BLAW 205- Section 5
Spring 2021
Legal Environment of Business
Online with Synchronized Meetings
Zoom Sessions 9:30 TR
3 credit hours
Dr. Roxane DeLaurell

Contact information: delaurellr@cofc.edu

Office Hours: By Zoom Mondays 1-3, info is on Oaks page, or email for an appointment.

Oaks is HQ for everything course related. Check it regularly.

Text material: All text material will be provided on Oaks/HQ. There is no required textbook but should you like to have reference material a recommended textbook is available online at https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/business-law-and-the-legal-environment The authors are Don Mayer, Daniel Warner and George Seidel. The book is open source and free for your use in this class. It has chapters that cover each of the topics in this course. Please respect the rules of open source in your use of the text.

How things will work:

This course is a hybrid course with scheduled meeting times to be held by Zoom on TR at 9:30 am. All material, assignments, links and due dates will be posted to Oaks/HQ. You must know how to use Oaks: please contact itservicedesk@cofc.edu for help. The course is divided up into seven topics. Each topic will be covered in two weeks. Voice thread lectures or ‘podcasts’ on the topic are posted to Oaks/HQ and are to be listened to by you on your own schedule. Powerpoints on each topic are also provided. Zoom meetings will be used for questions, discussion, and presentation of daily briefs. Daily briefs are assigned on the syllabus. Please make sure that you are available on your assigned dates. When we complete a topic I will assign a Big Think which you will answer in a word or pdf document and upload to the assignment dropbox provided on Oaks/HQ. In summary this is what you will be expected to do for this course:

1. listen to the voice thread lecture or ‘podcasts’ on the topic on your own schedule,
2. view the powerpoint slides for each topic on your own schedule and refer to the text if needed,

3. ask any questions you might have about the material or anything else during the zoom sessions,

4. upload a daily brief to Oaks/HQ and present it to the class during your assigned zoom session answering any questions we ask,

5. complete the seven Big Thinks and upload them to Oaks/HQ by the due dates, and

6. Check your email and Oaks/HQ regularly.

Oaks/HQ:

Your Oaks page for this course is where you can find everything you will need. That is why I am calling it HQ, go there first and if you cannot find the answer e mail me. There under the content tab you will find links to the voice threads(podcasts), the powerpoints and big thinks for each topic. You can also find the syllabus which details the schedule and provides a link to the open source text. If you look on the righthand side of Oaks/HQ you will see the dates that things are due, and you can click on those events to take you to the zoom sessions, assignments, office hours and other scheduled events. You should manage your time by checking that part of the page regularly for due dates. Under the grades tab you will find the assignment dropboxes for uploading your work. I will be using the gradebook so you should be able to view your grades and any feedback that I provide.

How you will be graded:

Final Grade 100% = 70% Big Thinks + 30% Daily Briefs

Daily Briefs:

You will be assigned a zoom session on the syllabus. You must select a news article published within the prior two weeks that deals with a business law issue and present it to the class for discussion. You should pick an issue that interests you: this allows you to customize the educational experience to your specific interests. You will write up a summary (no longer than one page) of the article stating where you found it and why it is important to business law: what are the important issues it raises. You will upload the summary to the assignment dropbox before class begins, late work will be penalized. Please upload as a pdf or word document. You will present that article to the class on your assigned day for questions and discussion. Your camera must be turned on when you make this presentation. You will be graded on the written summary, presentation and
on your ability to answer questions. This will count 30% of your final grade. I will do several daily briefs at the start of the semester to serve as a model. A grading rubric is posted.

**Big Thinks:**

When we complete a topic you will find an assignment link to a question designed around the topic’s material. You will write an answer and upload it to Oaks/HQ. It should be no longer than two pages and should be a pdf or word document. I will grade these and provide feedback. This write up is designed to show that you can apply the substantive material. Your ability to analyze and apply the material is critical to learning. You will complete **seven** of these and they will be averaged for 70% of your final grade. A grading rubric is posted.

**Rewrites:**

You will be allowed to rewrite **two** of your big thinks. Once you receive your graded big think with comments you can rewrite it and resubmit to the assignment dropbox, you will have one week from the day you receive your graded big think to submit your rewrite. I will grade the rewrite and enter the higher grade. This will allow you to improve your grade on that specific big think. You must submit a big think which will be graded and returned in order to submit a rewrite.

**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-, 69-67 = D+, 64-66 = D,

**What I ask of you:**

This is a hybrid course with zoom meetings so please exercise good zoomiquette: turn your microphone off when not speaking and raise your hand when you wish to speak. We are all online and using technology so the odds of something going wrong are high: let’s be patient and if you have any problems or questions let me know and with the help of IT we should be able to work them out. We are all expected to be considerate of each other, polite in our language and tolerant of all viewpoints. **Bad behavior will suffer a grade penalty.**
The only times you are required to turn your camera on are when presenting daily briefs and when answering roll during the first two weeks. I will only take roll then so as to certify that you are in the class. This is reported to the registrar’s office.

We all have protectable property interests in the work we produce for this course, you and me. The Oaks/HQ site and its contents are protected and cannot be used for any purpose other than class work without getting the written permission of all participants as well as the College.

Please manage your time wisely so that you can meet all deadlines. Late work will suffer a grade penalty.

You should have an active College e mail account which you check regularly.

If you anticipate the need for any type of special accommodation inform me as soon as possible so that accommodation can be reached. You are responsible for supplying the necessary documentation in support of any accommodation.

If you are experiencing any issues which can impact your participation and performance in this class please contact me as soon as possible. It is better to discuss these issues as they arise and work them out then.

**Schedule of Events: Semester begins Tuesday Jan. 12**

Jan 12: Introduction to course
         Syllabus review.

Jan 14: Business and the Constitution: Lecture, Slides

Jan 19: Business and the Constitution: Lecture, Slides
        Daily Brief: DeLaurell
        Add/drop deadline

Jan 21: Business and the Constitution: Lecture, Slides
        Daily Brief: DeLaurell

Jan 26: Business and the Constitution: Lecture Slides
        Daily Brief: DeLaurell

Jan 28: Business and the Constitution: Lecture Slides
Big Think 1: Due Jan 31

Feb 2: Sources of Law and Court System and Dispute Resolution: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 4: Sources of Law and Court System and Dispute Resolution: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 9: Sources of Law and Court System and Dispute Resolution: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 11: Sources of Law and Court System and Dispute Resolution: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:
Big Think 2: Due Feb 14

Feb 16: Ethics and Social Responsibility: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 18: Ethics and Social Responsibility: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 23: Ethics and Social Responsibility: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Feb 25: Ethics and Social Responsibility: Lecture Slides
Daily Briefs:
Big Think 3: Due Feb 28

Mar 2: No class

Mar 4: No class

Midterm grades due Friday March 5
Mar 9: Torts and Product Liability: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Mar 11: Torts and Product Liability: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Mar 16: Torts and Product Liability: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Mar 18: Torts and Product Liability: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:
Big Think 4: Due Mar 21

March 22 is deadline to withdraw

Mar 23: Contracts: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Mar 25: Contracts: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Mar 30: Contracts: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Apr 1: Contracts: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:
Big Think 5: Due Apr 4

Apr 6: Intellectual Property: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:

Apr 8: Intellectual Property: Lecture, Slides
Daily Briefs:
Apr 13: Intellectual Property: Lecture, Slides
          Daily Briefs:

Apr 15: Intellectual Property: Lecture, Slides
          Daily Briefs:
          Big Think 6: Due Apr 18

Apr 20: Corporations: Lecture, Slides
          Daily Briefs:

Apr 21: Corporations: Lecture, Slides
          Daily Briefs: Overflow if needed
          Big Think 7: Due April 27

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THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS COURSE. YOU WILL HAVE UNTIL TUESDAY APRIL 27 (scheduled final exam date) TO TURN IN YOUR FINAL BIG THINK ON OAKS/HQ. MUST BE TURNED IN BY 11:00 pm.

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 could 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)

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the legal framework within which businesses must operate; *Global and Civic Responsibility*
2. To provide students with an awareness of the legal limitations and consequences of strategic business decisions; *Intellectual Innovation and Creativity*
3. To introduce students to the social and ethical implications and responsibilities of business operating within this framework. *Global and Civic Responsibility*
4. To challenge students to communicate in a professional manner through verbal and written assignments using current technological tools. *Communication Skills*

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. Students should be able to identify basic legal issues in the business context.

**School of Business Learning Goals:**

This course will give you the ability to recognize and gage ethical issues involved in making a strategic business decision. This course will give you a necessary tool for critical thinking in identifying and evaluating problems and opportunities faced in the business environment. You will communicate through article presentation, summary and discussion thus challenging you to communicate effectively. You will engage in work designed to exercise analytical skills and problem-solving ability through your Big Think assignments.
The professor reserves the right to alter this syllabus should it be necessary.