for any type of special accommodation during the course of the semester, that student must inform the professor as soon as possible so that accommodation can be reached. Students are responsible for supplying the necessary documentation during the first week of class in support of any accommodation.

**Academic Honesty**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed by both the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive an XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years, after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which may include accessing information stored on a cell phone), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://www.cofc.edu/generaldocuments/handbook.pdf](http://www.cofc.edu/generaldocuments/handbook.pdf)

**Schedule of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>How Things Will Work</th>
<th>Daily Briefing Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>How Things Will Work</td>
<td>Daily Briefing Assignments</td>
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<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Example of Daily Briefing</td>
<td>Introduction (Con’d)</td>
<td>Chapter 4: The Constitution as the Foundation</td>
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Jan. 19  DB: _______________________
Chapter 4: The Constitution as the Foundation

Jan. 24  DB: _______________________
Chapter 4: The Constitution as the Foundation

Jan. 26  DB: _______________________
Chapter 1: Source of Law

Jan. 31  DB: _______________________
Chapter 1: Source of Law

Feb. 2   DB: _______________________
Chapter 2: The Court System and Dispute Resolution

Feb. 7   DB: _______________________
Chapter 2: The Court System and Dispute Resolution

Feb. 9   DB: _______________________
Review for Exam I (Constitution, Court System and Dispute Resolution)

Feb. 14  **EXAM I**

Feb. 16  DB: _______________________
Chapter 3: Business Ethics

Feb. 21  DB: _______________________
Chapter 3: Business Ethics

Feb. 23  DB: _______________________
Chapter 12: Formation of Contracts

Feb. 28  DB: _______________________
Chapter 13: Capacity and Genuine Assent (Contracts)

March 2  DB: _______________________
Chapter 14: Consideration (Contracts)

March 7  **Spring Break**

March 9  **Spring Break**

March 14 DB: _______________________
Chapter 15: Legality and Public Policy (Contracts)
March 16  DB:_______________________
Chapter 16: Writing, Electronic Forms, and Interpretation of Contracts

March 21  DB:_______________________
Chapter 17: Third Persons and Contracts

March 23  DB:_______________________
Chapter 18: Discharge of Contracts

March 28  DB:_______________________
Chapter 19: Breach of Contract and Remedies

March 30  DB:_______________________
Review for Exam II (Ethics and Contracts)

April 4    EXAM II

April 6  DB:_______________________
Chapter 8: Torts and Products Liability

April 11  DB:_______________________
Chapter 8: Torts and Products Liability

April 13  DB:_______________________
Chapter 8: Torts and Products Liability

April 18  DB:_______________________
Chapter 40: Business Organizations

April 20  DB:_______________________
Chapter 40: Business Organizations

April 25  DB:_______________________
Chapter 40: Business Organizations

April 27  DB:_______________________
Chapter 38: Employment

May 2  DB:_______________________
Review for Final (Torts, Organizations and Employment)

May 4    EXAM III (FINAL EXAM)

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed.