

Course: BA 200, Course: BA 200, summer 2011 (June 28 – August 12, 2011)
Course Title: Business Law – Legal Foundations
Office Hours: By appointment
Instructor Name and Credentials: Michael S. Brown, esq., Ph.D., J.D.
E-mail Address: mibrown@bellevuecollege.edu

Course Materials:

Required:

Carper et al, eds. *Legal Foundations*, 4th ed. Thomson, 2006. ISBN 0-324-62242-2.

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, online lectures, online discussions, and various graded assignments.

We will examine theories about the legal system, statutes, and case law. Among the topics are contracts, torts, criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional law.

Netiquette:

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 the students’.

Course Grading:

Quiz on Syllabus and Course Website: 20 points

Research Paper Project: 50 points

Weekly Assignment Questions: 10 points per week

Exam One: 50 points

Exam Two: 50 points

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this class unless otherwise announced

Participation: 50 points total. Also, see policies below under “Participation” and “Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism” (below).

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.

Quiz on Syllabus and Course Website (20 points):

This 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 Saturday, July 2nd, 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 on either 1) this quiz or 2) the Week 1 assignment, etc.

Please download the **Syllabus and Course Website Quiz** from the **Getting Started** link on your home page.

Research Paper Project (50 points):

Download the applicable guidelines from the **Research Paper Project** link on your course home page.

Weekly Discussion Question Assignments (10 points per week):

Download and carefully study the **Homework Submissions Procedures** document from the **Getting Started** link on your home page.

There are weekly assignments based on the readings assigned in the syllabus for each week. The assignments are based on 1) questions that appear under the heading “Chapter Questions and Problems” at the end of each chapter in the textbook and/or 2) questions that I will post on the Discussion Board for that Week.

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!

Exams (50 points each):

There are two exams. Each 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 an approved testing center confirmed on a case-by-case basis with the course instructor.

There are/will be detailed instructions on the exams and exam procedures. At a minimum, please be sure to carefully study all materials pertaining to exams and exam procedures under the **Exams** link on your home page and to take note of any pertinent news appearing via Announcements, the Discussion Board, and/or email.

Please note that exam dates for online classes, including this one, do not necessarily follow exam dates for any other 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 (50 points total):

At a minimum, students must 1) log in to the course website three (3) different times each week and, in addition 2) post three (3) meaningful comments (i.e., not something like, “I agree,” “I disagree,” etc. and nothing else) throughout the week and pertaining to that week’s assignments, on the Discussion Board each week

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 also 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 detract from overall class morale.

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.

Turnitin.com:

Submission of all graded work to both 1) the pertinent assignment submission link (e.g., “Week 1 Assignment,” “Research Paper Project,” etc.) as well as to 2) Turnitin.com, which checks for plagiarism, is required for all graded assignments; no graded assignment will be accepted or graded without prior submission of a duplicate 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 instructions pertaining to Turnitin.com from the **Getting Started** link on your course home page.

NO ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING SUBMISSION TO TURNITIN.COM. THE OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENT RECEIPT DATE IS THE LATEST OF EITHER THE 1) TURNITIN.COM SUBMISSION OR THE 2) ASSIGNMENT LINK SUBMISSION.

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. 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.

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).

During the first week, I may exercise some discretion concerning good faith errors, although there *will* be penalties and point deductions. Beginning with Week 2, however, **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS FOR ANY SUBMISSION NOT STRICTLY ABIDING BY ALL INSTRUCTIONS.**

Not following Instructions:

There is a minimum one grade deduction from any assignment for not following instructions (either written or announced in class. Misunderstanding of pertinent guidelines does not excuse non-adherence; it is the students’ responsibility to take the initiative by contacting the instructor for clarification on any given matter and to do so in a timely manner, i.e., providing the instructor with enough time to respond and the student with enough time to incorporate the instructor’s feedback.

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. Links to technical help are available from the course home page.

*Make sure that you make allowance for technical problems with VISTA. VISTA is not always operational, so make sure that you give yourself enough time to complete all assignments and otherwise abide by all deadlines, guidelines, course policies, etc., in spite of any technical problems that may arise. Problems related to VISTA **DO NOT** excuse late submissions...plan accordingly.*

Late Assignments:

Unless I indicate otherwise, all assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday. 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 weekly homework assignment on Monday even though the due date was on the previous Saturday. 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 Tuesday, 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). If she turns it on Friday, it is six calendar days late and there is no possibility of an “F” grade, i.e., 0 points even if she turns it in and it represents a good faith effort.

In addition, links to 1) Turnitin.com and/or to 2) the assignment submission link may be closed. Generally, there is a post-due-date for all assignments, typically extending up to 4 days beyond the due date (although with late penalties as described above). However, if an assignment link is closed by the time the submission is made, there will be no acceptance of the assignment.

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 My Grades link between Thursday and Sunday following any Saturday due date.

Emergencies and Makeups:

There are exceptions on due dates and other class work for genuine emergencies. However, you must document such emergencies. For medical emergencies, I will accept only doctor, nurse, or other caregiver explanations on dated letterhead paper. All such documentation must pertain to the period during which you missed anything.

Any written documentation must 1) be submitted in writing to me no later than 5 calendar days prior to your makeup (if an exam) and 2) accompany your written request to take the makeup under all applicable guidelines in this syllabus. In addition, whether you can do the makeup (if an exam) will also depend upon whether there is approved proctoring available. If there are no approved proctoring arrangements, then you may not do the makeup, and you will take a 0. *All final decisions pertaining to the granting of makeups are up to the sole discretion of the instructor, and all makeups must abide by all applicable policies.*

Emergency:

Death or impending death in the family; physical incapacitation; and documented (as defined in this syllabus) work-related matter.

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 5. 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.

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 (i.e., a loss of up to 50 points *in addition* to any points lost on the specific assessment exhibiting academic dishonesty).

In addition, at the instructor's sole discretion, regardless of whether it is a first offense or otherwise, 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) failing grade and/or 4) permanent notation on the student's academic transcripts. There may be additional penalties on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and can impact 1) your grade in this class 2) your academic progress generally 3) loss of tuition 4) notation on your transcript(s) 5) referral to academic discipline procedures 6) loss of scholarship(s) and/or other forms of financial aid 7) a block on your ability to register for future classes and/or 8) a lost opportunity to transfer into another educational institution, among other possible penalties.

The consequences are severe; do not risk it! At a minimum, and as a general rule, never, never copy and/or copy-and-paste from ANYTHING that you have seen somewhere else.

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 is located in B132 or you can 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

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:

Please contact me if you are interested in working with a tutor.

COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK 1
(June 28-
July 2)

Introduction to the American legal system

Set up Turnitin.com account (instructions are on home page).

Complete and submit your responses to the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd to both 1) Turnitin.com and 2) the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz link on your Assignments link.

Read the text, Chapter 1; read the Week 1 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 1 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 2 and 3 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 1 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 1 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd.

Read the *Eric J. v. Betty M.* case and post comments on the Week 1 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd.

American court systems

Read the text, Chapters 3; read the Week 1 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 3 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 2 and 6 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 1 Chapter Discussions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 1 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd.

Read the *Jacobsen v. Massachusetts* case in Chapter 3 post comments on the Week 1 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 2nd.

WEEK 2
(July 3 -
July 9)

Administrative law

Read the text, Chapter 8; read the Week 2 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 8 discussion questions (available on the Week 2 Discussion Board); submit your responses to the Week 2 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 2 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 9th.

Read the *Nash* case and post your comments on the Week 2 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 9th.

Ethics

Read the text, Chapter 4.

Read the *Gordon v. New Hampshire* case in Chapter 4 and post comments on the Week 2 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 9th.

Dates for on-site, proctored exams will be made available; procedures for off-campus proctored exams are available under the **EXAMS** link on your home page. Deviations from exam dates – either on- or off-campus - will *not* be granted except under an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus.

Students taking the exam off the BC campus: follow proctored exam procedures under the **EXAMS** link on your home page; submit proctored exam requests no less than five days before your proposed exam date, which cannot be any later than the latest on-campus exam date.

Students taking exam on BC campus: sign up for the on-site exam on the BC campus under the **EXAMS** link on your home page as soon as the electronic sign-up sheet is available there.

Exam study guide will be available to students under the **EXAMS** link on the course home page several days prior to the on-campus exam dates.

WEEK 3
(July 10-
July 16)

Contract law

Read the text, Chapter 11; read the Week 3 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 11 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 1, 2, 3, 7 & 9 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 3 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th.

Read the *Hamer* case and the *Lucy* case and post your comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th.

Torts

Read the text, Chapter 9; read Week 3 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 9 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 1, 4, 5, 6, & 8 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 3 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th.

Read the *Randi W.* case and the *Debra Agis* case and post your comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 16th.

Take Exam One (exact dates will be announced via email).

WEEK 4
(July 17-
July 23)

The American Constitution and constitutional law

Read the text, Chapter 2; read the Week 4 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 2 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 3 and 9 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 4 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 23rd.

Read the *Bush* case and the *Thomas et al* case and post comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 23rd.

Employment law

Read the text, Chapter 14; read the Week 4 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 14 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 1(b), 1(g), 1(i) 1(j), 2, 7 & 10 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 4 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 23rd.

Read the *Price Waterhouse* case and the *Gonzalez* case and post your comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, July 23rd.

WEEK 5
(July 30-
Aug. 6)

Criminal law

Read the text, Chapter 5; read the Week 5 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 5 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 3, 5, 6, 7 & 11 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 5 Chapter Discussion Questions link and Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 5 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th.

Read the *U.S. v. Knights* case in Chapter 5 and post comments on the Week 5 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th.

Criminal procedure

Read the text, Chapter 6; read the Week 5 online lecture notes.

Complete the questions on Chapter 6 (available on the Week 5 Discussion Board); submit your responses to the Week 5 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 5 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th.

Read the *Terry* case and the *Miranda* case and post your comments on the Week 5 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th.

Dates for on-site, proctored exams will be made available; procedures for off-campus proctored exams are available under the **EXAMS** link on your home page. Deviations from exam dates – either on- or off-campus - will *not* be granted except under an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus.

Students taking the exam off the BC campus: follow proctored exam procedures under the **EXAMS** link on your home page; submit proctored exam requests no less than five days before your proposed exam date, which cannot be any later than the latest on-campus exam date.

Students taking exam on BC campus: sign up for the on-site exam on the BC campus under the **EXAMS** link on your home page as soon as the electronic sign-up sheet is available there.

Exam study guide will be available to students under the **EXAMS** link on the course home page several days prior to the on-campus exam dates.

WEEK 6
(Aug. 7 -
Aug. 12)

Renters and landlords

Read the text, Chapter 12; read Week 6 online lecture notes.

Complete the Chapter 12 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 10 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 6 Chapter Discussion Questions link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 6 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 12th.

Read the *Stroot* case and post your comments on the Week 6 Case Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June August 12th.

Intellectual property law

Read the text, Chapter 13; there are no online lecture notes on intellectual property.

Complete the Chapter 13 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, and 10-4 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 6 Assignment link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 6 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 12th.

There are no required readings of cases this week.

Submit your research paper, along with a formal outline of the paper that conforms to the Sample Presentation (available from the Research Paper link on your home page), no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 12th.

Final Exam period begins (**please note that the final exam period for this class may begin as early as Week 5 due to the availability of proctors and classroom space; please plan accordingly. Any mixups on final exam dates are the sole responsibility of the student. NO EXCEPTIONS**).

Notes:

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.

The instructor does not provide legal advice. No communication between the student and the instructor gives rise to privileged communication, and students are advised that the course content represent general legal principles and not answers to any particular legal situation.