

Course: BA 200, Course: BA 200, Online, Spring 2011 (April 4 – June 17, 2011)
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).

Course Description:

This is a hands-on course combining readings, online lectures, online discussions, and various graded assignments. There are also two exams: a mid-term exam and a final exam.

We will examine theories about the legal system, statutes, and case law. We will also learn formal case briefing techniques by critically analyzing 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 your responsibility.

Course Grading:

Quiz on Syllabus and Course Website: 20 points total
Research paper project: 100 points total
Weekly Assignment Questions: 10 points per week
Court Visit Assignment: 25 points
Mid-term exam: 50 points
Final exam: 50 points
Participation: 10 points per week. 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 total):

This quiz 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, April 9 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 that may affect their ability to submit any other assignments on time.

Research Paper Project (100 points total):

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 “Homework” 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 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!

Court Visit Assignment (25 points):

Download and carefully study all documents pertaining to the Court Visit Assignment from the “Court Visit Assignment” link on your home page. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, March 5.

Exams (50 points each):

There is a mid-term exam and a final exam. Each exam 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 a professional testing center approved by 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, including those for the final exam, in other, on-site classes and may take place prior to the beginning of the final exam period for 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 (10 points per week):

At a minimum, students must 1) log in to the course website three (3) 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), pertaining to that week’s assignments, on the Discussion Board each week (see detailed instructions on 1) the Discussion Board and 2) the “Course Outline,” pages 7-10 on this syllabus).

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.

Turnitin.com:

Submission of all graded work to both 1) the appropriate assignment submission link 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 “Turnitin.com” link on your course home page.

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

Technical problems:

Technical problems – including either those related to unfamiliarity with the course website or those that are computer-related, printer-related, etc. – *do not excuse late submissions.* If you are experiencing technical difficulties, the resources to consult include the online tutorials available from your home page, as well as the student technical help people, either online or on your campus.

Makeups:

You may make up a missed graded work without penalty only if you have an “emergency” as defined in this syllabus (below) and document it on letterhead paper or other official document from a legitimate source, e.g., doctor, official, employer, or college personnel; and it must have the preparer’s signature and current contact information. This written documentation must 1) be submitted in writing to me no later than 7 calendar days prior to your proposed makeup submission date (with some form of receipt showing the submission date of your request or other written proof of date of the request under all applicable guidelines in this syllabus, e.g., for email communications) and 2) accompany your written request to do the makeup. In addition, whether you can do the makeup may also depend upon whether there is a proctored time available (if the makeup is of an exam). All documentation submitted in support of a makeup request must specifically identify the dates of the “emergency” and correspond to the due date(s) of the missing graded work. If it is logistically impracticable to administer a makeup session (lack of proctor, lack of exam space (if an exam, etc.), or other, similar circumstances, there may be no makeup notwithstanding any other, contrary policy(ies) pertaining to makeups. *All final decisions pertaining to the granting of makeups are up to the discretion of the instructor.*

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.

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).

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 Chapter Questions and Problems 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 in 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.

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 10. 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.

Emergency:

Death or impending death in the family; physical incapacitation.

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 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.

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:

Tutors may be available on a case-by-case. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in working with a tutor. Please note that there may also be online tutors available for off-campus students; please visit links pertaining to online help from your course home page.

Not following Instructions:

There is a minimum one grade deduction from any assignment that does not follow instructions.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- WEEK 1
(April 4-
- Introduction to the American legal system (text, Chapter 1)
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, April 9 to both 1) Turnitin.com and 2) the Syllabus and Course Website Quiz link on your assignments tab
Read the text, Chapter 1; read 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 Assignment Comments 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, April 9.
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, April 9.
- WEEK 2
(April 10-
April 16)
- The American Constitution and constitutional law (text, Chapters 2)
Read the text, Chapter 2; read Week 2 online lecture notes
Complete the Chapter 2 "Chapter Questions and Problems," questions 3 and 9 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 2 Assignment Comments 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, April 16.
Read the *Bush* case and the *Thomas et al* case and post comments on the Week 2 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 16.
- Due:** All formal requests for off-campus, proctored exams are due by Thursday, April 14. Follow instructions on exam procedures under the "Exams" link from your home page. There will be no exceptions for missed deadlines in the absence of an "emergency" as defined above.
- DUE:** Presentation topic approval via email to instructor by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. This is not required, but it is highly recommended; failure to discuss your project with me ahead of time could mean that you will waste your time on an inappropriate research topic.

- WEEK 3
(April 17-
April 23)
- American court systems (text, Chapters 3 and 4)
Read the text, Chapters 3 and 4; read Week 3 online lecture notes
Complete the Chapter 3 “Chapter Questions and Problems,” questions 2 and 6 in the text; submit your responses to the Week 3 Assignment Comments 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, April 23.
Read the *Jacobsen v. Massachusetts* case in Chapter 3 and the *Gordon v. New Hampshire* case in Chapter 4 and post comments on the Week 3 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 23.
- WEEK 4
(April 24-
April 30)
- Criminal law (text, Chapter 5)
Read the text, Chapter 5; read Week 4 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 4 Assignment Comments link and Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.
Read the Chapter 5 case brief on the *U.S. v. Knights* case and post comments on the Week 4 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.
BEGIN REVIEW: Mid-term exam Study Guide, to be distributed to class by Friday, April 29.
DUE: Presentation of your Research Paper Project (submit your Presentation to 1) the Presentation Assignment Comments link and to 2) the Presentation Assignment link on Turnitin.com by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.
- WEEK 5
(May 1-
May 7)
- Criminal procedure (text, Chapter 6)
Read the text, Chapter 6; read 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 Assignment Comments 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, May 7.
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, May 7.
DUE: Sign up for the on-site, scheduled, proctored exam (applies only to those taking the exam on the BC campus; if you are not taking the exam on campus, please follow instructions pertaining to off-campus, proctored exams under the “Exams” link from the course home page)
DUE: Take the mid-term exam on the date that you signed up for but no later than the last, officially-announced exam date

- WEEK 6
(May 8-
May 14)
- Administrative law (text, Chapter 8)
Read the text, Chapter 8; read Week 6 online lecture notes
Complete the Chapter 8 discussion questions (available on the Week 6 Discussion Board); submit your responses to the Week 6 Assignment Comments 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, May 14.
Read the *Nash* case and post your comments on the Week 6 Case Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 14.
- WEEK 7
(May 15-
May 21)
- Torts (text, Chapter 9)
Read the text, Chapter 9; read Week 7 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 7 Assignment Comments link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 7 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 21.
Read the *Randi W.* case and the *Debra Agis* case and post your comments on the Week 7 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 21.
- WEEK 8
(May 22-
May 28)
- Contract law (text, Chapter 11)
Read the text, Chapter 11; read Week 8 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 8 Assignment Comments link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 8 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 28.
Read the *Hamer* case and the *Lucy* case and post your comments on the Week 8 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 28.
- WEEK 9
(May 29-
June 4)
- Renters and landlords (text, Chapter 12)
Read the text, Chapter 12; read Week 9 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 9 Assignment Comments link and to Turnitin.com; and post your comments on the Week 9 Assignment Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.
Read the *Stroot* case and post your comments on the Week 5 Case Comments link on the Discussion Board by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.
BEGIN REVIEW: Study Guide for final exam to be distributed to class by Friday, June 3.
DUE: Court Visit Assignment – submit via the Court Visit Assignment link no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June 4.

- WEEK 10
(June 5-
June 11)
- Employment law (text, Chapter 14)
Read the text, Chapter 14; read Week 10 online lecture notes.
Read the *Price Waterhouse* case and skim the *Gonzalez* case.
Study chart on intellectual property in Chapter 13.
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 10 Assignment Comments link and to Turnitin.com by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.
Comments on the Discussion Board for this week are optional; they are not required, and they will not be graded for participation this week.
- DUE: Sign up for the on-site, scheduled, proctored exam (applies only to those taking the exam on the BC campus; if you are not taking the exam on campus, please follow instructions pertaining to off-campus, proctored exams under the “Exams” link from the course home page.**
- DUE: TAKE the final exam on the date that you signed up for but no later than the last, officially-announced exam date.**

Please note that the final exam for some online business courses, including this one, is this week rather than during the regular final exam period for on-site classes. Please plan accordingly, as there will be no opportunity for making up a missed exam.

- WEEK 11
(June 12-
June 17)
- Final matters
- DUE: Research Paper (submit via the Assignment link by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, June 13. An updated outline must be included with the paper in a single document.**
- DUE: Course evaluations (2 extra credit points) no later than announced deadline, to be determined, and in no event, any later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 17.**