BLAW 205 – Spring 2018  
Legal Environment of Business  
5:30 pm - 6:45 pm  
Ronald L. Richter, Jr., J.D.

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Office Hours: On Request


Professor’s PowerPoint slides will be posted to oaks.

Course Objectives: To have fun learning something new that will almost certainly prove beneficial to you beyond the halls of this fine institution, regardless of your ultimate career path. To be more specific (and boring), 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:

1. Introduction to law and legal system (ie. Schoolhouse Rock, “I’m Just a Bill”);
2. White collar crimes and torts (ie. Things not to do);
3. Ethics and social responsibility (ie. How to know something just ain’t right);
4. Negligence and product liability (ie. I’ve made a mistake – and now I’m going to pay for it);
5. Administrative law (As dull as it sounds, but we’ll marshal through it together);
6. Law of agency, partnership, corporations, and securities (ie. We are all beholden to someone);
7. Ownership of real and personal property (or what you THINK you own);
8. Bailments (spoiler – has nothing to do with bail); and
9. Overview of antitrust (not the opposite of trust, but perhaps the opposite of trade).

School of Business Communication Skills: Students demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.

Qualitative Fluency: Students demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.

Global and Civic Responsibility: Students identify and define social, ethical, environmental and economic challenges at local, national and international levels. Students integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues.

Intellectual Innovation and Creativity: Students demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.

Synthesis: Students demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines incorporating learning from both classroom and non-classroom settings in the completion of complex and comprehensive tasks.
Prerequisite:
Sophomore standing.

Honor Code:
The College of Charleston Honor Code for Academic Integrity will be enforced. The policy may be found on page 13 of the 2017-18 Student Handbook.

Disabilities:
The College of Charleston complies with Federal Laws and Regulations addressing students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made to meet students’ needs.

Technology:
Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom unless the instructor specially requests as a part of the discussion. No audio recording, videotaping, or photography is allowed unless the instructor gives permission ahead of time. Besides, using your phone during my class is disruptive, if not disrespectful, to your fellow students and this subject is WAY more entertaining than anything you will find on your phone.

Attendance:
Attendance in class is expected. Missing more than 3 classes may affect the student’s final grade. More importantly, you’re going to have a better experience and achieve a better grade if you just show up.

Grading:

Daily Briefing:
The student will be expected to read assigned material and participate in class discussions. 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. The student will present their 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, explaining why the article is important to business law: articles must be current, within a week from the class period in which they are discussed. The Daily briefing will count 20% of your final grade and the subject matter will be on exams. A rubric will be provided.

Exams:
Three exams will be given. The final is not cumulative, but is weighted more heavily in the hopes that we have all gained strength together during the semester. Material for exams will come from the lectures, daily briefings and in class assignments (i.e. everything that happens in class is fair game): a review will be given prior to each exam. Exams will be short answer and objective in nature with some critical thinking and application questions. Each exam will offer a chance for “Impress Me” points, which may be used as the basis to bump up a few points in the sole discretion of the Professor.
The final grade will be computed as follows:

Final Grade: Exam I 20%
Exam II 25%
Final Exam 35%
Daily Briefing 20%

**Miscellaneous (but important nonetheless):**

Please do not rely on extra credit to get by because I do not give extra credit. All the credit you will ever need to do well in this class is on this syllabus: read the assignments, come to class, take good notes, bring articles and participate. If you are experiencing trouble during the semester please come see me about it or e mail me if you cannot come by the office. Do not wait until the week before the final to salvage a bad semester.

Students should have an active College e mail account. These accounts can be set up to forward to other addresses but you 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: 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. Exams are your responsibility. Do not miss an exam.

**Final exams** will be rescheduled pursuant to the terms of the catalogue so 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.

**Schedule of Events: Semester begins Tuesday January 9**

Jan. 9: Introduction….
   How things will work.
   Assign DBs

Jan. 11: Example of Daily Briefing and Introduction continued.
   Ch. 4 The Constitution as the Foundation

Jan. 16: DB: To be assigned
   Ch. 4 The Constitution as the Foundation

Jan. 18: DB: To be assigned
   Ch. 4 The Constitution as Foundation

Jan. 23: DB: To be assigned
   Ch. 1 Source of Law
Jan. 25:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 1 Source of Law

Jan. 30:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 2 The Court System and Dispute Resolution

Feb. 1:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 2 The Court System and Dispute Resolution  
Review Exam I (Constitution and Court System and Dispute Resolution)

Feb. 6:  **EXAM I**

Feb. 8:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 3 Business Ethics

Feb. 13:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 3 Business Ethics

Feb. 15:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 12 Offer/Acceptance (Contracts)

Feb. 20:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 13 Capacity/Assent (Contracts)

Feb. 22:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 14 Consideration (Contracts)

Feb. 27:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 15 Legality and Public Policy (Contracts)

Mar. 1:  DB: To be assigned  
Contracts cont’d

Mar. 6:  DB: To be assigned  
Contracts- Review for Exam II (Ethics and Contracts)

Mar. 8:  **EXAM II**

Mar. 13:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 8 Torts and Product Liability

Mar. 15:  DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 8 Torts and Product Liability

Mar. 20:  SPRING BREAK

Mar. 22:  SPRING BREAK
Mar. 27: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 8 Torts and Product Liability

Mar. 29: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 40 Business Organizations

Apr. 3: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 40 Business Organizations

Apr. 5: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 40 Business Organizations

Apr. 7: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 38 Employment

Apr. 10: DB: To be assigned  
Ch. 38 Employment

Apr. 12: DB: To be assigned

Apr. 19: Open

Apr. 21: LAST CLASS – REVIEW FOR FINAL

Apr. 24: Reading Day / Designated Storm Make Up Day

**FINAL**  **TBD**

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