

Linfield College
Spring 2008
Business 408 (Labor Legislation)

INSTRUCTOR: Craig Cowan
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REQUIRED TEXT: John Budd, Labor Relations: Striking a Balance 2nd Edition (2006)

There will be supplemental readings during selected weeks of the semester. Internet addresses and instructions in how to access these readings will be posted on the Supplemental Reading Page. In addition, you will be able to find supplemental readings on a separate page that will outline your tasks for the week. On selected weeks there will be posted a short lecture on the weekly topic you will be able to find on the Lectures Page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course covers statutes relating to labor relations, history and theories of labor movements, wage/employment theories, national labor relations policies and current labor problems.

PREREQUISITES: Economics 210

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course are to give the student a keen appreciation and clear understanding of the legal, historical, social, psychological and economic forces and how these factors shape the labor/management relationship in the United States.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an online course. As such, we will meet weekly through the WebCT to discuss selected topics based on or related to the reading assignment(s).

Starting with the second week and continuing thereafter for the balance of the semester each of you shall share a current event with me. All students will be required to submit a current event to me every week via email. All current events must relate to some aspect of labor relations in the United States as reported in the media (i.e. newspapers, magazines, television, journals or internet web pages). You will identify the source of the information and will be expected to accurately and briefly describe the

event, why you selected the article/event to report and clearly identify at least one (1) insight you learned from the current event you did not know before.

What is not acceptable as a current event posting is any news story or event that involves labor relations in nations other than the United States. Interviews with family members about how they feel about unions, recitation of federal or state laws or anything else of this genre is not an acceptable current event posting. If I receive such a posting, you will receive a grade of zero (0) points.

Starting with the first week and continuing thereafter for the balance of the semester I will post one (1) question for discussion/case analysis. It is expected each of you actively participate in these weekly discussions and debate and freely express your opinion concerning the discussion topic. I expect each of you to make relevant and substantive contributions each week during classroom discussion. It is expected you will post at least two (2) threads for each discussion question.

The posting of current events and discussion questions will start each Monday at 10:00PM with the deadline for submissions ending the following Monday at 9:59PM. Your responses can be posted at anytime during this time period.

No later than 10:00PM Monday each week, writing assignments will be posted on Monday of each week no later than 10:00PM and must be submitted no later than the following Monday by 9:59PM. Generally, these writing assignments will be an essay, short answer or case review and analysis. All weekly writing assignments must be received via email. Answers must be in 12 point font and not exceed 5 pages in length for each question. Except for corresponding with classmates, you are free to use the text, supplemental readings and any library or electronic source for additional information to help craft a response to the question. Where you use resources outside the text and supplemental readings, it is expected you cite the sources used.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Grading: The final course grade will be determined by the following:

Current Events	15%
Class Participation	15%
Weekly Writing Assignments	70%

Grading Scale: I don't grade on a curve. If your final grade is within 1.0 of the next highest grade, I reserve the option to assign the higher grade but this is not a promise and will be used only in exceptional circumstances based on the entire body of work in the course.

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D	65-69
B	83-86		
B-	80-82		
C+	77-79		

Grading Criteria for Each Element of the Course:

Weekly Current Event: Submission of a current event with at least one (1) insight learned will earn ten (10) points. If there is no current event submitted, then zero (0) points will be assigned. If a submitted current event is submitted does not have at least one (1) insight learned then five (5) points will be earned. Current events that do not meet the expectations stated under the section titled 'Course Format' will earn zero (0) points.

Weekly Discussion Question: It is expected at least two (2) threads will be offered during the week resulting in a substantive contribution to the discussion. Contributions of this nature will earn up to ten (10) points. A substantive contribution means the response is analytical, concise, addresses the issue, adds insight and understanding to what is being discussed.

Weekly Writing Assignment: Weekly writing assignments will have different point values each week. Grading will be based on whether the answer submitted addresses the issue at hand, is analytical, uses proper grammar and spelling and is concise.

Late Work: Current event posting not submitted by the deadline will earn zero (0) points for that week. Similarly, comments offered past the deadline

for the weekly discussion question will also earn zero (0) points. If the weekly writing assignment is submitted past the deadline, I expect to receive a phone call before the deadline explaining why submission is going to be late. Work submitted three (3) calendar days past the deadline will be given zero (0) points. For each day the assignment is late, I deduct one (1) full grade from the grade. For example, if you receive a 'B' grade and you submit the assignment one (1) day late, you earn on that assignment a 'C' grade.

Incompletes: A grade of Incomplete (I) is given only in emergency situations. You must request an Incomplete in writing and must obtain my prior written permission. All uncompleted work must be finished within the time limits set.

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.

Course Policies: This class should be a safe place to discuss, argue and disagree on any topic we discuss without fear of retribution, ridicule or attack. I expect us to treat each other with civility, courtesy and respect. Ethnic slurs, swearing, threats, disparaging remarks about any gender or group will not be tolerated. This course is not a forum for proselytizing and it is not a soapbox for diatribes from anyone. All perspectives and questions are welcome, as long as they are offered by a genuine desire for knowledge, can be articulated thoughtfully and supported by sound reasoning.

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

Difficulties with the Course: Part of my job is to help you in this course. If you are having problems with the course, please let me know as soon as possible. I'm available to help you but I have to know about the problem while it is going on not later when time and options are fewer. In addition, you can reach me at anytime by email. You can call me at anytime but no

later than 10:00PM on weekdays and 6:00PM on weekends. I normally return emails and phone calls within forty-eight (48) hours.