COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours: 3

Course Overview: The Legal Environment of Business is a survey course covering fundamental legal and ethical principles relevant to business practice.

Course Catalog: For more information on the business law curriculum at the College of Charleston School of Business, see the course catalogue here: http://catalog.cofc.edu/

Program Objectives: For information on the School of Business mission and learning goals, click here: http://sb.cofc.edu/officeofthedean/facultyresources/mission.php

Course Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Course Location and Time: T/R 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm; Beatty Center 320

FACULTY INFORMATION

Professor: Richard L. Kilpatrick, Jr.

Office Location: JC Long Building 311

Office Hours: T/R 10:00 am - 12:00 pm or by appointment

Phone: (843) 953-3374

Email: kilpatrickrl@cofc.edu
COURSE MATERIALS

Lecture notes and activities posted on Oaks.

Twomey, Jennings and Greene, ANDERSON’S BUSINESS LAW AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT, 23rd ed (Cengage).

GRADE POLICY

Grades are determined by student performance on 3 exams (including the final exam), 5 online quizzes, and 1 in-class presentation.

Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The exams are based on the material covered in class through lectures and class discussion. Exams uses a combination of multiple-choice and short discussion formats. The final exam is not cumulative.

Each online quiz is worth 3% of the final grade. The 5 quizzes are cumulatively worth 15% of the final grade.

The in-class presentation is worth 10% of the final grade. Instructions for the presentation will be posted on Oaks.

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OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

There is no formal attendance grade, but students are expected to attend all class meetings. An attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated at each class meeting to maintain an attendance record. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have signed in for each class.
Exam Dates

Exam dates depend on the pace at which each class section is able to cover the material. The final exam is scheduled by the CofC registrar (see link below), and the other two exams are assigned a targeted week as reflected in this syllabus. Definitive exam dates will be scheduled at least one week prior to the exam. The announcement of each scheduled exam date will be given in class and email. Students must take exams on the dates and times they are scheduled. A student who does not take an exam on the date and time it is scheduled will receive a “zero” for that exam.

Make up exams are not available, except at the Professor’s discretion in the event of an extraordinary and legitimate emergency. In such circumstances, the emergency must be properly documented and the student must inform the Professor immediately. The circumstances are be analyzed on a case-by-case basis by the Professor with possible consultation of the Department Chair or other administrator. Legitimate emergencies do not include employment obligations, schedule conflicts, minor illnesses, or other similar circumstances.

Test Material

The Professor maintains all hard copies of completed exams and hard copies are not returned to students. However, students may view their completed exams during regular office hours.

Textbook

Students may use the textbook as a supplement to the course material presented in class and on Oaks. For exam preparation, primary attention should be given to lecture notes, activities, quizzes, and class discussion.

Cell Phones

Phones must be turned off or muted during class. Using phones during class is prohibited.

Laptops and Tablets

Students may use laptops and tablets for taking notes in class, but may not use them for purposes unrelated to the course.

Audio/ Video Recording

Audio and video recording of class sessions is prohibited.

Food

Eating during class is prohibited.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit (please don’t ask).
CofC Honor Code and Academic Integrity Statement

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 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 both by 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 a 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 could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), 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://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php

Reasonable Accommodation Statement:

The College of Charleston abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center of Disability Services/SNAP (843) 953-1431.

Syllabus Amendments

The policies and information contained in this syllabus are subject to amendment at the sole discretion of the Professor. Any amendments will be communicated to students during class and/or on Oaks.
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Part I: Law and Dispute Resolution in the United States

Week 1: January 9-10  
The Constitution and Federalism (Chapter 1/ Chapter 4)

Week 2: January 13-17 
The Constitution and Federalism (Chapter 1/ Chapter 4)

Week 3: January 20-24 [MLK Day January 20] 
The Court Systems (Chapter 2)  
*Quiz 1

Week 4: January 27-31  
The Court Systems (Chapter 2)

Week 5: February 3-7  
Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 2)  
*Quiz 2

Week 6: February 10-14  
Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 2)  
*Exam 1

Part II: Torts and Business Entities

Week 7: February 17-21  
Negligence (Chapter 8)

Week 8: February 24-28  
Intentional Torts (Chapter 8)  
*Quiz 3

Week 9: March 2-6  
Products Liability (Chapter 24)

Week 10: March 9-13  
Vicarious Liability and Business Entities (Chapters 36-37, 40)  
*Quiz 4

Week 11: March 16-20 [Spring Break]

Week 12: March 23-27  
Vicarious Liability and Business Entities (Chapters 36-37, 40)  
*Exam 2
Part III: Contracts, Employment Regulation, and Business Ethics

Week 12: March 30-Apil 3
Contracts (Chapters 11-15)

Week 13: April 6-April 10
Contracts (Chapters 11-15)
*Quiz 5

Week 14: April 13-April 17
Employment Law (Chapter 39)

Week 15: April 21 [Reading Day April 23]
Business Ethics (Chapter 3)

*Final Exams: April 24-April 29