

BUS 201, Item #5454, Business Law
BUS 201, sec. D
Winter, 2016 (Jan. 4, - March 23, 2016)
Office: C-207A
Office Hours: TTh 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. and by appointment
Class dates/times/location: TTh 5:30-7:40 p.m., D273
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*, 8th ed. South-Western/Cengage Learning.

Optional/recommended:

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's (latest edition).

Course Description:

This is a hands-on course combining readings, lectures, discussions, and small and large group activities during class times. We will look at theories about the legal system, statutes, and case law. Among the various substantive areas of law that we will critically examine are contracts, torts, criminal law, ethics, constitutional law, and employment law.

Netiquette:

It is critical that you include in the subject line of all e-mails you send to me 1) an identification of both the class and the matter to which the note pertains (example: NOT “question”; BUT “BUS 201, Quiz, Week 3,”etc.). Not knowing what it 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 e-mail. In this case, please feel free to send the same note to me again to make sure that I am aware that you are trying to contact me. Strict adherence to these guidelines is critical, as I often receive dozens of e-mails in a single day, and your e-mail will easily become invisible if you do not identify it according to these rules. 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.

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.

Grades will be posted on Canvas. Please check your grades regularly.

Course Grading:

Syllabus and Course	
Website Quiz	15 points
Research project:	120 points total
Mid-term exam	50 points
Final exam	50 points
Weekly quizzes	10 points each
Participation	Please see policies under “Participation”
Court Visit	25 points
LMC Tutorial	10 points

Exams (50 points each):

There are two exams: 1) a mid-term exam (50 points) and 2) a final exam (50 points). Each exam consists of 1) multiple choice portion and an essay portion with point distribution for each portion being roughly equal. We will have both 1) a study guide and 2) a practice exam several days before the exams.

Weekly Quizzes (10 points each):

There will be a quiz on the last day that we cover any weekly topic. The quiz will cover everything for that week up to and including the day of the quiz. The quizzes consist of 10 multiple choice questions. As long as you have come to class, taken notes, and otherwise abided by the syllabus, you should do well; the quizzes are designed to be easy, and there are no trick questions. If you do not come to class and/or do course work, they will be very challenging.

Court Visit Assignment (25 points total):

You will submit an informal paper describing your visit to a series of criminal prosecutions. The instructor will distribute detailed guidelines on Canvas.

Research Paper Project (120 points total):

This project consists of several parts: 1) LMC research tutorial (10 points) in **Week 2** 2) topic proposal (ungraded) in Week 3 3) a presentation (a) oral (10 points) and b) written (50 points) in **Week 7** and 4) the final paper (50 points) in **Week 11**.

Additional, detailed guidelines may be distributed on Canvas.

Participation (variable):

“Participation” consists of point deductions for conduct that detracts from the classroom learning environment and/or from academic integrity. There are no additional points for the participation component of the grade, but there may be deductions.

Keeping Track of Your Work:

You must save all of your work and keep track of it for your own records. Grades will appear on Canvas, and it is your responsibility to check your grades on a regular basis so that you can avoid any surprises.

If you cannot submit all or part of an assignment because of an accidental loss, etc., this will not excuse a late or missing assignment; if I don't have it, I can't grade it.

Technical problems:

Technical problems – including computer-related, printer-related, etc. – do not excuse late submissions. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, the resource to consult is the Help Desk or other formal sources dedicated to dealing with such issues.

Late Assignments:

Unless I indicate otherwise, all assignments are due no later than class time. At any point thereafter, there is a minimum one grade deduction. There is also a one grade deduction for each calendar day that an assignment is late. Example: A student turns in her paper on Thursday even though the due date was the previous Tuesday. It is two calendar days late. The paper, which would otherwise have received an “B,” becomes a “D” after the two-letter grade deduction for being late two calendar days. If she turns it in on Friday, it is three 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 the instructor's discretion).

Assignment Submission Guidelines:

For this on-site course, no electronic submission of any kind will be accepted. The only acceptable submission method is in paper copy.

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. You may not submit it in separate pieces. If you turn in an assignment in more than one piece, I will grade only the first piece, and I will not consider anything else for a grade.

Additional, specific guidelines concerning assignment submissions may be distributed.

Writing Proficiency:

I will grade you on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and all other aspects of writing on 1) the Court Visit Assignment 2) the written portion of the Presentation and 3) the final draft of the Research Paper Project. 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 instructor 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.

Makeups:

You are entitled to miss any one quiz without a “emergency” as defined in the syllabus (if you miss because of an “emergency,” please see the provisions thereon below). I simply drop the lowest quiz score from your grade. There are no retakes on quizzes.

Any exam makeup must occur no later than a Thursday two weeks after the regular exam date. A request for a makeup exam must 1) be via email 2) specify the date, time, and place of the exam and 3) be confirmed in all respects by the instructor in writing no later than 48 hours prior to the proposed makeup exam date.

All other policies in this syllabus, including those on mixups, confusion, and “emergencies,” apply.

Emergencies:

There are exceptions on due dates and other class work for a legitimate “emergency.” An “emergency” is a documented death in the family, physical or mental incapacitation, and/or work-related conflict. *Nothing else* is an “emergency” within the meaning of this syllabus.

You must document any “emergency.” I will accept only official documentation on dated and signed letterhead hard copy. All such documentation must include a) legible name of the document’s signer b) legible contact information c) identification of the period of the “emergency” and d) identification of you as the person affected by the “emergency.” The documentation must be submitted according to the instructor’s discretion. This paragraph notwithstanding, there are no promises or guarantees, and the instructor retains complete discretion.

Incompletes, Hardship Withdrawals, Medical Withdrawals:

There is no eligibility for a grade of Incomplete unless you have finished at least 90% of all course work up to 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 no later than Thursday of **Week 9**. I retain sole discretion, however, and will grant requests only on a case-by-case basis and with appropriate documentation.

There must be a legitimate medical or family emergency before I will grant a request for an Incomplete. However, there must be ample, written, documented proof of the emergency. 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.

Hardship and Medical Withdrawals are granted only in exceptional circumstances. In addition to other syllabus policies, there may be other requirements including, at a minimum, supporting, official documentation. However, there are no guarantees, and the instructor retains discretion about the grant of such withdrawals.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit unless the instructor received information about extra credit sponsored by the entire Business Transfer Program.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

PENALTIES:

Penalty for first violation: 0 on the assignment without possibility of makeup on that assignment. Depending on the severity of the act of the academic dishonesty, the student may also receive a 0 on the Participation grade.

In addition, at the instructor's discretion and whether or not it is a first offense, the instructor may refer the incident to appropriate channels and/or take additional steps, which may result in one or more of the following: 1) suspension 2) expulsion 3) an academic "hold" on your record, preventing you from enrolling in future terms 5) failing grade and/or 6) permanent notation on the student's academic transcripts. There may be additional penalties on a case-by-case basis. **Do not risk your academic and professional career by cheating.**

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

Etiquette for Exams:

There must be at least one seat between you and the next person during all exams, and I may, furthermore, rearrange seating at any time at my discretion. During exams, *all* desk space needs to be completely clear of *anything* except your exam and a pen or pencil. There is complete silence during all exams.

Not following Instructions:

There is a minimum one grade deduction from any assignment for not following instructions (either written or announced in class. In either case, absence from class is not an excuse).

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.

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 an individual basis for students who are earning a “C” or below at the time that they request a tutor. Please see me as soon as possible if you are interested in working with a tutor.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- WEEK 1** Introduction to the American legal system (read text, Chapters 1 and 2).
(Jan. 5, Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Jan. 7) Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quizzes on 1) syllabus and 2) Week 1 materials
- WEEK 2** The American constitution and constitutional law (read text, Chapter 5).
(Jan. 12, Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Jan. 14) Thursday: Film and discussion; quiz
DUE: Proof of completion of LMC Tutorial (5 points).
- WEEK 3** Alternative dispute resolution; administrative agencies (read text, Chapters 3
(Jan. 19, and 6).
Jan. 21) Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz; **DUE paper topic proposal (ungraded)**
- WEEK 4** Law and business associations (read text, Chapters 17 (pp. 380-5; 388-392; 394-
(Jan. 26, 398); Chapter 18 (p. 403; pp. 404-5; 407-12; 413-414); Chapter 19 (pp.
Jan. 28) 417-25; 426-8; 429-34; 436-441).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion; **practice exam** (in-class, optional, ungraded)
Thursday: **Mid-term exam**

- WEEK 5**
(Feb. 2,
Feb. 4) Ethics, social responsibility, and the business manager: securities (read text, Chapters 4 and 29).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz
- WEEK 6**
(Feb. 9,
Feb. 11) Torts, strict liability, and products liability (read text, Chapters 12 and 13).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz
- WEEK 7**
(Feb. 16,
Feb. 18) Common law of contracts (read text, Chapters 9 and 10).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz; **DUE: Presentations – 1) oral and 2) written**
- WEEK 8**
(Feb. 23,
Feb. 25) Sales (read text, Chapter 11; review Week 7 materials on sales and contracts).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz
- WEEK 9**
(Mar. 1,
Mar. 3) Crime and business; international community (read text, Chapters 7 and 8).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz; **DUE: Court Visit Assignment**
- WEEK 10**
(Mar. 8,
Mar. 10) Intellectual property; internet law (read text, Chapter 14).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion; last day for any makeups
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz
- WEEK 11**
(Mar. 15,
Mar. 17) Employment law and discrimination (text, Chapters 21 and 22; review Week 2 materials on constitutional law – due process and equal protection).
Tuesday: Lecture; discussion; **DUE: research paper**
Thursday: Lecture; discussion; quiz; **practice exam** (in-class, optional, ungraded); quiz
- WEEK 12**
(Mar. 22) Finals week
Tuesday: Final exam