

**Linfield College**  
**BUS 340: Business Law I**  
**Spring Term, 2007**

**Instructor Information:**

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**Course Description:**

This course will acquaint students with the legal issues that occur in business transactions. Areas to be covered include: the legal environment of business, torts and crimes, and contracts and e-contracts.

**Required Text:**

Jentz, Miller, & Cross, West's Business Law, Alternate Edition (with Online Legal Research Guide), 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2007, Thomson/South-Western Publishing, ISBN 0-324-364-989.

**Supplemental Materials:**

Students are strongly encouraged to access the text companion web site for West's Business Law: Alternate Edition at [www.thomsonedu.com/westbusinesslaw/wbl-alt](http://www.thomsonedu.com/westbusinesslaw/wbl-alt) (also accessible at <http://wbl-alt.westbuslaw.com>). This site contains useful information such as interactive quizzes, internet research exercises, sample answers to selected case problems, links to web sites discussed in the text, and more.

In addition, supplemental readings, power point presentations, and/or lecture notes will be posted in the "Course Content" section of WebCT during selected weeks of the semester.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Know and be able to locate primary sources of American law;
2. Identify and explain alternative dispute resolutions;
3. Analyze and explain tort law including intentional, negligent and strict liability torts;
4. Define crimes and understand the nature of business crimes;
5. Understand the elements of a valid contract, identify defenses to contract formation, and be aware of contractual remedies; and
6. Recognize legal problems ("spot the issues") relative to various business transactions and apply basic legal reasoning and analysis skills to draw logical conclusions.

**Course Format:**

This is an online course that "meets" weekly. **Each week** of the semester, there will be a reading component, an assignment from the text, a discussion element, and a quiz. Students will be required to complete these activities each week on-time. In addition to the weekly activities, there will be a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

**Course Grade Components:**

Class Participation – 15% of grade

Weekly Assignments – 30% of grade

Chapter Quizzes – 30% of grade

Final Exam – 25% of grade

**Grading Scale:**

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69 – 60

F = Below 60

I = Incomplete (special cases)

**Course Schedule:**

CALENDAR	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
<b>Unit 1: The Legal Environment of Business</b>		
Feb. 17 – Feb. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Introduction</li> <li>• Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning</li> </ul>	Chapter 1 and Appendix A
Feb. 24 – March 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts &amp; Alternative Dispute Resolution</li> <li>• Court Procedures</li> </ul>	Chapters 2 and 3
March 3 – March 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business</li> <li>• Ethics and Business Decision Making</li> </ul>	Chapters 4 and 5
<b>Unit 2: Torts and Crimes</b>		
March 10 – March 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intentional Torts</li> <li>• Negligence and Strict Liability</li> </ul>	Chapters 6 and 7
March 17 – March 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intellectual Property</li> <li>• Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes</li> </ul>	Chapters 8 and 9
<b>Unit 3: Contracts and E-Contracts</b>		
March 24 – March 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts: Nature and Terminology</li> <li>• Agreement</li> </ul>	Chapters 10 and 11
March 31 – April 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration</li> </ul>	Chapter 12
April 7 – April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity and Legality</li> </ul>	Chapter 13
April 14 – April 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genuineness of Assent</li> </ul>	Chapter 14
April 21 – April 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Statute of Fraud</li> <li>• Third Party Rights</li> </ul>	Chapter 15 and 16
April 28 – May 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance and Discharge</li> </ul>	Chapter 17
May 5 – May 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breach of Contract and Remedies</li> </ul>	Chapter 18
May 12 – May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-Contracts</li> </ul>	Chapter 19
May 19 – May 24	FINAL EXAM	

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Discussion:**

Each student is required to participate in class discussions. Informed and active involvement of each student in class discussion is essential to that student's success and to the success of the class as a whole. There are certain guidelines that must be adhered to at all times when using the discussion forum. **Above all, the classroom should be a safe haven within which individuals can discuss issues in a civil, courteous and respectful manner.** While there may be disagreement about ideas or opinions expressed, students are not to make insulting or inflammatory remarks to other class members. Make sure to review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be prepared for discussion.

### **Late Work:**

Assignments are due on time. Assignments not submitted by the posted due date will **not** be accepted for credit.

### **Incompletes:**

A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain instructor permission. Important semester drop and withdrawal dates can be determined by contacting the Division of Continuing Education.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. A student guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, is immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. The instructor has the authority to assign an "F" grade or a zero for the exercise or examination, or to assign an "F" for the course. Further, sanctions for academic misconduct may include suspension or dismissal from Linfield College.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations should contact the instructor as early as possible, but no later than the first week of the term.

### **Syllabus Updates:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes.