WestVirginiaUniversity.
JOHN CHAMBERS COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

BCOR 320-003: Legal Environment of Business

Instructor Information

Name: Andrew Allison

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Office Hours: MW 11:20 AM – 12:20 PM

Office: 2106 – Reynolds Hall

Teaching Assistant Information

Name: Tyler Evans Tucky

Email: [Redacted]

Course Information

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Times: Th 6:00 PM – 8:50 PM

Course Overview

This course explores the relationship of law, government and ethics to business enterprise. Provides overview of legal and ethical issues relevant to business decision-making and planning and the government regulations of business.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful learners will be able to:

- Discuss the application of law in today's world
- Identify the structure of the American legal system and how that system functions in civil, criminal, and appellate legal processes
- List basic terms of the U.S. Constitution and how it affects and limits the law-making power at both the state and federal levels
- Identify key stages in civil litigation
- Distinguish between the legal and ethical issues presented in various business situations

- Identify the principle of jurisdiction in respect to the American legal system
- Identify alternatives to litigation that may be used for dispute resolution and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each relative to those of litigation
- Explain various principles of substantive law that impact on business decision-making with an emphasis on tort, product liability, contract, real, intellectual, and personal property, agency, and employment law
- Compare and contrast the major types of business organizations, and explain the methods of creation, powers, rights and duties of each type

Course Materials

Required Textbook

Essentials of Business Law by Anthony Liuzzo and Ruth Hughes (2022), 11th edition ("11e"). McGraw Hill Education. They sell a hard copy of the book in the bookstore; HOWEVER, only McGraw Hill's "Connect" program is required for this course. As part of the Connect program, you should get complimentary access to the ebook. So, only buy the hardcopy if you prefer that version or if you want a printed copy for reference during quizzes and exams. If you signed up for the First Day Complete model at WVU, you should have access to the textbook and Connect for free online. All required online assignments and the interactive eBook for this course are available in Connect.

Assessments

Tests

- Students will take four, online, closed book, multiple choice tests that cover three units of course content each

Online Assignments

- Students will complete open book assignments either through McGraw Hill Connect or eCampus

Case Briefing

- Students will complete a two-page case briefing which summarizes and details a famous U.S. business law case

Final Exam

- Students will take an in-class, closed book, multiple choice final exam that covers all course content

Schedule of Assessments

Assessment	Due Date
Tests	Sep 10, Oct 1, Oct 22, Nov 12
Online Assignments	Sep 17, Oct 1, Oct 22, Nov 12, Dec 3
Case Briefing	Nov 19
Final Exam	Dec 3

Grades

Assessment Weights and Grading

Assessment	Weight	Grading
Tests	20%	Four tests will be taken online throughout the semester. Each will be worth 5% of the student's final grade. The will be virtually proctored. Tests will covered content from the textbook as well as material covered in class. They are closed book.
Online Assignments	30%	Open book assignments will be taken by students throughout the semester either through McGraw Hill Connect or eCampus. There will be multiple question types.
Case Briefing	20%	Students will prepare a two-page case briefing on a famous US business law case. Students will be graded on understanding of the case and application of pertinent course content to the case.
Final Exam	30%	Students will take an in-class final exam that covers all course content from the textbook and in-class lessons. It is closed book.

Grade Scale

Grade	Percent Range
A	93-100%
A-	90-92.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	84-86.9%
B-	80-83.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	74-76.9%
C-	70-73.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	64-66.9%
D-	60-63.9%
F	0-59.9%

Course Policies

Students should review the **University Syllabus Policies and Statements**. These policies are adopted by reference into this syllabus.

Attendance Policy

Students should plan to attend all sessions.

Late Work Policy

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates listed on the schedule. The reason for not granting unexcused extensions is fairness. An extension is unfair to students who do not receive one and thus have less time to earn their grade. I will deduct 5 percentage points for every day the assignment is late. There is no maximum to this penalty.

Test and the Final Exam may not be submitted late and will receive a score of 0 if

Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence writing software for all evaluations is strictly prohibited in this course. Any attempt to treat AI output as a student's own work or failing to identify AI-generated work for these assessments will be treated as academic dishonesty.

The reason for this policy is that the use of content-generating AI to complete assessments makes it such that successful completion of those assessments does not imply achieving this course's learning outcomes.

Readings

All required readings are in the textbook, *Essentials of Business Law*. Students are responsible for understanding all assigned chapters for assessments.

In-Class Technology

There are no restrictions on the use of technology for note-taking in class. For class, please come prepared with a Wi-Fi-connected device. However, if this technology is distracting to you or others, you may be asked to use a different method of note taking or be asked to leave.

Communications

Students can contact the instructor or teaching assistant via email or in office hours. Most student emails will be answered within 48 hours.

Course Schedule

Class Units

Event	Topics/Assignments
Unit 1 (Week 1)	Foundation of Law
Unit 2 (Week 2)	Criminal and Tort Law
Unit 3 (Week 3)	Constitutional and Administrative Law
Unit 4 (Week 4)	Introduction to Contracts
Unit 5 (Week 5)	Consideration and Competence

Event	Topics/Assignments
Unit 6 (Week 6)	Contract Form
Unit 7 (Week 7)	Contract Operation and Discharge
Unit 8 (Week 8)	Sales and Warranties
Unit 9 (Week 9)	Agency and Business Organizations
Unit 10 (Week 10)	Commercial Paper
Unit 11 (Week 11)	Property
Unit 12 (Week 12)	Landlords and Wills
Unit 13 (Week 13)	Employment
Unit 14 (Week 14)	Liability

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Aug 20	Ch. 1 & 2	Our System of Law Ethics and the Law		

Week 2 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Aug 27	Ch. 3 & 4	Criminal Law Tort Law		

Week 3 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Sep 3	Ch. 5 & 6	Constitutional Law Administrative Law		

Week 4 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Sep 10	Ch. 7, 8, & 9	Introduction to Contracts Offer and Acceptance Mutual Agreement	Test #1	5:59 PM

Week 5 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Sep 17	Ch. 10 & 11	Consideration Competent Parties	LearnSmart Online Assignments Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	5:59 PM

Week 6 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Sep 24	Ch. 12 & 13	Legal Purpose of Contracts Form of Contracts **Guest Lecture:** Dr. Cathleen Johnson		

Week 7 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Oct 1	Ch. 14 & 15	Operation of Contracts Discharge of Contracts	Test #2 LearnSmart Online Assignments Chs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	5:59 PM 5:59 PM

Week 8 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Oct 8	Ch. 16, 17, & 18	Transfer of Titles Sales Warranties		

Week 9 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Oct 15	Ch. 19, 20, & 21 *Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad*	Agency Business Organizations Bankruptcy **Case Briefing Workshop:** Tyler Evans Tucky		

Week 10 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Oct 22	Ch. 22 & 23	Introduction to Commercial Paper Transfer and discharge of Commercial Paper	Test #3 LearnSmart Online Assignments Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21	5:59 PM 5:59 PM

Week 11 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Oct 29	Ch. 24 & 25 Schmidtz, “Property”	Real and Personal Property Bailments		

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
		Guest Lecture: Dr. David Schmidtz		

Week 12 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Nov 5	Ch. 26 & 27	Landlord-Tenant Relations Wills, Intestacy, and Trusts		

Week 13 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Nov 12	Ch. 32 & 33	The Employer-Employee Relationship Employment Law **Guest Lecture:** Tyler Evans Tucky	Test #4 LearnSmart Online Assignments Chs. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27	5:59 PM 5:59 PM

Week 14 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Nov 19	Ch. 34 & 35	Product Liability Professionals' Liability	Case Briefing	5:59 PM

Week 15 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Nov 26	Fall Recess, no class			

Week 16 - Readings, Topics, and Assignments

Day	Readings	Topics	Assignments	Assignment Deadlines
Dec 3			Final Exam LearnSmart Online Assignments Chs. 32, 33, 34, 35	7:50 PM 5:59 PM