

LINFIELD COLLEGE
BUS 340 - Business Law I
Instructor: Susan Park, J.D.
Phone: 208-344-2073 (home)
208-850-4956 (cell)
Email: supark@linfield.edu
supark3@cableone.net
Office Hours: Upon Request

Course Description

This course addresses the legal environment of business -- the fundamental concepts, principles, and rules of law that apply to business transactions. Topics covered include the U.S. legal system, constitutional law, criminal law, property, and contracts.

Prerequisites

Sophomore standing.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

This course has two major objectives. First, it will help students develop the ability to reason logically, using the cases, text, and other sources to illustrate how legal thought is developed. Second, the course will assist students in gaining information about legal issues in order to make better business decisions. At the conclusion of this course each student should be much better prepared to assess and understand many of the legal problems involved in operating a business and be able to make better business decisions. The student should be able to avoid legal problems due to knowledge gained in this course and should be prepared to participate more actively in resolving legal problems when they do arise.

A student who successfully completes Business Law I should be able to:

1. Recognize, assess, and analyze important legal issues affecting business.
2. Understand and explain the structure, powers, organization and jurisdiction of the federal and state court systems; the key provisions of the U.S. Constitution that impact business; the concepts of federalism and separation of powers; and the role that law plays in American society and business.

3. Identify and explain the most common business torts, such as assault, defamation, negligence, and trade disparagement, as well as product liability theories, and discuss what steps a competent business person should take to decrease potential liability.
4. Understand and explain the concept of criminal liability, common crimes (including cyber crime) and defenses, and basic criminal procedure.
5. Identify and explain the most critical elements of valid and enforceable contracts, including offer and acceptance, consideration, mutual assent, capacity, legality, and the Statute of Frauds, as well as legal issues involving performance, breach and remedies for non-performance.

Text

The required textbook is *West's Business Law (Alternate Edition)* by Jentz, Miller Cross (10th Edition).

Grading

Your final grade in the course will be based upon the following work:

Homework	- 70 points
Discussions	- 40 points
Quizzes	- 60 points
Midterm Exam	- 100 points
Final Exam	- 150 points

At the end of the semester the total possible points will be added and the grades will be based upon the following scale:

- A - 90% and above
- B - 80-90%
- C - 70-80%
- D - 60-70%
- F - below 60%

I will consider classroom preparation, performance, participation, and improvement in determining borderline grades.

Incompletes

A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. The student must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my permission. All uncompleted work must be completed within the time limits I set. If you simply don't turn in the final assignments or the final exam, your course grade will be calculated with the missed portion counting for 0 points.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found to be engaging in either of these activities at any point in the course will receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or entire course and may be subject to further college sanctions.

Class Preparation

1. Be prepared for discussion. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters before participating in any discussion group activities. Active participation in discussion boards will enhance your learning experience as well as enrich the experience of your classmates through the knowledge you share. You will learn more if you participate in class discussion!
2. Think about and be prepared to discuss the questions and practice exercises at the end of each chapter, as well as any hypotheticals presented to you in class. Throughout the semester I will assign some questions at the end of various chapters to be answered in writing and turned in for credit.
3. Preparation means giving the discussion your full attention, volunteering answers, ideas, thoughts and constructive suggestions during discussion, and turning in written assignments complete and on time.

Class Discussion

The classroom should be a safe haven within which individuals can discuss the issues without fearing retribution, ridicule, or attack. In order for this to happen, we must assume that we are all persons of intelligence and good will who may disagree. The single absolute rule is that you cannot get angry or be disrespectful, no matter how deeply you may hold your beliefs and opinions. Your opinions will not affect your grade in any way.

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

Introductory comments

All homework assignments are due Wednesday at noon of the following week. For instance, the assignment from Week 1 is due on at noon on the following Wednesday in Week 2. (There may be exceptions to this.)

This is a scheduled, sequential course that requires participants to complete weekly assignments and meet deadlines. You may move ahead of the scheduled activities. However, deadlines are imposed and students are not allowed to lag behind. This is NOT a correspondence course that gives you total freedom to set your own schedule. It is a weekly class taught online.

Traditional “live” courses typically require, on average, one to three hours of outside study time for every hour spent in class. This is a three credit course, so **expect to spend three hours a week “in-class” at the bare minimum, plus an additional three to nine hours** doing homework and reading assignments.

Please DO NOT take this course if you are too busy to take a live course! Online courses take more time than traditional courses. Thinking that you will be able to squeeze this course into an already overloaded schedule will leave you frustrated and unable to perform up to your expectations, or mine.

Class Outline and Assignments

(This schedule may be subject to change)

Calendar	Topic	Assignments
<i>LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS</i>		
Feb. 16 – 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning 	Read: Chapter 1 - Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning Read: Chapter 1 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, February 20 at noon Intro Discussion DUE: Wednesday, February 20 at 11:55 pm
Feb. 23 – 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution • Court Procedures 	Read: Chapter 2 - Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution Read: Chapter 2 Lesson Read: Chapter 2 handout Read: Chapter 3 - Court Procedures Read: Chapter 3 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, Feb. 27 at noon IRAC Discussion DUE: Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 11:55 pm
March 1 – 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business 	Read: Chapter 4 - Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business Read: Chapter 4 Lesson Read: Chapter 4 handouts Read: Chapter 5 - Ethics and Business Decision Making Assignment DUE: Wednesday, March 5 at noon QUIZ 1 (Chapters 1 - 5) Completed by: Sunday, March 9 at 11:55 pm
<i>TORTS AND CRIMES</i>		
March 8 – 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torts and Cyber Torts 	Read: Chapter 6 - Intentional Torts Read: Chapter 6 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, March 12 at noon Ethics Discussion DUE: Wednesday, March 12 at 11:55 pm
March 15 – 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict Liability and 	Read: Chapter 7 - Negligence and Strict Liability

	Product Liability	Read: Chapter 7 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, March 19 at noon
March 22 – 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes 	Read: Chapter 9 - Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes Read: Chapter 9 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, March 26 at noon Torts Discussion DUE: Wednesday, March 26 at 11:55 pm
CONTRACTS AND E-CONTRACTS		
March 29 – April 4	MID-TERM EXAM	Must be completed by Sunday, April 6 at 11:55 pm.
April 5 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature and Terminology (Contracts) • Agreement 	Read: Chapter 10 - Nature and Terminology Read: Chapter 10 Lesson Read: Chapter 11 - Agreement Read: Chapter 11 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, April 9 at noon
April 12 - 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration 	Read: Chapter 12 - Consideration Read: Chapter 12 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, April 16 at noon
April 19 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and Legality • Genuineness of Assent 	Read: Chapter 13 - Capacity and Legality Read: Chapter 13 Lesson Read: Chapter 14 - Genuineness of Assent Read: Chapter 14 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, April 23 at noon Quiz 2 (Chapters 10 - 14) Completed by: Sunday, April 27 at 11:55 pm
April 26 – May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statute of Frauds 	Read: Chapter 15 - The Statute of Frauds Read: Chapter 15 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, April 30 at noon Contracts I Discussion DUE: Wednesday, April 30 at 11:55 pm

May 3 - 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Party Rights • Performance and Discharge 	Read: Chapter 16 - Third Party Rights Read: Chapter 16 Lesson Read: Chapter 17 - Performance and Discharge Read: Chapter 17 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, May 7 at noon
May 10 - 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breach of Contract and Remedies 	Read: Chapter 18 - Breach of Contract and Remedies Read: Chapter 18 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, May 14 at noon
May 17 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Contracts 	Read: Chapter 19 - E-Contracts Read: Chapter 19 Lesson Assignment DUE: Wednesday, May 21 at noon Contracts II Discussion DUE: Wednesday, May 21 at 11:55 pm
May 24 - 29	FINAL EXAM	MUST BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY, MAY 29 AT 5:00 pm