

Business& 201—Business Law
Spring Quarter 2014

Hours and Location:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.

C 208

Office hours by appointment

Instructor:

Nicholas Price

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J.D., Harvard Law School

B.A., University of Washington, Seattle

Member, Washington State Bar Association

The instructor is a lawyer licensed to practice in Washington State, but neither the course, nor lectures, nor anything else related to the course constitutes legal advice. *This course only presents an overview of business law and does not provide adequate tools for you to appropriately analyze real-world legal situations.*

Lawyers spend their entire careers focusing on the material we'll survey during single course sessions. Individuals should therefore seek the advice of licensed and qualified legal counsel and enter into an attorney-client relationship when seeking legal advice.

Mandatory Coursebook:

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

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the American legal system and the laws impacting businesses. The course will also introduce students to the analytic approaches lawyers utilize; lawyering requires more than mere rule memorization. Lawyers must often apply new laws to unique situations where no clear answer exists. Students will be responsible for the assigned reading, attending class, in-class exercises, journaling, weekly pop quizzes, and writing assignments, as described below. Each class period will briefly review the assigned reading and prior material, but will primarily focus on the *application* of those legal concepts to real-world situations; it is therefore crucial that students attend class and complete the reading *prior* to attending class.

All updates to this course will be posted on Canvas—you are responsible for regularly checking this course's Canvas page!

Course Goals:

After completing this class, you should be able to:

- Learn and employ critical thinking processes.
- Become conversant in basic legal concepts and selected areas of law impacting business transactions.

- Understand and apply correct legal terminology in the above areas.
- Recognize ethical issues in business, including their legal implications.
- Reason clearly, responsibly, and succinctly when faced with legal problems and questions.

E-Mail Etiquette*:

You should use professional-grade, typo-free writing when drafting e-mails and Canvas messages. Your attention to detail reflects your professionalism; I don't take typos personally, I just want to prepare you for the real world. You should also employ the below conventions in this course and the business world.

Please include in e-mail subject lines: 1) an identification of both the class; and 2) the matter (example: "BUS 201—Week 3 Quiz; NOT "question"). Most professionals receive dozens—*if not hundreds*—of e-mails every day. The subject line provides an opportunity to summarize your request and allows the reader to appropriately triage your question.

Also, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours (longer on weekends/holidays), it could mean that, for whatever reason, I did not receive your e-mail. If I do not respond, please feel free to send me another e-mail to ensure that I've received your e-mail. You are responsible for confirming receipt of any e-mail.

Consequences for any glitches resulting from not following these or any other instructions are your responsibility--you are training

for a career in business and should act as if every responsibility is your own.

Grades will be awarded as follows:

GRADE	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A	4.0	92-100
A-	3.7	90-91
B+	3.3	88-89
B	3.0	82-87
B-	2.7	80-81
C+	2.3	78-79
C	2.0	72-77
C-	1.7	70-71
D+	1.3	68-69
D	1.0	62-67
F	0.0	BELOW 62

Academic Integrity:

If you choose to cheat, steal, or plagiarize, then you will receive a zero for the assignment. You might also receive a failing grade for the course.

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, using 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 your own. 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.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due on the dates specified below unless you are notified otherwise. Assignments must be submitted by 11:00 a.m. on their due date and will be docked 10% for each day they are late. You will not receive credit for pop quizzes if you don't attend class.

However, I understand that we live in the real world. If you are experiencing difficulties comprehending or completing the material, are experiencing personal hardship, or otherwise need to make any other arrangements, please contact me as soon as possible. *In order for me to grant an exception to the standard grading policies, you must e-mail me before the due date of the particular assignment.*

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Code of Honor:

By being a student in this course you acknowledge that you are a part of a learning community at Bellevue College that is committed to the highest academic standards. As a part of this community, you pledge to uphold the fundamental standards of honesty, respect, and integrity, and accept the responsibility to encourage others to adhere to these standards.

Accommodations:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or 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 DRC as soon as possible.

If you are a person who 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.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Application information and other helpful links are available at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc.

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College Public Safety services provide personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425-564-2400. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements, and critical information in the event of an emergency.

Declaring Your Business Major:

If you intend to and have not already done so, declare your business major. Make sure you have consulted with an advisor and laid out your courses. Please visit the Business Transfer website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/business/transfer/default.htm>.

Assignments and Grade Weight:

In-class journaling, exercises, and participation—10%. Class attendance is mandatory. We will complete in-class journaling and group exercises in addition to lecture. Additionally, I will reward students who regularly participate. You can earn full participation

points by asking thoughtful questions or making insightful comments, whether in class, during office hours, or in your emails.

Weekly reading and pop quizzes—20%. Weekly pop quizzes will cover the prior week's material and are NOT cumulative.

Specifically, the quizzes will cover the prior week's reading, lectures, and in-class discussions in a 10-question multiple-choice format. The quizzes are not meant to be difficult—instead, they are meant to reward students who regularly attend class and complete the reading. Students can drop their two lowest quiz scores. The first quiz will not be given until the second week of class. Pop quizzes will occur on a random day of each week.

2-page legal memo. First draft—5%; final draft—15%. Students will complete a 2-page legal memo describing the background of a case to a non-legal audience, and then argue why the outcome was fair or unfair. The memo must describe an abundance of complex legal information and arguments; the assignment therefore exercises written clarity and brevity. Details will be discussed during class and on the Canvas pages: [2-Page Legal Memo Version 1](#); [2-Page Legal Memo Final Version](#).

Students are encouraged to utilize the [Writing Lab](#) resources.

4-6 page course-end project. First draft—10%; final draft—20%. Students will complete a 4-6 page essay detailing the major legal issues that often confront a certain business community, such as retailers, websites, etc. The project is designed to introduce students to the legal problems they might eventually confront as business people. Details will be discussed during class and on the

Canvas pages: [Course-End Project Version 1](#); [Course-End Project Final Version](#).

Students are encouraged to utilize the [Writing Lab](#) resources.

Course-end common final—20%. The Business Program utilizes a common final. Details will be discussed during class. The test will be administered during finals week.

Reading Assignments:

Unless otherwise specified, the reading assignments are from *The Legal Environment of Business: Text and Cases*. Occasionally, I will e-mail content relating to current events in the legal world. You are responsible for reading both the textbook and e-mails.

Please read and be prepared to discuss the below readings by the dates specified below. For example, you should have read Constitutional law *before* April 15 so you are prepared to discuss the material in class that day. I will discuss practical takeaways and conceptual highlights during class—so please attend!

* These e-mail etiquette policies are borrowed from Dr. Michael S. Brown.