



## BLAW 205: The Legal Environment of Business

Fall 2021 Syllabus

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### 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:** BLAW 205-04 Beatty Center 216; T/R 10:50 am -12:05 pm

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### FACULTY INFORMATION

**Professor:** Richard L. Kilpatrick, Jr.

**Office Location:** JC Long Building 311

**Office Hours:** T/R 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm or by appointment

**Phone:** (843) 953-3374

**Email:** [kilpatrickrl@cofc.edu](mailto:kilpatrickrl@cofc.edu)

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### Primary materials

Lecture notes, activities, 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 in person, with some activities conducted online via the Oaks platform. It will utilize lectures, textbook and case readings, activities, and discussion board posts. Live Zoom meetings may also be utilized. Some activities for the course are ungraded, but they provide critical opportunities for self-study and feedback.

Note that the textbook for the course is for use only as a supplement to the other materials 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 online exams, and 1 current event presentation with Oaks discussion board post.

### Exams

Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. These exams use a combination of multiple-choice and discussion formats. The final exam is not cumulative—it covers the material from Part III of the course.

### Quizzes

Each online quiz is worth 3% of the final grade. The 5 quizzes are cumulatively worth 15% of the final grade. Quizzes use a combination of objective assessment tools, such as multiple-choice, matching, etc.

### Current Event Discussion Board Post

The current event presentation and discussion board post is worth 10% of the final grade. Instructions and an example for the current event discussion will be posted on Oaks.

## Letter Grades

A	94% - 100%
A-	90% - 93%
B+	87% - 89%
B	84% - 86%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	77% - 79%
C	74% - 76%
C-	70% - 73%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Exam Dates**

Exams for this course will be administered online on the Oaks platform. Exam dates are listed below in the course outline. Students must take exams on the scheduled date and time. A student who does not take an exam on the scheduled date and time 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.

### **Computer and Internet Access**

Consistent computer and internet access is required to complete this course. Exams, quizzes, and other assessments will be delivered online via the Oaks platform.

### **Attendance**

There is no attendance grade or record for this course.

### **Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit for this course.

## **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 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 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 23 – August 27

The Constitution and Federalism (Chapters 1, 4)

Week 2: August 30 – September 3

The Constitution and Federalism (Chapters 1, 4)

Week 3: September 6 – September 10

The Court Systems (Chapter 3)

**\*Quiz 1 (open September 9-12)**

Week 4: September 13 – September 17

The Court Systems (Chapter 3)

Week 5: September 20 - September 24

Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)

**\*Quiz 2 (open September 23-26)**

Week 6: September 27 – October 1

Civil Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)

**\*Exam 1 (open September 30 only)**

### Part II: Torts and Business Entities

Week 7: October 4 – October 8

Negligence (Chapter 7)

Week 8: October 11 – October 15

Intentional Torts (Chapter 7)

**\*Quiz 3 (open October 14-17)**

Week 9: October 18- October 22 (fall break – no class October 19)

Products Liability (Chapter 20)

Week 10: October 25 – October 29

Products Liability (Chapter 20)

**\*Quiz 4 (open October 28-31)**

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

Week 11: November 1 – November 5

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

**\*Exam 2 (open November 4 only)**

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

Week 12: November 8 – November 12

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

Week 13: November 15 – November 19

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

**\*Quiz 5 (open November 18-21)**

Week 14: November 22 – November 26 (Thanksgiving – no class November 25)

Employment Law and Business Ethics (Chapters 50, 51)

Week 15: November 29 – December 3

Employment Law and Business Ethics (Chapters 50, 51)

Final Exam Period: December 8 – December 13

The dates and times for final exams are assigned by CofC. See the following link for the exam schedule: <https://registrar.cofc.edu/pdf/exam-schedule-fall2021.pdf>

**\*BLAW 205-04 – (open December 13 only)**