BLAW205-02; Fall 2020
Legal Environment of Business
MWF 12:00 – 12:50PM; Beatty 214
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 (I will reply within 24 hours)
Office: JC Long 332A

Office Hours:
MW 3:30PM to 4:30PM and FRI 1:30PM to 2:30PM: On campus or on Zoom.
Contact me if you need to talk but these times do not work for you. You are welcome to stop by anytime I am in my office on campus. I am here to help!

Course Delivery: TRADITIONAL FLIPPED. Content will be delivered online; lectures will be viewed asynchronously. You will access all information needed through our OAKS course page or through links provided by me in email. In person class attendance is NOT required. When students return to campus and choose to meet in the classroom, we will be required to wear face coverings and follow social distancing guidelines. During in-person meetings, students will be able to have content related discussions and go over questions with me.

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; and overview of antitrust.

Materials and Textbook: Primary materials will be posted on OAKS and include my lecture Slides enhanced with voice and video using VoiceThread. The textbook is Business Law and the Legal Environment written by Don Mayer, Daniel M. Warner and George Seidel. It is an OER text (FREE). Here is the link: https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/business-law-and-the-legal-environment

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:  A  95-100%  D+  67-69%
Exam 1  15%  A-  90-94%  D  64-66%
Exam 2  15%  B+  87-89%  D-  60-63%
Exam 3  20%  B  84-86%  F  0-59%
Daily Briefing  20%  B-  80-83%
Participation  20%  C+  77-79%
Quizzes  10%  C  74-76%
                      C-  70-73%

EXAMS:  
There will be three exams, the 1st two are 15% of your grade, and the final exam is 20%. The exams are noncumulative and closed book. Anything assigned and covered in class may be on the exam. 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. All exams will be taken online. Exams may not be made up without an excused absence; whether an absence is excused or not is in my sole discretion.

DAILY BRIEFING- 20%:  
You will be responsible to complete ONE Daily Briefing. A Daily Briefing is a report about a current event relevant to legal issues in the business world based on a recent news story or court case you select. You will 1) provide a summary of the facts and explain what business law issues are raised; 2) provide a conclusion including the outcome of the case or what each party involved would like to happen; and 3) tell us what your opinion is about the outcome or likely outcome.  
The Daily Briefing may be a current news story or a recent business law case, however no matter your source it must be dated within the month prior to your assigned presentation date.  
You will turn in your Daily Briefing report by 1) uploading it to Dropbox on OAKS Assignments AND 2) uploading it to the Discussion board post under your name. The entire class will make comments or ask questions. I will post a grading rubric to OAKS. 
Your grade will be based on both your written summary and your responses to questions (you must respond to at least 3 questions posted by classmates on the discussion board).

QUIZZES- 10%:  
I assign 2 quizzes between each exam for a total of 6. Quizzes will be administered using Google Forms and are designed to prepare you for the exams. A link to the quiz is provided on OAKS and you will have a few days to complete it. The 6 quizzes cumulatively count for 10% of your final grade.
**PARTICIPATION: 20%:**
You are required to do 2 things for this portion of your grade:
1) All lectures will be posted on OAKS Content as VoiceThread enhanced Slides. Each chapter will have a corresponding lecture. You will view each VoiceThread lecture within the timeframe suggested. The participation portion of your grade is determined by your comments and questions you post to the VoiceThread lectures. You are **required** to post at least one comment or question per lecture/chapter. This is also how I will determine who is “present” for purposes of attendance for my records only.
2) Each week, you will read your classmates Daily Briefing posts on the Discussion Board and on one classmate's Daily Briefing assignment, you will post at least 1 thoughtful comment or question. Find Daily Briefing posts under Communication/Discussion Board/ Daily Briefings.

**ATTENDANCE:** In person attendance is not required if for any reason you are not able to be present when classroom meetings resume. I will keep track of both in class attendance and online activity for record keeping purposes.

**POLICIES:**
You are responsible to check OAKS and your CofC email for class announcements at least 3 times a week. You must have an active college email account to receive official notifications from the College and me.
Recording or copying class lectures provided in person or posted online is not permitted. There will be no video, audio, photograph, or any means of recording in-person or Zoom meetings 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. Standard netiquette protocols will be expected and enforced for all online activities.

Extra credit is not provided because the student has ample opportunity to perform well by viewing lectures, reading assigned materials, taking notes, reviewing the subject matter, and completing all assignments.
Only students with an excused absence may make up missed work including exams, quizzes, and other class 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.

Disability Statement If you have a documented disability and have been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, please notify me. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to contact 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 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 the Counseling Center (professional counselors at [http://counseling.cofc.edu](http://counseling.cofc.edu) or 843.953.5640).

**Food & Housing Resources:**
Many CofC 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. For incidents handled by the instructor, depending on the severity of academic dishonesty, you may have points deducted from your grade, an entire letter grade lower, or a failing grade.

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://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php](http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php)**

**CofC Institutional Syllabus Statement Regarding the Fall 2020 Semester**
The College of Charleston is committed to promoting the health and safety of our campus community. To that end, all faculty and students must abide by public health guidelines that include practicing social
distancing in the classroom and elsewhere on campus, following signage indicating the entrance, exit, and traffic flow in and around campus buildings, wearing a mask or cloth face covering while in the presence of others, washing or sanitizing hands frequently, sanitizing individual and shared learning and work spaces, and staying home when sick. These practices are mandatory. Students will not be allowed to attend class without an appropriate face covering or when showing symptoms of illness.

Due to social distancing requirements, the number of students allowed in the classroom at one time is significantly reduced. As a result, most in-person courses will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to ensure continuity of learning for each student throughout the semester. These strategies will vary by course section and students are advised to read each syllabus carefully. Faculty have planned each course to enable all students, whether they are in the classroom or working remotely, to be fully engaged in the learning experience. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstance. All faculty will use OAKS to facilitate student access to the course syllabus, course materials, and the gradebook. The College of Charleston’s standard grading system is in effect.

There is a possibility that the semester will be disrupted by weather or the pandemic. Every course syllabus will include a plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning in the event in-person classes must be suspended. Regardless of the method of instruction, all courses will move online for one week after Thanksgiving. Final exams will be administered online. Therefore, all students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

The College anticipates that some members of the community will fall ill or test positive for the coronavirus, and then be required to quarantine thereby missing class, assignments, and assessments. Faculty are expected to provide reasonable accommodations as determined by the content, level, and expectations of their courses for students who become ill or indicate a need to isolate themselves. To the extent possible, arrangements will be made for students with COVID-19 related absences to continue in the class. Faculty are encouraged to make explicit in their syllabus what sorts of accommodations students can expect with respect to missed course meetings, assignments, and assessments. However, students should be aware that extended absences for any reason cannot be accommodated in every course. Missed assignments and assessments may result in poor or failing grades. If a student is absent from class for an extended period, a withdrawal (W) before the deadline should be strongly considered. In all cases, assigning course grades is the responsibility of the instructor consistent with the grading policy published on the syllabus.
COURSE SCHEDULE
BLAW 205, Section 02 MWF 12:00noon – 12:50PM

Aug. 26 W  Course Introduction
Aug. 28 F  Chapter 1, Introduction to Law and Legal Systems
Aug. 31 M  Chapter 1, Continued  (Last day drop/add)
Sep. 02 W  Chapter 2, Corporate Social Responsibility & Business Ethics
Sep. 04 F  Chapter 2, Continued
Sep. 07 M  Chapter 2, Continued
Sep. 09 W  Chapter 3, Courts and the Legal Process
Sep. 11 F  Chapter 3, Continued
Sep. 14 M  Chapter 3, Continued
Sep. 16 W  Chapter 4, Constitutional Law and US Commerce
Sep. 18 F  Chapter 4, Continued
Sep. 21 M  Chapter 4, Continued
Sep. 23 W  Chapter 6, Criminal Law (White Collar Crime)
Sep. 25 F  Review
Sep. 28 M  EXAM 1
Sep. 30 W  Chapter 8, Intro to Contract Law
Oct. 02 F  Chapter 9, The Agreement (Contract Law)
Oct. 05 M  Chapter 10, Real Assent (Contract Law)
Oct. 07 W  Chapter 10, Continued
Oct. 09 F  Chapter 11, Consideration (Contract Law)
Oct. 12 M  Chapter 11, Continued
Oct. 14 W  Chapter 12, Legality (Contract Law)
Oct. 16 F  Chapter 12, Continued
Oct. 19 M  Chapter 16, Remedies (Contract Law)
Oct. 21 W  Chapter 16, Continued
Oct. 23 F  Chapter 50, Employment Law
Oct. 26 M  Chapter 50, Continued
Oct. 28 W  Chapter 50, Continued  \textit{(Last day to withdraw)}
Oct. 30 F  Review

Nov. 02 M  \textbf{EXAM 2}
Nov. 04 W  Chapters 40 – 43 Business Organizations
Nov. 06 F  Business Organizations, Continued
Nov. 09 M  Business Organizations, Continued
Nov. 11 W  Chapter 7, Introduction to Tort Law
Nov. 13 F  Chapter 7, Continued
Nov. 16 M  Chapter 20, Products Liability
Nov. 18 W  Chapter 20, Continued
Nov. 20 F  Chapter 20, Continued
Nov. 23 M  Chapter 32, Intellectual Property

Nov. 24 through Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30 M  Chapter 32, Continued

Dec. 02 W  Chapter 32, Continued
Dec. 04 F  Review; LAST DAY OF CLASSES
Dec. 07 M  READING DAY

\textbf{Dec. 13} Sunday \textbf{FINAL EXAM}  \textbf{3:30PM to 5:30PM}  \textbf{ONLINE}

\textit{*This schedule may be modified by Professor Ansari; changes will be posted on OAKS.}