

Business Law Syllabus

[Note: To be supplemented with instructor- and school-specific information]

Class Code:

Instructor Name:

Office Location:

Office Phone:

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Overview

Ignorantia juris non excusat

"Ignorance of the law does not excuse"

Understanding the law is a basic building block for your future career. And while the intent of these materials is not to make you into attorneys, you will have a very good understanding of the basic principles of the law and its impact on almost every aspect of business and private life. This will include an introduction to the American legal system, the legal and regulatory environment of business in the global environment, contracts, agency, and business organizations.

As you become leaders in your adult lives and engage in business, your basic understanding of the law will give you 1) the confidence to identify when a "legal issue" exists that requires some thought and attention (and, perhaps, the advice of a lawyer) and 2) an understanding of the general legal framework for the situation.

Learning Objectives

After reading the materials and completing the assignments, you should be able to:

- Analyze constitutional, state, federal, and international legal influences on business and individuals in the United States
- Evaluate potential legal issues in the business environment
- Analyze the basics of the U.S. legal system, including crimes, torts, and contracts
- Analyze the legal and court processes in the United States
- Attend, report, and evaluate a court proceeding

- Analyze and apply the basic requirements for contracts
- Evaluate different legal entities for doing business, including sole proprietorships, partnerships (all forms), limited liability companies, and corporations
- Analyze legal issues in consumer, discrimination, employment, and labor laws
- Differentiate the various types of property (personal, real, and intellectual)
- Analyze the basic differences between domestic and international legal environments
- Demonstrate and improve effective written and verbal communication skills by analyzing legal and ethical issues

Course Components

The course materials are comprised of the following components:

- Reading Materials: written content, including graphics and linked outside materials
- Concept Checks: in-text segments that expand on topics with learning through outside sources and other materials
- Best Practice Tips: in-text tips to apply business law concepts in your personal lives
- Quizzes: multiple choice and true/false questions designed to test your understanding of the materials
- Assignments: written or auto-graded assignments of different lengths to apply your in-class learning

There also are numerous outside sources hyperlinked in the materials. To successfully access those sources, you need to have the technical ability to access URLs while you work within the platform.

Written Assignments

You will be asked to write both informally and formally in the assignments throughout the semester to help you develop and improve your writing competencies.

- Use a coherent writing process including invention, organization, drafting, revising, and editing to form an effective final written project.
- Locate, use, and appropriately cite materials both printed and digital.
- Create logical, engaging, effective written products appropriate for specific audiences and purposes.

- Use correct grammar and mechanics in writing.

Court Visitation Project

As part of this course, you will need to “Go to Court.” Your understanding of the law will be greatly enhanced by a careful observation of an actual court proceeding. Your report will be due at the end of the semester. The instructions for this assignment, as well as the due date, are provided in the course material.

[Note to instructor: Remember to set a due date for this assignment toward the end of the semester]

Use of AI Tools

You are free to use AI tools, such as ChatGPT for the assignments in class. The use of these tools is a reality in business. The following apply if you use an AI tool for an assignment:

- AI technologies must be used in a manner consistent with ethical principles and guidelines, avoiding any harmful, discriminatory, or malicious actions.
- Academic Integrity: When using AI tools for academic work, you are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, giving proper credit and citation to AI-generated content when necessary.
- Originality and Attribution: You are responsible for ensuring that any AI-generated content is revised and personalized to reflect your own work and ideas.
- Bias and Fairness: Be aware of potential biases in AI systems and take measures to mitigate and address any bias that may arise in your work.

When you use an AI tool, you must submit the version of the submission created by the AI tool as well as the version you revised and personalized. The revisions and personalization should be material enough to show A) that you understood the assignment, B) checked the accuracy of the AI version, and C) ensured that the AI version is not simply plagiarized.

Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated as follows:

A	93-100	B	80-82.9	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	C	73-76.9	D-	60-62.9

B 83-86.9

C- 0-72.9

F Below 60

I will accept a late submission for one grade item per student provided you notify me before missing a due date that you will be late. Also, please do not come to me in Week 15 about an assignment you missed in Week 2. Come to me right away. I will not accept any late submissions otherwise.

There may be opportunities for extra credit. But remember, “may” means *may*, not *will*.

Honesty and Integrity

I expect from you academic honesty and integrity in full compliance with the school’s policies. Non-compliance will result in a failing grade for a specific assignment or for the course.

I am fully aware that it is easy for students to have others do their work. Please don’t. You are just hurting yourself even if I do not find out.

“We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.”

Honor Code - United States Air Force Academy

If you have questions regarding using copyrighted materials owned by others, please check here: <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.

All the materials in this course are either owned by their respective owners. You have permission to use these materials only for the purposes of this course and in accordance with intellectual property laws and regulations.