

BA 201C– BUSINESS LAW – LEGAL FOUNDATIONS
Bellevue College-Business Administration-Transfer Course
Fall 2013

Lecturer: Tom Pritchard
Office hours: M/W, 7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.
Class meets: M/W, 7:50 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Room R202
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Required Text: *The Legal Environment of Business*, by Cross & Miller. Available at the Campus Bookstore.

I. Course Description:

An introduction to fundamental legal concepts and principles underlying the American legal system, and the structure and function of that system. Emphasis is placed primarily on the sources of law and how legal issues are resolved in a modern business environment, rather than on the substantive rules of law per se. However, the substantive areas of constitutional law, criminal law, torts, contracts, securities law, property law, and intellectual property law will be covered, since these are areas of prime concern to business in the modern legal environment. Given the time constraints, none of these legal areas can be explored in great depth. Students should thus not expect to acquire the knowledge, skills or experience needed to solve practical legal problems. Nonetheless, students should be able to, by the end of the course, recognize when they may have a legal problem, as well as have a good basic understanding of how our legal system works and how that system relates to business and society as a whole.

II. Class Format:

This class will be a combination of lectures and class discussions. You are responsible for coming to class prepared (i.e., having read the assigned material) to actively participate in class discussions. We will spend a considerable amount of time discussing cases included in the materials and practical applications of class material. It is my intention to cultivate a classroom environment in which each of us feels free to express opinions and ask questions. Opinions expressed by students must be supported by social, legal, economic and/or political arguments. We do not discuss to demonstrate whether we are right or wrong. Rather, it is an exercise to develop a broader understanding of the complexities of law. **DISRESPECT IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

III. Grading:

Your grade will be based upon a total of 350 points (two exams at 100 points each and two writing assignments totaling 150 points). These points will be a reflection of exams, the completion of assignments and class participation. The grading scale is as follows:

100%-97%	A
96%-93%	A-
92%-89%	B+
88%-85%	B
84%-81%	B-
80%-77%	C+
76%-73%	C
72%-69%	C-
68%-65%	D+
64%-61%	D
60% and below	F

IV. Assignments:

1. PARTICIPATION

Participation is key to your understanding of concepts discussed in this course. Understanding or mastery of concepts may be demonstrated by appropriate application of legal concepts during classroom discussions. Students may have their grades increased by 1/3 through active participation.

2. EXAMS 200 points

There will be two exams during the quarter, consisting of a midterm (100 points) and a final (100 points). The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will include material from the book and class lectures. Material from the book will be covered even if we have not discussed it in class. The exams will be in-class, closed-book, and consist of multiple choice and essay questions. I will conduct a thorough review the day before the exam in class. **No make-up exams will be allowed unless you have a medical emergency, with proof. BRING A SCANTRON SHEET, A #2 PENCIL AND A PEN TO CLASS FOR EXAMS.**

3. LEGAL PROBLEM WRITING ASSIGNMENT 100 points

At the beginning of the Fifth Week, you will receive a legal problem writing assignment. You will explore the legal issue that is relevant to the business world of today.

4. COURT VISIT WRITING ASSIGNMENT 50 points

You must arrange to visit an actual court proceeding, civil or criminal, on your own time, and prepare a paper on what you observed. This may be a morning, afternoon, or evening session. Stay for at least two hours. Court visit writing assignment template will be handed out at the end of the second week.

V. Course Rules:

1. **Cheating.** Students are expected to do their own work. This includes not just copying things verbatim off the Internet. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. See a full statement of my policy on this at the end of this syllabus.

2. **Disability Support.** If you require special accommodation based on a documented disability, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, or have other special medical information that needs to be taken into account, please bring me documentation to that effect from the Disability Resource Center, B132, the first week of class. You can make these arrangements through advisors/counselors by calling 425-564-2498.
3. **Cell Phones and Other Devices.** Cell phones, paging and other such devices must be turned off in class; you may not bring them to the exams. Cell phones or other electronic devices that are visible during exams will be considered prima facie evidence that you are cheating.
4. **Lap Tops:** Lap Tops are permitted in class for note taking purposes only.
5. **Late Papers:** Late papers will be downgraded at 25% per day. They may not be submitted by email attachment.

<u>Course Schedule</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<u>WEEK 1</u>		
Sept. 23, 25	Introduction to course	Ch. 1 and start Ch. 5
<u>WEEK 2</u>		
Sept. 30, Oct. 2	The U.S. Constitution	Ch. 5 and Appendix B
Oct. 2	Hand Out Court Visit Assignment Due Date: Nov. 27	
<u>WEEK 3</u>		
Oct. 7, 9	The American Legal System; Alternative Dispute Resolution	Chapters 2, 3
<u>WEEK 4</u>		
Oct. 14, 16	The Law of Administrative Agencies	Ch. 6
<u>WEEK 5</u>		
Oct. 21	Law and Business Associations	Chapters 17-20
Oct. 21	Hand Out Legal Problem Writing Assignment Due Date: Nov. 18	
Oct. 23	No Class	

WEEK 6

Oct. 28	Law and Business Associations	Continue Chapters 17-20
Oct. 30	First Hour: Midterm Second Hour: Ethics, Social Responsibility and the Business Manager	Start Ch. 4

WEEK 7

Nov. 4, 6	Ethics, Social Responsibility and the Business Manager	Continue Ch. 4
	White Collar Crime and the Business Community	Ch. 7

WEEK 8

Nov. 11	Holiday – no class	
Nov. 13	The Law of Contracts and Sales	Chapters 9-11

WEEK 9

Nov. 18	Legal Problem Writing Assignment Due	
Nov. 18	Employment Discrimination	Ch. 22
Nov. 20	Laws Governing the Issuance and Trading of Securities	Ch. 29; Appendix E (skim)

WEEK 10

Nov. 25, 27	Torts	Chapters 12,13
Nov. 27	Court Paper due in class in hard copy	

WEEK 11

Dec. 2, 4	Intellectual Property	Ch. 14
Dec. 9	Final Exam, in class, 7:50 -10:00 p.m.	

RESOURCES

The Business Transfer Department recommends that you subscribe to the Business listserv which provides notices of application deadlines and events. To subscribe to the listserv, individuals should send a message to lyris@list.bc.ctc.edu. In the body of your message write SUBSCRIBE bcbusiness.

POLICY REGARDING CHEATING, STEALING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying answers on exams, glancing at nearby exams, turning in assignments or papers that have been used in other classes, and giving or receiving help during an exam. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, purchasing or selling notes, assignments or examination materials.

Stealing includes, but is not limited to, taking the text, notes, exams, library books or other personal property of others without their permission.

Plagiarism is presenting the words, ideas, and/or work of others as if it is an individual's own work. It includes, but is not limited to, using other's papers as one's own and including parts of published works without giving credit where credit is due.

If you choose to cheat, steal or plagiarize, the following actions will be taken: You will receive a zero for the assignment. You may receive a failing grade for the course.