BLAW205-08; Spring 2020
Legal Environment of Business
MW 4:00 – 5:15PM; Edu. Center 101
Professor Suanne M. Ansari, J.D.

All content is subject to modification; any changes made will be posted on OAKS.

Contact Information
Email: ansarism@cofc.edu
Phone: Department of Accounting and Business Law (843)953-0466
Office: Tate 301

Office Hours: MWF 11:00AM to 11:45AM; 1:30PM to 3:30PM; or by appointment.

I encourage students to contact me by email for any questions that do not require an in-person meeting. If you have any difficulty meeting in person during the designated office hours, please let me know and we will make alternate arrangements. You are welcome to stop by anytime I am in my office.

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 the 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.

Text Book and materials: Anderson’s Business Law and the Legal Environment, by Twomey, Jennings, and Greene, 23rd edition. All BLAW205 sections use this textbook. You do not need to purchase the bundled text; I do not use Mindtap. You may rent or purchase a used text; however, it must be the 23rd edition.

*I have placed a copy of the text on reserve at the Addlestone Library; it be may be checked out for a few hours at a time for use in the library. Slides will be made available to students on OAKS; additional materials may be handed out in class and made available on OAKS.

School of Business Learning Goals
Communication Skills: Students demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.
Quantitative 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.
Course Learning Objectives:
1) Introduce students to the legal framework within which businesses must operate;
2) Provide students with an awareness of the legal limitations and consequences of strategic business decisions;
3) Introduce students to the social and ethical implications and responsibilities of business operations;
4) Challenge students to acquire business law communication skills and demonstrate their ability to communicate in a professional manner through verbal and written assignments.

This course will give the student a general understanding of the legal environment of business as well as the basic legal precepts and regulatory framework that impact business. At the end of the semester, students should be able to identify basic legal issues in the business context.

FINAL GRADE
Grading: (description of each is below)  Grading Scale:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>A- 90-94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B+ 87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B  84-86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Briefing</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>B- 80-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>C+ 77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Group</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>C  74-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>C- 70-73%</td>
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EXAMS- 20% each:
There will be three exams, each are worth 20% of your final grade. The exams are noncumulative and closed book. Anything assigned and covered in class prior to each exam may be on the exam. This includes subject matter from daily briefings, small group assignments, quizzes and other assignments. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions objective in nature which utilize critical thinking skills and application of knowledge gained from the assigned subject matter. Exams may not be made up without a properly documented excused absence; whether an absence is excused or not is at the sole discretion of Professor Ansari.
Exams are not reviewed in class; however, students may view their exam in my office during office hours or by appointment.

DAILY BRIEFING- 15%:
Each student will be responsible to present a Daily Briefing (15% of final grade) in class on their assigned day. A Daily Briefing is a discussion of a current event relevant to legal issues in the business world based on a recent news story or court case. You will 1) provide a summary of the facts and identify the business law issue(s) raised in the article or case; 2) determine the business law principles involved and how they apply to resolve the issue; and 3) provide a conclusion including the outcome of the case and your opinion.
The class will then discuss the business law issues raised in your article. The Daily Briefing may be a current news event, a recent business law case, or a relevant hot topic in the business law world, however no matter your source it must be dated within the month prior to your assigned presentation date.
You must turn in a well written and grammatically correct summary. The summary must be emailed to me by 10:00PM the evening prior to your assigned presentation day.
Your grade will be based on both the in-class presentation and your written summary.

**SMALL GROUPS- 5%:**
There will be at least one Small Group assignment during the semester. The Small Groups will be assigned during a class period at the Professor’s discretion. The Small Group assignment counts for 5% of the final grade and cannot be made up.

**QUIZZES- 10%:**
I assign 2 multiple choice quizzes between each exam for a total of 6. Quizzes will be administered using Google Forms, are completed outside of class, and are designed to prepare you for the exams. Quizzes will count for 10% of the final grade.

**PARTICIPATION- 10%:**
You are expected to prepare for class by reading the text and any materials provided that are relevant to the chapter(s) scheduled to be discussed (see syllabus Course Schedule) and be able to engage in class discussion of the subject matter. Your record of attendance (see Attendance section below) will also impact your participation grade; more than 3 unexcused absences will have a 2-point deduction for each additional unexcused absence. You are expected to be respectful and mindful of your classmates and the forum; disruptive conduct will not be tolerated and will negatively affect this portion of your final grade.

As time allows, we will utilize active problem-solving exercises during class to apply business law concepts discussed in the lecture to real world case problems. Your contribution to this activity will also affect your participation grade.

**ATTENDANCE:**
You are expected to attend class and encouraged to do so in order to benefit from the class lectures, discussions, and assignments. Participation is 10% of the final grade, while I will not penalize you for an excused absence, more than three unexcused absences will affect the participation quotient of your final grade.

Attendance includes both a physical and mental component. If you are physically here but are using your laptop for anything other than BLAW205 purposes or have your phone visible and active for unrelated to BLAW reasons, you are not present mentally and you will be marked as absent.

Timely arrival to class is crucial – just as it is for a business meeting. I understand we all have a challenge every so often, however habitual lateness will not be tolerated as it is disrespectful and disruptive to everyone.

I understand that college-sponsored activities, where students are official representatives of the College of Charleston, may result in absence(s). It is the student’s responsibility to provide me with documentation one week prior to the anticipated absence in order to be eligible for reasonable accommodations for the missed class activity.

Absences due to religious observances are considered excused absences and the student will be provided with reasonable accommodation, however it is the student’s responsibility to notify me in advance of the absence and make up the missed work.

Only students with an excused absence may make up missed work such as quizzes and other in-class assignments.

**POLICIES:**
**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO CHECK OAKS AND YOUR EMAIL FOR CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Recording of class lectures is not permitted. There will be no video, audio, photograph, or any means of recording without obtaining all necessary permissions. Students have an expectation of privacy in order to
foster a healthy learning environment; the professor and third parties have proprietary rights in the materials used during class.

Laptops, phones and other devices may only be used in class for BLAW purposes (see ATTENDANCE above).

Extra credit is not provided because the student has ample opportunity to perform well by attending class, reading assigned materials, taking notes, reviewing the subject matter, and completing all assignments.

No makeup exams will be given without an official excuse obtained from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies and any discretion given for missing the exam will depend on the nature of the excuse. If you anticipate missing an exam contact me prior to the exam date. It is your responsibility to take exams.

Students must have an active college email account to receive official notifications from the College and the professor. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO CHECK OAKS AND YOUR EMAIL FOR CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**Disability Statement**
If there is a student in the class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, please come and discuss this with me during my office hours or send me an email. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class or as soon as you are approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.

**Center for Student Learning:** I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing strategies, and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study strategy appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at [http://csl.cofc.edu](http://csl.cofc.edu) or call (843)953-5635.

**Mental & Physical Wellbeing:**
At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at [http://counseling.cofc.edu](http://counseling.cofc.edu) or 843.953.5640) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863 or visit [http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php](http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php)). You can also visit both on campus on the 3rd floor of Robert Scott Small. These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

**Food & Housing Resources:**
Many CoC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support ([http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php)). Also, you can go to [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php) to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the
Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need.

**College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity**
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/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php**
COURSE SCHEDULE
BLAW 205, Section 08 MW 4:00PM – 5:15PM

Jan. 8 Course Introduction; Chapter 1 Intro

Jan. 13 Chapter 1, Nature and Sources of Law; Chapter 2, The Court System and Dispute Resolution

Jan. 15 Chapter 2, The Court System and Dispute Resolution (last day drop/add)

Jan. 20 NO CLASS Martin Luther King Jr. DAY

Jan. 22 Chapter 3, Business Ethics

Jan. 27 Chapter 3, Business Ethics

Jan. 29 Chapter 4, The Constitution as the Foundation

Feb. 3 Chapter 4, The Constitution as the Foundation

Feb. 5 Chapter 5, Government Regulation of Competition; Antitrust

Feb. 10 Chapter 5, Government Regulation of Competition; Antitrust
Review: EXAM 1

Feb. 12 EXAM 1

Feb. 17 Chapter 6, Administrative Law

Feb 19 Ch. 9, IP Rights

Feb. 24 Ch. 9, IP Rights: Small Group Work

Feb. 26 Ch. 9, IP Rights; Small Group Work

Mar. 2 Chapter 11, Contracts; Chapter 12, Formation of Contracts

Mar. 4 Chapter 13, Contracts; Capacity & Genuine Assent

Mar. 9 Chapter 14, Contracts; Consideration

Mar. 11 Chapter 15, Contracts; Legality

(March 13 last day to withdraw)

March 16 through March 20 SPRING BREAK

Mar. 23 Chapter 19, Breach of Contract; remedies
Review: EXAM 2
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>EXAM2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>Chapter 40, Business Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Chapter 8, Torts</td>
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<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>Chapter 8, Torts</td>
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<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>Chapter 24, Product Liability</td>
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<td>Apr. 13</td>
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<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>Chapter 7, Crimes</td>
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<td>Apr. 20</td>
<td>Chapter 38, Employment Law; Chapter 39, Equal Employment Opportunity Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 22</td>
<td>Employment Law Cont.; Review for Final; Last Day of Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 24</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM  7:30PM to 10:30PM    <strong>This is a FRIDAY</strong></td>
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