

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE
BUSINESS LAW I – SPRING 2021
BLAW 3150 – 003 (ONLINE)

SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE¹

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DESIGNATED MEETING TIMES

Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm (by appointment) and Fridays 11:30 am – 12:30 pm (by appointment), plus at your convenience (feel free to email me to set up a time).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Business Law: Text and Cases, 15th Edition, Clarkson, Miller, Cross. ISBN: 9780357693339 (Cengage Unlimited Etextbook (without MindTap) - \$69.99; hard copy textbook available to rent for \$7.99)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the legal setting of business and its relationship to the business firm. Topics include: the nature of law and the court system, criminal and civil procedure, alternative dispute resolution, constitutional authority to regulate business, business ethics, criminal law, torts, contracts, the law of sales, intellectual property, and cyber law.

Prerequisite –Junior level standing

3.0 Credits

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To develop a student's ability to identify, prevent, analyze, and resolve issues typically encountered by managers within the framework of legal, regulatory, social, and ethical considerations. Students should understand why these considerations are essential to all managers who operate business enterprises.

¹ Please note, while hopefully the course proceeds as outlined, this Syllabus and Course Outline may be changed at the instructor's discretion. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible in class, by email, or in Canvas.

To succeed in this course, you need to read and take notes on the weekly assignment, view the posted PowerPoint slides, and attend and participate in class discussions. I also recommend that you do the practice questions and problems throughout the chapters because we will be reviewing these during our Zoom sessions. Making an outline of the reading assignments may be a helpful way to prepare for the exams. The exams will assess your knowledge of the rules of law from the textbook and how to apply those rules to particular questions.

Because the class is early and via Zoom, I'll do all I can to keep it more of a discussion than a lecture. Therefore, please have the reading assignments completed before each class session, and please be prepared to discuss the assigned material. PowerPoint slides will be available in the Modules tab in Canvas; we won't generally use class time to go over slides; please use them as an aide to accompany your reading and note taking. Also, my primary method of communicating with the entire class, outside of our designated class time, will be the Announcements tab in Canvas, so please keep an eye on that throughout the semester.

POLICIES

To achieve the Course Objectives, the following policies are adopted:

1. Zoom discussions will be used for evaluating legal principles and applying them to various scenarios. Class participation is vital to achieving the Course Objectives.
2. Reading and taking notes on the assigned chapters and accompanying PowerPoint slides also is vital to achieving the Course Objectives.
3. All students are expected to comply with the university academic regulations concerning attendance, withdrawals, and other provisions of the catalog.
4. A student's grade is determined by the cumulative point total of his/her exam and quiz scores. 200 total points are available (50 points per exam and 10 points per quiz).
5. Letter grades are determined as follows:

A = 180–200 pts. B = 160–179 pts. C = 140–159 pts. D = 120–139 pts. F = Below 120 pts.

6. Students are expected to take exams and quizzes on the scheduled date/time and must contact the lecturer as soon as possible if an emergency arises and he/she is unable to take the exam or quiz on the scheduled date/time. Other than in emergency situations that have been approved by the instructor, exams submitted late will incur a 5 point (10%) reduction per 24 hours late and quizzes submitted late will incur a 1 point (10%) reduction per 24 hours late. For example, if an exam is due by Wednesday at 9:30 AM, but the student oversleeps and misses the exam, the student's grade will be reduced 5

points if the exam is submitted by Thursday at 9:30 AM, 10 points if submitted by Friday at 9:30 AM, etc.

ABSENCES

Students are expected to attend each class discussion for the duration of the class period. Failure to do so may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve a student of any course requirement. Regular class attendance is a student's obligation, as is a responsibility for all the work of class discussions and exams.

The authority to excuse a student's class absence(s) and to grant a student an academic accommodation (e.g., reschedule an exam, etc.) sits with the individual instructor. Students are encouraged to work directly with the instructor regarding their absence(s). A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an exam scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

PARTICIPATION

Our class will be conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcomed. The orderly and respectful questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcomed. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly and respectful fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect that I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further.

ONLINE CLASS BEHAVIOR

All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person's actual or perceived race, gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

DIVERSITY

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate³ diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations. Contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.

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The instructor's lectures and course materials, including presentations, exams, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials I create. I encourage you to take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. However, you may not, nor may you knowingly allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly without the instructor's written consent. Students who publicly distribute or display or help others publicly distribute or display copies or modified copies of an instructor's course materials may be in violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility.

READING ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS SCHEDULE, QUIZZES AND EXAMS (may be adjusted at the lecturer's discretion)

In order to get the most out of our time together, it's expected that the assigned reading will be completed prior to the respective class discussion.

There will be three 50-question, multiple choice exams this semester (including the Final Exam/Exam 3). Exams are scheduled for Mon., March 8 (Exam 1); Wed., April 7 (Exam 2); and TBD by the University (Final Exam/Exam 3). The three exams will be worth 50 points each (150 points total). There also will be five quizzes this semester; the dates are listed below. Each quiz will be worth 10 points (50 points total). These exams and quizzes are designed to measure a student's ability to identify, prevent, analyze, and resolve legal problems. Factual situations are presented on the exams, and students are required to determine a legal result in each case. The exams and quizzes will be administered within the Quizzes tab in Canvas.

Please note we also will have guest speakers during two class sessions. On Wednesday, Feb. 24, we will host Justin Adams (co-founder and CEO, Anduin Inc.) and Mark Linsz (co-founder and Senior Managing Partner, My Next Season and former CEO-Risk Executive Division and Corporate Treasurer, Bank of America). On Wednesday, April 14, we will host Blaine Hurst (Vice Chairman and former President and CEO, Panera Bread).

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS/EXAM/QUIZ SCHEDULE

Week 1

- Wed. Jan. 20: Class Introduction – There’s No Way I’m Going To Law School, So Why Are They Making Me Take Business Law?

PART 1: THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS and TORTS AND CRIMES

Week 2

- Mon. Jan. 25: Ch. 1 – Law and Legal Reasoning
- Wed. Jan. 27: Ch. 2 – Business and the Constitution (omit *Heart of Atlanta Motel v United States*)

Week 3

- Mon. Feb. 1: Ch. 4 – Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- **Mon. Feb. 1: Quiz 1 available at 9:15 AM and due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 1, 2, and 4)**
- Wed. Feb. 3: Ch. 5 – Court Procedures

Week 4 – NO CLASSES (Mon. Feb 8 and Wed. Feb 10)

Week 5

- Mon. Feb. 15: Ch. 6 – Tort Law
- Wed. Feb. 17: Ch. 7 – Strict Liability and Product Liability
- **Wed. Feb. 17: Quiz 2 available at 9:15 AM and due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 5, 6, and 7)**

Week 6

- Mon. Feb 22: Ch. 8 – Intellectual Property Rights
 - Supplemental Reading: *Rentmeester v Nike, Inc.*, 883 F.3d 1111 (9th Cir. 2018) (the “Jumpman logo case”), available at <https://cases.justia.com/federal/appellate-courts/ca9/15-35509/15-35509-2018-02-27.pdf?ts=1519754542>
- Wed. Feb 24: Guest Speakers - Mark Linsz and Justin Adams

Week 7

- Mon. March 1: Ch. 9 – Internet Law, Social Media, and Privacy
- Wed. March 3: Ch. 10 – Criminal Law and Cyber Crime

Week 8

- **Mon. March 8: Exam 1 available at 8:00 AM and due by 9:30 AM (Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10)**

PART 2: CONTRACTS AND E-CONTRACTS

- Wed. March 10: Ch. 11 – Nature and Terminology of Contracts

Week 9

- Mon. March 15: Ch. 12 – Agreement
- Wed. March 17: Ch. 13 – Consideration

Week 10

- Mon. March 22: Ch. 14 – Capacity and Legality
- **Mon. March 22: Quiz 3 available at 9:15 AM and due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 11, 12, 13, and 14)**
- Wed. March 24: Ch. 15 – Mistakes, Fraud, and Voluntary Consent
 - Supplemental Reading: *Sherwood v Walker*, 33 N.W. 919 (Mich. 1887) (the “Pregnant Cow Case”), available at <https://casetext.com/case/sherwood-v-walker>

Week 11

- Mon. March 29: Ch. 16 – The Writing Requirement
- Wed. March 31: Ch. 17 – Third Party Rights

Week 12

- Mon. April 5: Ch. 19 – Breach of Contract and Remedies
 - Supplemental Reading: *Hawkins v McGee*, 84 N.H. 114 (N.H. 1929) (the “Hairy Hand Case”), available at <https://casetext.com/case/hawkins-v-mcgee>
- **Wed. April 7: Exam 2 available at 8:00 AM and due by 9:30 AM (Ch. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19)**

PART 3: BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, THE UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE, EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION, and GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Week 13

- Mon. April 12: Ch. 36 – Small Businesses and Franchises
- Wed. April 14: Guest Speaker – Blaine Hurst

Week 14

- Mon. April 19: Ch. 39 – Corporate Formation and Financing
- **Mon. April 19: Quiz 4 available at 9:15 AM and due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 36 and 39)**
- Wed. April 21: Ch. 20 – Sales and Lease Contracts

Week 15

- Mon. April 26: Ch. 25 – Negotiable Instruments
- Wed. April 28: Ch. 35 – Employment Discrimination
- **Wed. April 28: Quiz 5 available at 9:15 AM and due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 20, 25, and 35)**

Week 16

- Mon. May 3: Ch. 43 – Administrative Agencies
- Wed. May 5: Ch. 44 – Consumer Laws

Final Exam – Date TBD (Ch. 20, 25, 35, 36, 39, 43, and 44)