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: Due to COVID-19, this course will be delivered entirely online. It is possible that there will be live voluntary Q&A sessions during the term, but this will depend on evolving CofC policy.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Professor: Richard L. Kilpatrick, Jr.

Office Location: JC Long Building 311

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Phone: (843) 953-3374

Email: kilpatrickrl@cofc.edu
COURSE MATERIALS

Primary materials

Lecture notes, Voice Threads, activities, model answers, and other materials posted on Oaks.

Supplemental textbook

Mayer, Warner, and Siedel, BUSINESS LAW AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT, (Saylor 2012). This textbook is available as a free and open-access document at the following link: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/business-law-and-the-legal-environment

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will be delivered online via the Oaks platform. Lecture notes will be paired with Voice Threads, activities, model answers, and discussion board posts. Live zoom meetings, and (possibly) in-person Q&A sessions may also be used as a supplement. The Professor will notify students of these opportunities via email. Some activities for the course are ungraded, but provide critical opportunities for self-study and feedback through model answers uploaded periodically on Oaks.

Note that the textbook for the course is for use only as a supplement to the other material provided on Oaks. The tentative course outline below indicates chapters that cover similar material to those found in the lectures and activities, but in preparation for quizzes and exams, primary attention should be given to the materials posted on Oaks rather than the textbook.

GRADE CRITERIA

Grades for the course are determined by student performance on 5 online quizzes, 3 exams (including the final exam), and 1 current event discussion post.

Exams

Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. Exams uses a combination of multiple-choice and short discussion formats. The final exam is not cumulative.

Quizzes

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

Current Event Discussion Board Post

The current event discussion board post is worth 10% of the final grade. Instructions for the case current event discussion will be posted on Oaks.
COURSE POLICIES

Exam Dates

Exam dates are listed below in the course outline. 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. The sole exception is an extraordinary and legitimate emergency as determined by the Professor’s sole discretion. In such circumstances, the emergency must be properly documented and the student must inform the Professor immediately and prior to the exam. The circumstances are 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.

Internet Access

Students will need consistent internet access to complete this course.

Attendance

There is no attendance record for this course since it will be administered online.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit for this course (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.
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Part I: Law and Dispute Resolution in the United States

Week 1: August 24 – August 28
The Constitution and Federalism (Chapters 1, 4)

Week 2: August 31 – September 4
The Constitution and Federalism (Chapters 1, 4)

Week 3: September 7 – September 11
The Court Systems (Chapter 3)
  *Quiz 1

Week 4: September 14 – September 18
The Court Systems (Chapter 3)

Week 5: September 21 – September 25
Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)
  *Quiz 2

Week 6: September 28 – October 2
Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)
  *Exam 1

Part II: Torts and Business Entities

Week 7: October 12 – October 16
Negligence (Chapter 7)

Week 8: October 19 – October 23
Intentional Torts (Chapter 7)
  *Quiz 3

Week 9: October 26 – October 30
Products Liability (Chapter 20)
  *Quiz 4
Week 10: November 2 – November 6 (Election Day)

Vicarious Liability and Business Entities (Chapters 38, 39, 41, 42, 43)
*Exam 2

**Part III: Contracts, Employment Regulation, and Business Ethics**

Week 11: November 9 – November 13

Contracts (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

Week 12: November 16 – November 20

Contracts (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

Week 13: November 23 – November 27 (Thanksgiving)

Contracts (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)
*Quiz 5

Week 14: November 30 – December 4

Employment Law and Business Ethics (Chapters 50, 51)

Final Exam Period: December 8 – December 14

Final exams are scheduled by CofC. Click here for the published schedule: