

**BA 200A– BUSINESS LAW – LEGAL FOUNDATIONS**  
**Bellevue Community College-Business Administration-Transfer Course**  
**Spring 2012**

**Lecturer:** Karrin Klotz d'Hondt, J.D.  
**Office Hours:** MW 10:30-11:30 a.m., C207  
**Class meets:** MW 8:30-10:20 a.m., R303  
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**Required Text:** *The Legal Environment of Business*, by Cross & Miller Available at the Campus Bookstore and on-line through various textbook sites. (referred to as "LE" in the Course Schedule).

**Recommended:** *Law Dictionary for Nonlawyers*, by Daniel Oran (West/Thomson Learning, 4th ed., 2000)

### **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. We will also have a guest speaker on landlord/tenant law. International, e-commerce and Internet-related issues will be discussed in conjunction with topics to which they relate. 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.

I will bring in current news articles on legal issues pertinent to our course material, for general observation and class discussion. You are encouraged to do the same; I will give you extra credit for doing so and leading a discussion on the article. Law is an endlessly fascinating subject, and I know you will enjoy and appreciate the class!

### **II. Class Format:**

This class will be a combination of lectures, films or videos, 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. **DISRESPECT IN ANY FORM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Check the web site regularly for any Announcements; these may include additional assigned reading materials, or changes in the class syllabus.

### **III. Grading:**

Your grade will be based upon a total of 350 points. These points will be a reflection of the completion of assignments and class participation. Your final grade for the course will be converted from the total points you have accrued to a grade scale based on letter grades (A, A-, B, etc.). I reserve the right to determine the final grading scale after all of the points have been earned. Nevertheless, the final scale will look approximately like this:

100%-90%	A	<u>Points</u>
90%-80%	B	Midterm – 100 points
80%-70%	C	Final - 100 points
70%-60%	D	Participation – 50 points
60% and below	F	Court Visit Writing Assignment – 100 points

### **IV. Assignments:**

#### **1. PARTICIPATION                      50 points                      [In-class contribution + small in-class or take-home assignments]**

Active participation is key to your understanding of concepts discussed in this course. Communication skills are fundamental in the business world and honing this aptitude in the classroom will allow you to perform well in interviews and in your final career. In order to attain a high contribution score you need not attempt to answer every question asked. Those of you who provide insightful commentary, attend each class, foster an encouraging environment for your fellow classmates and complete all of your small assignments will be duly rewarded. Conversely, having your body in a seat at every class is not enough to ensure a high contribution score. Individuals who choose to skip lectures, check email while in class or fail to contribute and turn in assignments will receive low scores, which will affect your final grade for this course negatively. In addition to my assessment of your contribution, you will be asked to personally evaluate your contribution to group projects as well. Note that you will not be able to make up any missed in-class assignments; they will not be posted, meaning you must be present in class to obtain them. Some such assignments will be done in the form of a group discussion, in-class. Others will be individual take-home assignments.

#### **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, class lectures, and films observed in class. 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. Sample exam questions will be posted on “MyBCC”. **No make-up exams will be allowed. BRING A SCANTRON SHEET, A #2 PENCIL AND A PEN TO CLASS FOR EXAMS.**

### 3. COURT VISIT WRITING ASSIGNMENT 100 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 2 hours. More detailed instructions are posted on the website. Be sure to attach a copy of the court schedule indicating the proceeding you observed.

The assignment must meet APA Format<sup>1</sup> standards with the following exception: (1) the font must be black and Times New Roman 12-point font. Please do not use any folders or binders.

### 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 College the first week of class. You can make these arrangements through advisors/counselors in B233, Student Services, or by calling 641-2498.
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. No recording of lectures.
4. **Tardiness.** Coming in late is rude and disrupts the class. Accordingly, if you find you will be late, please do not come into the classroom. Tardiness will affect your participation grade. If you must leave class early, let me know ahead of time and I will seat you in the back of the class so your will not disrupt others as you leave.
5. **Laptops.** You may not use your laptop during classtime. All laptops must be turned off when you enter the classroom. I will post any power point slides I plan to use on the MyBCC web site by 6 p.m. Sunday evening of the week I plan to use them, which you can use to take notes.
6. **Late Papers:** Late papers will be downgraded at 25% per day. They may not be submitted by email attachment.

### VI. How To Succeed In This Course

- Attend ALL classes. Make good use of your instructor and the tutors.
- Read the assigned material before class.

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<sup>1</sup> You can obtain guidance on using the APA format from the Bellevue College library.

- Participate actively in class discussions and in-class team assignments.
- Bring in articles on topics covered in class, and lead the class discussion on them.
- Do all assigned homework and turn the assignments in on time.
- Study in groups and start early on group projects.

### Course Schedule

**SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE; IF YOU MISS A CLASS BE SURE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE IN CASE SYLLABUS HAS BEEN REVISED**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<b><u>WEEK 1</u></b>		
Apr. 2, 4	Introduction to course <b>Hand in Survey form on Apr. 4</b>	LE: Ch. 1. <sup>2</sup> Also read other documents posted under “Shared Documents” link on MyBC website.
Apr. 6	Introduction (cont’d)	
<b><u>WEEK 2</u></b>		
Apr. 9, 11	The U.S. Constitution	LE: Ch. 5: Appendix B
Apr. 13	The U.S. Constitution (cont’d)	
<b><u>Week 3</u></b>		
Apr. 16, 18	The American Legal System; Alternative Dispute Resolution	LE: Chapters 2, 3
Apr. 20	Movie: “A Civil Action”	
<b><u>WEEK 4</u></b>		
Apr. 23	Law and Business Associations	LE: Chapters 17-20 “Considerations for Entrepreneurs in Selecting a Business Entity” <sup>3</sup>
Apr. 25	The Law of Administrative Agencies.	LE: Ch. 6
Apr. 27	The Law of Administrative Agencies (cont’d)	

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<sup>2</sup> Do the reading assignments **prior** to the class for which they are assigned. Come to class prepared to discuss them. This includes the cases at the end of the chapters. For Week 1 read Chapter 1 by Wednesday’s class, as well as the other documents posted under the “Shared Documents” link.

<sup>3</sup> Posted on MyBC under the “Shared Documents” link.

**WEEK 5**

Apr. 30,

**Midterm**

May 2

Ethics, Social Responsibility and  
the Business Manager

LE: Ch. 4

May 4

Ethics, Social Responsibility and the  
Business Manager (cont'd)**WEEK 6**

May 7

White Collar Crime and the Business  
Community

LE: Ch. 7

May 9

White Collar Crime and the Business  
Community (cont'd)

May 11

Movie: "Gideon's Trumpet"**WEEK 7**

May 14, 16, 18

The Law of Contracts and Sales

LE: Chs. 9-11;  
Appendices C and D**WEEK 8**

May 21

Employment Discrimination

LE: Ch. 22

May 23

Laws Governing the Issuance and  
Trading of SecuritiesLE: Ch. 29, Appendix  
E

May 25

Laws Governing the Issuance and Trading  
of Securities (cont'd)  
Movie: "Bigger Than Enron"**WEEK 9**

May 28

**Holiday.**

May 30

Torts

LE: Ch. 12

**Court Paper due in  
class in hard copy  
form**

June 1

Torts (cont'd)

**WEEK 10**

June 4, 6, 8

Products Liability Law; Property  
and Intellectual Property.  
Movie: "Hot Coffee"

LE: Chs. 13, 14

**WEEK 11**

June 11

**No class.**

June 13

**Final Exam, in class, 7:30-9:20 a.m.**

## **RESOURCES**

- Sample Exam questions (I will post on the website)
- Writing Lab.
- Library Media Center.

Advising: 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. The Business Division 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.bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:lyris@list.bcc.ctc.edu). In the body of your message write SUBSCRIBE bccbusiness.

## **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.