

BLAW205-10; Fall 2021
Legal Environment of Business
MW 2:00PM – 3:15PM; Beatty 320
Professor Suanne M. Ansari

All contents of this syllabus and related course policies are subject to modification; any changes made will be posted on OAKS.

Contact Information

Email: ansarism@cofc.edu Include your class section and the nature of your inquiry in the subject line. I will reply within 24 hours.

Office: JC Long 332A

Office Hours:

By appointment in person (JC Long 332A) or on Zoom. Email me to schedule a time. You are welcome to stop by anytime I am in my office on campus. I am here to help!

Course Delivery: Classroom lecture. If the college suspends in person instruction due to changing COVID conditions or weather disruption, I will provide you with details to ensure continuity of instruction.

Course Communication: All course information will be provided in class, by email, or on OAKS. To do well in this course, it is imperative that you attend class, check your CofC email and the course OAKS page frequently.

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: I will provide primary materials reviewed in class and will post these on OAKS or provide handouts. The textbook is for reference only for students who wish to supplement the classroom learning experience and is not required. It is an OER text (FREE). Business Law and the Legal Environment written by Don Mayer, Daniel M. Warner and George Seidel. 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	20%	A-	90-94%	D	64-66%
Exam 2	20%	B+	87-89%	D-	60-63%
Exam 3 (Final Exam)	20%	B	84-86%	F	0-59%
BLAW Briefing	25%	B-	80-83%		
Quizzes (6 total)	15%	C+	77-79%		
		C	74-76%		
		C-	70-73%		

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 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. **Exams may not be made up without an excused absence; whether an absence is excused or not is in my sole discretion.**

BLAW BRIEFING assignment- 25%:

You will be responsible to complete ONE BLAW Briefing. A BLAW Briefing is a concise report (1 to 3 pages) of a **current** event relevant to **legal** issues in the **business** world based on a **recent** news story or court case you select. **There is a written and oral component.** In your written report 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. You will be assigned a date to give an oral presentation to the class. Your oral presentation will be a 5-minute summary of your report. I will provide an example and a rubric.

The BLAW 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 uploading it to OAKS Assignments. Your written report is due by 11:00PM the day before your presentation assignment date.

Your grade will be based on both your written summary and your class presentation.

QUIZZES- 15%:

I assign 2 quizzes before each exam for a total of 6. Quizzes will be administered using OAKS/Quizzes 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 15% of your final grade.

ATTENDANCE: You are expected to attend class and encouraged to do so to benefit from the class lectures, discussions, and assignments. More than three unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade. Whether an absence is excused or not is in my discretion. What is an excused absence? Illness, feeling unwell, positive COVID and in quarantine, death in the family, doctor appointment. What is an unexcused absence? Slept late, vacation, wedding, travel that is not CofC related. In addition, 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. Using your device for other than BLAW purposes is disruptive. 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 to be eligible for reasonable accommodations for the missed class activity. Only students with an excused absence may make up missed work such as quizzes and other in-class assignments.

If you experience a major life disruption whereby you will experience a longer absence from class, I will make reasonable accommodations to help you continue your studies.

IMPORTANT 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 forbidden. Dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor is prohibited. Violators of this policy may experience an adverse effect on their grade.
- There will be no video, audio, photograph, or any means of recording or copying any course materials including lectures whether in-person or posted online, Slides, Quizzes, Exams, Brief Reports, and assignments, 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 attending class, 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 excused absence. Exam dates are posted in advance and are available on the syllabus. If you anticipate missing an exam due to an excused absence, contact me prior to the exam date. Whether an absence is excused or not is in my discretion. What is an excused absence for an exam? Illness, positive COVID and in quarantine, death in the immediate family.
- I teach 4 sections of BLAW205. No, you may not sit for an exam in another class section other than the one you are enrolled in.
- Timely arrival to class is crucial – just as it is for a business meeting. We all have a challenge every so often, however habitual lateness will not be tolerated as it is disrespectful and disruptive to everyone. Early departure will be similarly treated.

- I encourage you to communicate with me if you experience any disruption or circumstance that is interfering with your successful performance in this class. I am here to help and can only do so if you reach out.
- Yes, I am an attorney, but I am not YOUR attorney, we are not in an attorney-client relationship, and nothing I say in class is to be taken as legal advice!

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 student's 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> 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>). Also, you can go to <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 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. For incidents handled by the instructor, depending on the severity of academic dishonesty, you may have points deducted from your grade, receive 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>

CofC Campus Covid Policy

The College of Charleston is committed to promoting the health and safety of our campus community. It is mandatory that you wear a face covering inside all campus properties, including the classrooms and faculty offices. Students will not be allowed to attend class without an appropriate face covering or when showing symptoms of illness.

Disruptions to Course Modality

There is a possibility that the semester will be disrupted by weather or the pandemic. I will provide you with instructions to ensure the continuity of learning in the event in-person classes must be suspended. If there is a disruption to classroom instruction, class will most likely be moved 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE **This schedule may be modified; changes will be posted on OAKS.*
BLAW 205, Section 10 MW 2:00PM – 3:15PM

Aug. 25 W	Course Introduction; Begin <u>Intro to Law and Legal Systems</u>
Aug. 30 M	Intro to Law & Legal Systems Cont. (Last day drop/add)
Sep. 01 W	<u>Corporate Social Responsibility & Business Ethics</u>
Sep. 06 M	Continued; Begin <u>Courts & the Legal Process</u>
Sep. 08 W	Courts and the Legal Process
Sep. 13 M	<u>Constitutional Law & US Commerce</u>
Sep. 15 W	Continued
Sep. 20 M	Continued; REVIEW Exam 1
Sep. 22 W	EXAM 1
Sep. 27 M	<u>Employment Law Part 1</u>
Sep. 29 W	<u>Employment Law; part 2</u>
Oct. 04 M	Continued
Oct. 06 W	<u>Contract Law; Intro</u>
Oct. 11 M	<u>Contract Law; Formation</u>
Oct. 13 W	<u>Contracts; Capacity & Genuine Assent</u>
Oct. 18 M	NO CLASS FALL BREAK
Oct. 20 W	<u>Contracts; Consideration</u>
Oct. 25 M	<u>Contracts; Legality</u>
Oct. 27 W	<u>Contracts; Remedies</u> ; Review materials Exam 2 (Last day to withdraw)
Nov. 01 M	EXAM 2
Nov. 03 W	<u>Business Organizations</u>
Nov. 08 M	Cont.; Introduction to <u>Tort Law</u>
Nov. 10 W	Tort Law, Continued

Nov. 15 M Tort Law Cont.; Product Liability

Nov. 17 W Product Liability Continued

Nov. 22 M Continued

Nov. 24 thru Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29 M Intellectual Property

Dec. 01 W Continued

Dec. 06 M Continued; REVIEW Exam 3 aka Final Exam; LAST CLASS!

Dec. 11 SATURDAY FINAL EXAM 3:30PM to 5:30PM

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