

Course: BA 200, Course: BA 200, fall (Sept. 20 – Dec. 8, 2010)
Course Title: Business Law – Legal Foundations
Office Hours: By appointment
Instructor Name and Credentials: Michael S. Brown, esq., Ph.D., J.D.
Email 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).

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (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. We will also learn formal analytical techniques by critically reading and briefing case law. Among the various substantive areas of law that we will critically examine are contracts, torts, criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, and employment law.

Netiquette:

It is critical that you include in the subject line of all emails you send to me 1) an identification of both the class and the matter to which the note pertains (example: NOT “question”; BUT “BA 200, chapter discussion questions, Week 4,”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 email. 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 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 your responsibility.

Research Paper Project:

You must write a paper on any topic of your choice as long as 1) it integrates themes and specific materials from this class (readings, lectures, films, etc.) and 2) you get my prior approval.

The paper should seamlessly integrate materials from this class with the other materials you research and cite to in your research.

The research paper project will be broken down into several parts: 1) topic proposal (ungraded) due at the end of Week 3 2) oral presentation and submission of written presentation during Week 4 and 3) submission of the finished paper during Week 10.

At the top of the first page of your paper (1) in your written Presentation 2) in your Turnitin.com draft and, also 3) in your final draft, you must include a two sentence identification/explanation of what, specific legal topic from our class materials pertain to your paper and how it does so).

There will be additional, specific instructions on paper and citation format, etc., which I will distribute in class. Your paper must conform to these and all other guidelines; failure to do so will result in an *automatic minimum of a one letter grade deduction* from your overall Research Paper Project (example: a paper that would have received a “B” will automatically receive a “C”). It is the students’ responsibility to make sure that they have not missed any of these guidelines, either verbal or written.

Course Grading:

Research paper	100 points total
Court visit	25
Mid-term exam	50 points
Final exam	50

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.

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).

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.

Incompletes:

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 Wednesday 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.

Keeping Track of Your Work:

You must save all of your work and keep track of it for your own records.

Emergencies and Makeups:

There are exceptions on due dates and other class work for legitimate reasons. However, you must document any excuses. For medical reasons, 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. For personal reasons, I will accept only notes from family or relatives with a legible name, signature, date, and phone number. This paragraph notwithstanding, I reserve complete discretion in all such matters.

Makeups:

You may make arrangements for, or take, a makeup, only if you have a legitimate excuse in writing on letterhead paper or other official document from a legitimate source, e.g., doctor, official, college personnel, legal guardian, or parent; and it must have the preparer's signature and current contact information. This written letter of excuse must accompany your written request to take the makeup under applicable guidelines in this syllabus, and it must pertain specifically to the dates of the missing assignment. If you submit a written request for a makeup and then do not take it without providing at least one class day notice in advance, you will get a 0 for that makeup.

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*. I will also make my "Writing Tips" available to everyone before the due dates of the Research Paper Project. When I receive your papers, I will assume that you have carefully studied the "Writing Tips" and will grade down for problems in writing. 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.

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 Tuesday. It is two calendar days late. The paper, which would otherwise have received a “B,” becomes a “D” after two letter grade deductions for being late two calendar days. If she turns it in on Friday, 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 Monday of the following week, 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.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

Evidence of academic dishonesty or unethical behavior will lead to disciplinary action, including, but not necessarily limited to: a 0 on the assignment; referral to appropriate authorities; penalties upon the final grade for the course; institution of formal proceedings according to university policies.

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.

Assignment Submission Guidelines:

I will not accept anything through email.

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.

Special accommodations:

Please make note of the following statement:

“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:

Tutors may be available on an individual basis. Please see me as soon as possible if you are interested in working with a tutor.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE:

WEEK 1	<i>Introduction to the American legal system</i> (read text, Chapter 1)
(Sept. 20,	Monday: Introduction to the course and syllabus; lecture
Sept. 22	Wednesday: discussion, Chapter 1, questions 2 and 3; discussion, brief of <i>Eric J. v. Betty M.</i> case in class; quizzes on 1) syllabus 2) assignments

WEEK 2 (Sept. 27, Sept. 29)	<u><i>The American Constitution and constitutional law</i> (read text, Chapter 2)</u> Monday: Lecture; Tuesday: film: “Eyes on the Prize” Wednesday: discussion, questions on film (handout); discussion, Chapter 2 case briefs: <i>Bush v. Gore</i> and <i>Thomas et al v. Chicago Park District</i> (brief <i>Thomas et al</i> case in class); quiz
WEEK 3 (Oct. 4, Oct. 6)	<u><i>American court systems</i> (read text, Chapters 3 and 4)</u> Monday: Lecture Wednesday: discussion: Chapter 3 questions 2 & 6; Chapter 4 questions 5 & 7; case briefs: Chapter 3 <i>Jacobsen</i> case; Chapter 4 <i>Gordon</i> case (brief <i>Gordon</i> case in class); DUE: presentation topic approval; quiz
WEEK 4 (Oct. 11, Oct. 13)	<u><i>Criminal law</i> (read text, Chapter 5)</u> Monday: Lecture; DUE: In-class presentations of Research Paper Project Wednesday: DUE: In-class presentations of Research Paper Project; quiz
WEEK 5 (Oct. 18, Oct. 20)	<u><i>Criminal procedure</i> (read text, Chapter 6)</u> Monday: Lecture Wednesday: discussion, Chapter 6 questions (handout); discussion, Chapter 6 case briefs: <i>Terry v. Ohio</i> and <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> (brief <i>Terry v. Ohio</i> in class); quiz
WEEK 6 (Oct. 25, Oct. 27)	<u><i>Administrative law</i> (read text, Chapter 8)</u> Monday: Lecture; discussion, Chapter 6 questions (handout) Wednesday: discussion, Chapter 8 case brief (brief <i>Nash v. Auburn University</i> in class); Mid-Term Exam
WEEK 7 (Nov. 1, Nov. 3)	<u><i>Torts</i> (read text, Chapter 9)</u> Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Lecture; discussion, Chapter 9 case briefs: <i>Randi W.</i> case; <i>Debra</i> <i>Agis</i> case (brief <i>Debra Agis</i> case in class); quiz
WEEK 8 (Nov. 8, Nov. 10)	<u><i>Contract law</i> (read text, Chapter 11)</u> Monday: Lecture Wednesday: discussion, case briefs, Chapter 11: <i>Hamer</i> case; <i>Lucy</i> case (brief <i>Lucy</i> case in class); quiz
WEEK 9 (Nov. 15, Nov. 17)	<u><i>Renters and landlords</i> (read text, Chapter 12)</u> Monday: Lecture; discussion, questions: Chapter 12, questions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 10; Wednesday: case brief (brief <i>New Haverford Partnership</i> case on your own); DUE: Court Visit Assignment; discussion on court visits; quiz
WEEK 10 (Nov. 22, Nov. 24)	<u><i>Employment law</i> (read text, Chapter 14)</u> Monday: Lecture Wednesday: Lecture; discussion, questions: Chapter 14, questions 1(b), 1(g), 1(i) 1(j), 2, 7 & 10; questions on handout materials, legacy admissions; discussion, case briefs, Chapter 14: <i>Price Waterhouse</i> ; <i>Gonzalez</i> case (brief <i>Price Waterhouse</i> case in class); quiz

WEEK 11 Intellectual property; court visits (read text, Chapter 13)
(Nov. 29, Monday: Lecture; Chapter 13 discussion questions 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, and 10-4
Dec. 1) Wednesday: **DUE: Final draft of Research Paper**; quiz

WEEK 12 Final Exam Week
Dates and times will be announced

Note: 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 in the event of their absence from class when any changes are announced.

NOTES: