

**BUS 201, Business Law**

**BUS 201, sec. OAS**

**Fall, 2013 (Sept. 23 – Dec. 11, 2013)**

**Office: C-207A**

**Office Hours: TTh 5:30-6:30 p.m. and by appointment**

**Instructor Name and Credentials: Michael S. Brown, esq., Ph.D., J.D.**

**Email Address: mibrown@bellevuecollege.edu**

### **Course Materials:**

Required:

Cross, Frank B., and Roger LeRoy Miller. *The Legal Environment of Business: Text and Cases*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. South-Western/Cengage Learning.

### **Course Description:**

This is a hands-on course combining readings, online discussions, and various graded assignments. There are also two exams: a mid-term exam and a final exam.

We will examine theories about the legal system, statutes, and case law. We will also learn formal case briefing techniques by critically analyzing case law. Among the topics are contracts, torts, criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional law.

### **Netiquette:**

In general during the current quarter, please do not email me other than via the internal course messaging system. I receive dozens of emails in my regular BC email, and I do not want to risk losing one of your messages to me if you try to contact me outside of our regular, course messaging system.

If you do email me on my regular BC email system, though, please keep the following in mind. *It is critical* that you include in the subject line of all emails you send to me 1) an identification of the matter to which the note pertains (example: NOT “question”; BUT Week 1 Assignment, etc.) Not knowing what the email is about or what information it contains will only cause me – as well as you – delays. Also, if you do not receive a reply from me within 24 hours (longer on weekends/holidays), it could mean that, for whatever reason, I did not receive your email. In this case, please feel free to keep sending me the email until you do get a response from me. Strict adherence to these guidelines is critical, as I often receive dozens of emails in a single day, and your email will easily become invisible if you do not identify it according to these rules. You are responsible for confirming receipt of any email. Consequences for any glitches resulting from not following these or any other instructions are your responsibility.

### **Grading Scale:**

A 93-100; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 60-66; F 0-59.

Grades are final upon recording in the absence of a mathematical error. Grades are not negotiable.

### **Course Grading:**

Syllabus and Course Website Quiz: 20 points *total (no other work will be accepted until receive passing score on this Quiz)*

Research paper project: 100 points total

Weekly Written Assignments: 10 points/week

Court Visit Assignment: 25 points

Mid-term exam: 50 points

Final exam: 50 points

Participation: 10 points per week. Also, see policies below under “Participation” and “Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism” (below)

Library and Media Material Center Tutorial: 10 points

### **Quiz on Syllabus and Course Website (20 points total):**

This quiz is the only quiz in this class. However, it is not only worth 20 points, but your understanding of the syllabus and your familiarity with the course website will likely affect your success in this class. Consequently, all students are required to take this quiz and receive a grade of no less than 15 out of 20 *before* they may submit any other assignments. Students may retake this quiz until they can get the 15/20 passing score. All students must complete the quiz by 11:59 p.m. on **Sunday of Week 1** and submit it to both 1) Turnitin.com (see information below) and 2) the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz submission link on the course website. Students should get a passing grade (15/20) on the Quiz as soon as possible in order to avoid any late penalties that may affect their ability to submit any other assignments on time. Failure to get a passing score on the Quiz within the above deadlines, resulting in late submission of and/or late posting of the grade for the Quiz does not excuse or waive late policies on any other assignment, e.g. Week 1 assignment that is submitted late as a result.

The Quiz is accessible via both 1) the Getting Started page, as well as via the “Assignments” tab under the “Syllabus and Course Website Quiz” link.

### **Research Paper Project (100 points total):**

Download the applicable documents and guidelines from the Getting Started page.

### **Weekly Written Assignments (10 points per week):**

Download and carefully study the Homework Submissions Procedures document from the Getting Started page.

There are weekly assignments based on the readings assigned in the syllabus each week. The assignments require responses to questions that are attached to each week’s Assignments tab (e.g., “Week 1 Assignment” under the Assignments tab).

From the first day of class, students should navigate and become familiar with all of the links on this course website. Your success, both on the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz, as well as in this course, depends on it!

### **Turnitin.com:**

Turnitin is the standard plagiarism checker used in the Business Transfer Program, and all Program courses using written assignments are required to enforce policies consistent with Turnitin.

Submission of all graded work to both 1) the appropriate assignment submission link as well as to 2) Turnitin.com, which checks for plagiarism, is required for all written assignments; no written assignment will be accepted or graded without prior submission of the exact, same document/assignment to Turnitin.com. Enforcement of policies on academic honesty, etc. (below) will be based, in part, on the Turnitin.com reports for graded assignments.

Download and study all the “Turnitin.com Instructions for Students” document from the Getting Started Page.

You must have your Turnitin.com account set up in time so that you can submit all Week 1 required work by 11:59 p.m. on **Sunday of Week 1**. Please note that there can be delays of between 24-48 hours between the time you create your Turnitin account and the time that it is available for you to use. However, delays in setting up your Turnitin.com account – technical problems, misunderstandings, etc. or anything else not constituting a documented “emergency” – do not excuse or waive late policies or any other course or College policies.

### **Court Visit Assignment (25 points):**

Download and carefully study the “Court Visit Assignment” document under the Getting Started page. Submit it to both 1) the Court Visit Assignment submission link under the Assignments tab as well as to 2) Turnitin.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on **Sunday of Week 9**.

### **Exams (50 points each):**

There is a mid-term exam and a final exam. Each exam is worth 50 points.

Proctored exams are required for all online courses. The exams take place either 1) on scheduled dates and times on the BC campus or 2) through a professional testing center approved by the course instructor.

Please download and study all documents pertaining to the exam via the Getting Started page.

Please note that additional information on the exams, including the study guide(s) (if any), as well as exam session information, may be available under Announcements and/or the Exams link.

There are/will be additional detailed instructions on the exams and exam procedures as the information becomes available to the instructor.

*Please note that exam dates for online classes, including this one, do not necessarily follow exam dates, including those for the final exam, in other, on-site classes and may take place prior to the beginning of the final exam period for on-site classes. Please plan accordingly.*

Except for an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus, there will be no changes to exam dates, either prior to or following the regularly scheduled exam dates. Making exceptions in the absence of an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus is unfair to other students, so *please do not ask; it will not be granted.*

### **Participation (10 points per week):**

At a minimum, students must 1) log in to the course website on three (3) different days each week and, in addition 2) post three (3) meaningful comments (i.e., not something like, “I agree,” “I disagree,” etc. and nothing else), pertaining to that week’s assignments, on the Discussion Board each week (see detailed instructions in the “Participation” document, available on your course home page). The strongest examples of student participation, giving rise to the full 10 points per week, often goes to students who log in 5 or more times each week and post 10-15 substantive comments each and every week with incisive analyses going well beyond rote repetition of course content.

Your participation grade will also depend on your overall contribution to class. This generally means contributing in a positive manner to everyone’s learning experience. Disruptive and/or unprofessional conduct may result in point deductions from the overall Participation grade.

“Disruptive conduct” may include Discussion Board postings that are inaccurate, misleading, or disrespectful. If students have an issue that they would like to communicate to the instructor, the proper forum is email to the instructor, not a posting on the Discussion Board, where such communications are likely to distract other students and/or detract from overall class morale. Additional examples of “disruptive conduct” appear in the Participation document (available under the “Homework” link via on your course home page).

In general, the instructor will not provide individualized feedback on student postings directly on the Discussions links; feedback on student postings, as on other graded work, will appear in the student’s grade book.

### **Keeping Track of Your Work:**

You must save all of your work at least in duplicate or triplicate and keep track of it for your own records. You remain responsible for any consequences flowing from any lost work.

Grades for all assignments will be posted in your grade book between 4 and 7 days following the due date. **Example:** a student timely submits her Week 2 Assignment on Sunday at the end of Week 2. The grade on her assignment will be posted near the end of Week 3 between Friday and Sunday.

### **Technical problems:**

Technical problems – including either those related to unfamiliarity with the course website or those that are computer-related, printer-related, etc. – *do not excuse late submissions*. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, the resources to consult include the online tutorials available from your home page, as well as the student technical help people, either online or on your campus.

### **Makeups:**

You may make up a missed graded work without penalty only if you have an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus (below) and document it on letterhead paper or other official document from a legitimate source, e.g., doctor, official, employer, or college personnel; and it must have the preparer’s signature and current contact information. This written documentation must 1) be submitted in writing to the instructor no later than 7 calendar days prior to your proposed makeup submission date (with some form of receipt showing the submission date of your request or other written proof of date of the request

under all applicable guidelines in this syllabus, e.g., for email communications) and 2) accompany your written request to do the makeup. In addition, whether you can do the makeup may also depend upon whether there is a proctored time available (if the makeup is of an exam). All documentation submitted in support of a makeup request must specifically identify the dates of the “emergency” and correspond to the due date(s) of the missing graded work. If it is logistically impracticable to administer a makeup session (lack of proctor, lack of exam space (if an exam, etc.), or other, similar circumstances, there may be no makeup notwithstanding any other, contrary policy(ies) pertaining to makeups. *All final decisions pertaining to the granting of makeups are up to the discretion of the instructor.*

*No makeup work will be accepted, under any circumstances, after 11:59 p.m. on Sunday of Week 10.*

### **Writing Proficiency:**

I will grade you on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and all other aspects of writing. If you have problems with writing, I strongly recommend that you explore various means for correcting them. One handy reference tool for catching the most common problems in writing is Diana Hacker’s *A Writer’s Reference*. If you have Spell Check and/or Grammar Check in your version of Word, *turn them on and use them consistently*. A paper that is an “A” in content may still receive a grade in the “C” range, for example, if the writing style is not competent. The fact that another professor in another class gives a paper a particular grade and/or does not penalize it for writing errors is no indication about the grade the paper will receive in this class.

### **Assignment Submission Guidelines:**

I will not grade partial assignments. I will grade only what you submit in its entirety, i.e., the assignment must be complete at the time of submission.

Unfamiliarity with the course website, technical problems, or anything else other than circumstances qualifying as an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus will not waive penalties for late submissions (see below).

All assignments must conform to all course and/or College policies, as well as the “Homework Submission Procedures” document for this course (available from the “Getting Started” page).

Please be sure to review course policies on penalties for late submissions, excessive Turnitin.com scores, incorrect submission procedures, etc

### **Late Assignments:**

Unless I indicate otherwise, all assignments are due by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday**. At any point thereafter, there is a minimum, one grade deduction for each calendar day that the assignment is late. **Example:** A student turns in her Week 2 Assignment on Tuesday of Week 3 even though the due date was on the previous Sunday. The assignment is two calendar days late. The assignment, which would have received a “B,” becomes a “D” because of a two letter grade deduction for being two calendar days late. If she turns it in

on Wednesday, it is three days late, and the grade becomes an “F” (although a grade of an F may result, depending on whether it is a good faith effort, it may still receive some points at my sole discretion).

### **Incompletes:**

There is no eligibility for a grade of Incomplete unless you have finished at least 90% of all course work up at the time that you make the request. The request must be in writing and have your name, course name/number, and a detailed explanation concerning why you will not be able to finish the remaining work. You must make the request by **Wednesday of Week 10**. I retain sole discretion, however, and may grant requests only on a case-by-case basis.

There must be a legitimate “emergency” before I consider a request for an Incomplete. There must be ample, written, documented proof of the emergency, subject to the instructor’s approval. You must attach the documentation to your written request for the Incomplete (see the section above about acceptable documentation for makeup requests). All supporting documentation must pertain to the period of the emergency.

### **Emergency:**

Death or impending death in the family; physical incapacitation.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:**

#### **DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All academic assignments are to be the work of the individual student. The following are some examples of dishonesty or unethical behavior:

Using another person's words, ideas, or results without giving proper credit to that person; giving the impression that it is the student's own work.

Any form of cheating on examinations.

Altering academic or clinical records.

Falsifying information for any assignments.

Partly or wholly completing an assignment(s) partially or wholly completed by another person or source.

Copying work or written text from a student, the internet, or any document without giving due credit to the source of the information in a manner making it clear that you are not the sole creator of the work.

Overreliance on direct quotations in any written work and/or any other form of writing submitted with little evidence of originality.

### **Special accommodations:**

Please make note of the following statement provided by the Disability Resource Center (DRC):

“The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations, whether you are a student or a faculty member.

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible.

The DRC office temporarily located in the library. You may also call our reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

Remember if you are someone who has either an apparent or non apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.”

Please also note that accommodations in this class do not apply retroactively, so please plan accordingly.

### **Tutoring:**

Tutors may be available on a case-by-case, provided that the student is achieving an overall grade of a “C” or below. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in working with a tutor. Please note that there may also be online tutors available for off-campus students; please visit links pertaining to online help from your course home page.

### **Not following Instructions:**

Other than as otherwise stipulated in this syllabus, assignments not following instructions will be rejected and not receive credit.

The absence or imposition of a partial penalty for incorrect submission(s) in any instance shall not give rise to any inference that no penalty(ies) will ever apply or that the non-conforming assessment(s) is(are) acceptable and/or waives any course or College policies.

Please download and carefully study the “Non-conforming Assessments” document under the Getting Started page.

### Definitions:

Where applicable, the use of the term “minimum” in any guideline pertaining to requirements shall conform to the common, dictionary definition of the term “minimum”; i.e., “minimum” shall not give rise to any inference that conformity with minimum standards consists of anything beyond a barely passing grade, e.g. a “D”; minimum effort does not mean maximum points.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

#### **WEEK 1**

(Sept. 23-  
Sept. 29)

Introduction to the American legal system (read text, Chapters 1 and 2)

Complete and submit your responses to the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29 to the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz link on your Assignments tab from your course home page and to Turnitin.com.

Complete your responses to the Week 1 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 1 Assignment link under the Assignment tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 1 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 1 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29.

#### **WEEK 2**

(Sept. 30-  
Oct. 6)

The American Constitution and constitutional law (read text, Chapter 5).

Complete your responses to the Week 2 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 2 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 2 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 2 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6.

**DUE: For those planning on taking the mid-term exam off the BC campus only: all requirements for arrangements for off-campus, proctored mid-term exams must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the quarter, i.e., Wednesday, Oct. 2. See the off-campus proctored exams request form, available under the Getting Started page. Non-conformity, including non-conformity due to confusion or unintentional misunderstandings, with ANY portion of applicable guidelines WILL result in denial of opportunity to take the mid-term exam and a 0 grade on the exam.**

**DUE: Complete the online LMC Tutorial on doing academic research and submit the completion to the instructor no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6.**

**\*There are no early or late exam dates not available to the entire class. No student receives an exception that is not available to everyone else.**

- WEEK 3**  
(Oct. 7-  
Oct. 13)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution; Administrative Agencies (read text, Chapters 3 and 6).
- Complete your responses to the Week 3 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 3 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 3 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13.
- DUE: Presentation topic approval by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13. This is not required, but it is highly recommended; failure to discuss your project with me ahead of time could mean that you will waste your time on an inappropriate research topic.**
- WEEK 4**  
(Oct. 14-  
Oct. 20)
- Law and Business Associations (read text, Chapters 17 (pp. 380-5; 388-392; 394-398); Chapter 18 (p. 403; pp. 404-5; 407-12; 413-414); Chapter 19 (pp. 417-25; 426-8; 429-34; 436-441)).
- Complete your responses to the Week 4 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 4 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 4 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20.
- WEEK 5**  
(Oct. 21-  
Oct. 27)
- Ethics, Social Responsibility, and the Business Manager; Securities (read text, Chapters 4 and 29).
- Complete your responses to the Week 5 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 5 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 5 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 5 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27.
- WEEK 6**  
(Oct. 28-  
Nov. 3)
- Torts, Strict Liability, and Products Liability (read text, Chapters 12 and 13).
- Complete your responses to the Week 6 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 6 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 6 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 6 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3.
- DUE: Presentation of your Research Paper Project (submit your Presentation to 1) the Presentation submission link from your Assignments tab and to 2) Turnitin.com by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 3.**
- WEEK 7**  
(Nov. 4-  
Nov. 10)
- Common Law of Contracts (read text, Chapters 9 and 10).
- Complete your responses to the Week 7 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 7 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 7 Assignment and to Turnitin.com 3) post your comments on the Week 7 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10.

**DUE: Sign up for the on-site, scheduled, proctored exam (applies only to those taking the exam on the BC campus; if you are not taking the exam on campus, please follow all other applicable instructions on the syllabus and elsewhere). The electronic signup sheets will be available several days prior to the first announced, on-campus exam date.**

**DUE: Take the mid-term exam on the date that you signed up for but no later than the last, officially-announced exam date.**

**WEEK 8**  
(Nov. 11-  
Nov. 17)

Sales (text, Chapter 11); review Week 7 materials on common law of contracts  
Complete your responses to the Week 8 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 8 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 8 Assignment and to Turnitin.com and 3) post your comments on the Week 8 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 17.

**WEEK 9**  
(Nov. 18-  
Nov. 24)

Crime and the Business Community (read text, Chapter 7).  
Complete your responses to the Week 9 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 9 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 9 Assignment and to Turnitin.com 3) post your comments on the Week 9 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24.

**DUE: Court Visit Assignment – submit to the Court Visit Assignment submission link and to Turnitin.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24.**

**WEEK 10**  
(Nov. 25-  
Dec. 1)

Intellectual Property and Internet Law (read text, Chapter 14).  
Complete your responses to the Week 10 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 10 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 10 Assignment and to Turnitin.com 3) post your comments on the Week 10 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1.

**DUE: Last day for any makeup work that satisfies guidelines on makeups. Nothing will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1. No exceptions.**

**DUE: Research Paper (submit via the Assignment link by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1.**

**DUE: Sign up for the on-site, scheduled, proctored exam (applies only to those taking the exam on the BC campus). The electronic signup sheets will be available several days prior to the first announced, on-campus exam date.**

**WEEK 11**  
(Dec. 2-  
Dec. 8)

Employment and Discrimination (text, Chapters 21 and 22).  
Complete your responses to the Week 11 Assignment, available as an attachment from the Week 11 Assignment link under the Assignments tab on your course home page 2) upload your response to the submission link for the Week 11 Assignment and to Turnitin.com 3) post your comments on the Week 11 Assignment

ment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Sunday, Dec. 8.

**DUE: Take the final exam on the date that you signed up for but no later than the last, officially-announced exam date.**

**\*There are no early or late exam dates. No student receives an exception that is not available to everyone else.**

*Please note that the final exam for some online business courses, including this one, may occur this week rather than during the regular final exam period for on-site classes. Please plan accordingly, as there will be no opportunity for making up a missed exam. Exact exam dates will be announced via email as soon as the information becomes available to the instructor.*

\*This syllabus represents the proposed plan for this term. However, there may be changes according to unexpected circumstances, and students are responsible for inquiring about any updates in the event of their absence from class when any changes are announced.

\*\*Students will be assumed to have read, studied, and agreed to any and all policies, guidelines, and/or the like 1) pertaining to this course and/or the College and/or 2) disseminated via announcements, emails, and/or any other means of course communication. Failure to read, understand, and/or to clarify any such dissemination of course information required by this syllabus and/or course guidelines and/or College policies will not excuse and/or waive enforcement of course and/or College policies.

\*\*\*Continuing enrollment in this course constitutes understanding of and agreement to abide by these, as well as all other, course and/or College policies. Please do not ask for exceptions; they will not be granted. Applying different policies to individual students on a case-by-case basis is unfair to all other students.

\*\*\*\*The instructor will not provide legal advice. The student understands that any comments on legal issues are understood to be purely hypothetical. The student also understands that, under no circumstances does enrollment in this class give rise to an attorney-client relationship or privileged communications. Any divulging of confidential information by students shall be considered a waiver of any pertinent right to privacy and/or of confidentiality and/or of any claims to confidentiality.