

BUSINESS LAW

Course Syllabus

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Textbook

Business Law Today, 6th Edition

Course Description

This course is meant to provide a general introduction to the legal environment that affects individuals, businesses, and business transactions. In addition to providing a general introduction to the American legal system, this course will focus on specific legal topics such as contracts and the Uniform Commercial Code.

Course Objectives

- 1) Learn to understand basic legal terminology and concepts.
- 2) Learn how to evaluate issues of legal significance in business transactions.
- 3) Apply legal reasoning to situations and form legal conclusions.
- 4) Compare and apply various legal theories/interpretations to factual situations.
- 5) Learn how to issue spot, weigh, and analyze risks, and gain a sense of comfort and familiarity with the legal system.

Course Contents

During this course we will try to cover many, but not all, of the chapters in the textbook. The topics we will be studying include, but are not limited to:

- 1 Legal history
- 2 Civil procedure
- 3 Constitutional law
- 4 Torts
- 5 Intellectual property
- 6 Cyber law
- 7 International law
- 8 Labor and employment
- 9 Agency
- 10 Ethics
- 11 Legal reasoning
- 12 Product liability

The course will have an emphasis on contracts. Topics we will consider regarding contracts include, but are not limited to:

- 1 Agreement
- 2 Consideration

- 3 Capacity
- 4 Legality
- 5 Statute of Frauds/Oral Contracts
- 6 3rd parties
- 7 Performance/discharge
- 8 the Uniform Commercial Code

Tentative and Partial Reading Schedule

To be distributed in class

Grading

Your grade will be based upon:

1) 5 internet assignments worth 30 points each	5@30=	150 points
2) One Small Claims Paper worth 50 points		50 points
3) One Courthouse Visitation paper worth 150 points		150 points
4) Two midterm exams worth 125 points each	2@125=	250 points
3) 1 final exam worth 200 points		200 points
4) class participation		100 points
6) attendance		<u>100 points</u>
Total:		1000 points

Homework

The Internet assignments and 2 papers will be discussed later. Students are expected to provide their assignments and papers in typewritten essay form, using 12 point font, times new roman, and the papers must have a 1-inch margin left and right, top and bottom. All assignments must be turned in during class time. I will not accept assignments via email due to printing costs and virus issues. If your assignment is not turned in during your class time it will be late. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day they are late. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Use a computer or word processor and make a back up COPY OF EVERYTHING YOU DO for your records. It is always a good idea to make a backup copy of all assignments you complete in the event of loss. In the event of loss, you will need to show proof that you have completed the work if any question or error arises. If for any unknown reason your paper is lost, you will need to submit a copy at the instructor's request.

Exams

The three exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings, class discussions, and homework assignments. The tests may cover things in the textbook that we did not discuss in class. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final will be cumulative, with a bit more emphasis on topics covered in class since the second test. All the tests will be a combination of closed and open book, as will be explained later.

Students will be expected to bring their own scantron form and a #2 pencil to each test. For the essay portions of each test students will be expected to bring a blue book and a

pen.

Participation

Students are expected to be ready to discuss the readings (including the cases) in class. I will call on students to answer various questions. I will also pose general discussion questions to the class. Class participation is encouraged and everyone should have the opportunity to share their opinion. Class participation is important to the learning process of everyone, which is why attendance and participation constitute 20% of your grade.

Additionally, students should recognize the rights of students to express their opinions freely. Finally, class participation should not be a forum to discuss personal legal problems.

Extra Credit

Students are encouraged to bring in news articles that touch upon topics we have discussed in class. A student will receive 5 points extra credit (up to a maximum of 20 points per student) for every article they bring that complements the current lesson or past class discussions/readings. In order to receive credit, students must give a 2-3 minute explanation of the article, and explain how it relates to the class. Students should let me review the article first before presenting it in class, and students should briefly indicate in writing how the article relates to the class. I will determine whether the article is relevant to the class and is deserving of extra credit.

Attendance

I will take roll at the beginning of every class as part of your participation grade. Students who miss more than 2 weeks of class may be dropped from the class. If you decide not to take the class please be sure to drop the class yourself. It is not my responsibility to do that for you. If you are late (meaning you are not in your seat when I take attendance) or if you leave early, I will count your attendance as one-half credit.

Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for completing all assignments and attending class. Dropping this class is the responsibility of the student. There will be no Internet, text messaging, or e-mail use during class. If a student is found to be doing so, they will receive one warning. If the behavior continues, the student will not be allowed to return to class and will receive a no credit. All cellular phones and pagers must be turned off or put in vibrate mode. If your cell phone rings during class time I will discount your attendance for that day by one-half credit. If you know you need to leave early, please sit near an exit so as not to disturb the class. Please also be on time to the class. Please read the sections entitled "Students" and "Student Conduct Code" in the West Valley College Catalog.

Information Technology

You will need to have access to the Internet in order to complete some of the assignments for this class. Additionally all assignments should be typewritten. If you do not have access to a computer please be aware that there are computer labs on campus available

for students in the Tech Center Assistance at the Tech Center is limited to hardware troubleshooting. Please understand the personnel can answer one or two questions about the software program you are learning but are unable to provide step-by-step help. If you need such help, please go to Tutorial Services at 741-2038.

Safety

In the event of evacuation of the classroom, please be prepared to take your valuables and go to Parking Lot 3 by the Bus Stop. Once there, the instructor will take roll.

Disability

West Valley College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Disability and Educational Support Program at 741-2010 of any special needs.

No Legal Advice

Although I am an attorney, please do not ask me for help, advice, or guidance with a personal legal problem.