

## **Business Law**

BUA 250.I50.SP2020

Spring 2020

**Number of Credits:** 3.0

**Days Class Meets:** Online

**Meeting Times:** Please see Office Hours

**Location:** Online

**Instructor:** Jennifer Burdick, MBA

**Office Hours:** Monday 7pm – 8:30pm; Wednesday 7pm – 8:30pm

**Contact Email:** burdickjennifem@jccmi.edu

**Online:** Response within 24-48 hours.

### **Course Description**

This course offers an introduction to law and the legal system, dispute resolution and courts, business ethics, torts, contracts, sales and leases of goods, and negotiable instruments.

### **Prerequisite(s)**

CIS 095, ENG 085, and ENG 090

### **Course Goals**

Our purpose is to develop a solid basis of the understanding of the American Legal system so that we may guide our organizations by understanding the facets of the legal system, learning about legal difficulties of past businesses and individuals, and further our skills of working productively with attorneys when legal situations do surface and require action.

### **Course Objectives**

- Identify the foundations of the US legal system to include the sources of law, the classifications of law, and the role our US Constitution in the legal system
- Summarize the steps in the US court system and the role alternate dispute resolution in the business context
- Differentiate between tort law, product liability, and criminal vs. civil law
- Reflect on how ethical behavior correlates with legal nature of business
- Recognize the importance of contract law, consumer law, and employment law
- Determine the role that negotiable instruments have within the context of conducting business
- Recall how past cases relating to corporate law and the international market have influenced today's legal concerns in a business

### **Textbook**

- **Business Law Today: The Essentials, Miller, 12<sup>th</sup> edition Cengage**

*Available via Cengage subscription program. No class code needed, digital book only.*

*Textbook Zero! This text is available to rent or purchase in a digital format through the JC bookstore.*

## Grading Procedure

Exact due dates for assignments, tests, exams, etc. will be announced in class and are included on the course calendar. In addition, class participation will be measured by your level of engagement during class. As applicable, it is expected that each student engages in classroom discussions and/or discussion forums. Your response should promote the conversation, not simply state your agreement.

### FINAL GRADE

The grade points assigned are estimates and subject to modification. Your final grade will be based on the points you earn on quizzes, assignments, class preparation and participation.

Your final grade in our course is directly related to your amount of effort in our course. Historically speaking, students that are engaged, prepared, complete assignments on time, and put forth effort for each quiz and assignment have done well in our course. Thus, your final grade is dependent on you. In addition, it is up to each student to keep track of our course calendar and any missing assignments. Missing assignments can severely influence your final grade and this effect may not be “seen” until the midterm or the final grade (see comments above).

## Class Activities

The list and descriptions below indicate the types of activities completed in our class. All of the course assignments and activities are posted within the course calendar. Generally, each assignment is due on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of each week. **Late assignments (written work only, does not include tests / quizzes or forums) will be accepted with a 50% deduction (FOR ANY REASON).** For example, if you score a 90% for your assignment, your final grade would be inputted as a 45% for being late. If this is abused, I reserve the right to refuse late assignments.

Please note: All late work must be submitted no later than 7 days prior to the end of the semester. For example, if you missed an assignment in Week 2, you have until 7 days prior to the semester ending to submit that assignment with the late penalty.

The listing below indicates how many points you earn for each activity:

- **WEEK 1 ACTIVITY (up to 20 pts)**
  - More information on this activity will be explained and assigned in class.
- **ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION (up to 70 pts for the semester)**
  - Please note that this is over 10% of your final grade
  - Class participation will be measured by your attendance, level of engagement during class and/or participation in the discussion forum.
    - It is expected that each student attend class. Therefore, attendance will be taken during the semester.
    - For classes with discussion forums, your participation is measured by your responses to your classmates' questions to your original post.
    - For classes without a discussion forum, your participation is measured by your overall participation in classroom discussions.
- **CASE REVIEWS (10 pts ea.)**
  - We will have assignments due during the course of the semester to reflect on your learning. These must be completed and will gauge your understanding of key concepts associated with business law in contemporary business operations.
  - Each reflection should address the questions from the textbook and present valid arguments for your position.

- **“IN THE NEWS” ESSAY (up to 80 pts)**
  - Throughout the semester, we have learned about the various legal concerns that a company must address and various challenges facing many of today's organizations. For this final assignment, your task is to conduct research and find an organization that is currently facing a legal challenge.
  - But your essay must follow the below:
    - Title page
    - 2 to 3 pages (not including title page)
    - Written academically with an introduction, a body with arguments, and conclusion
    - Reference page with at least two references
    - **Due July 21st**
- **EXAMS (100 pts ea)**
  - We will have a mid-term and final exam that will cover all reviewed material. I will provide more information on these exams during our course.

**Activities:** Tentative activities, which are subject to change:

Week 1 =	20
Participation =	70
Case Reviews =	170
Essay =	80
Exams =	200
Total =	540

## Grading Scale

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	93 - 100%
3.5	88 - 92%
3.0	82 - 87%
2.5	76 - 81%
2.0	70 - 75%
1.5	64 - 69%
1.0	58 - 63%
0.5	52 - 57%
0.0	0 - 51%

## Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

**Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources.**

**Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:**

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation
- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

**Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization.**

**Cheating includes, but is not limited to:**

- Plagiarizing in any form
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Copying
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others
- Altering graded work

- Falsifying data
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical
- Allowing your work to be submitted by others

## Failure

Anyone caught cheating on an assignment or quiz will receive a zero for that task. If caught cheating more than once, the student will receive a zero for the class. All academic dishonesty violations will be reported to the Dean of Occupational Education.

## Course Management

It is the responsibility of each student to manage their progress through the course. If circumstances arise beyond the control of the student, it is imperative that the circumstances be communicated to the instructor. You should be monitoring your grade throughout the semester. Waiting until the final week or the day after the conclusion of our course is not the time to assess your overall performance. Finally, at the conclusion of our course it is unacceptable to ask for a “bump up” in your grade. If you monitor your own performance and do your best, a “bump up” is not required. Again, your success is up to you.

For course withdrawals, **it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course.** Simply not attending class will not classify as a withdrawal. You should also contact your instructor when considering a withdrawal.

If you are unable to complete the course due to extenuating circumstances, please refer to your academic catalog for specific qualifications and details related to an “incomplete” grade.

## Help

If you need help with a topic, start with your fellow classmates. Ask questions and learn from each other. If you still need help with a topic, please ask your instructor. I am here to help you and want you to succeed. Lastly, tutors (plus additional services for academic success) can be accessed by calling 796-8415 or by stopping by the Center for Student Success (see this link: <https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/tutoring-center/>). Students requiring special assistance (including those affected by the Americans with Disabilities Act) should contact the Center for Student Success. This is the first step in acquiring the appropriate accommodations to facilitate your learning.

It is important to contact a Center for Student Success professional prior to the start of the semester in order to receive accommodations in a timely manner. While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester.

<https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

## Calendar

The course calendar is below.

Please note, calendar timelines and assignments are an approximation and could be changed. Your instructor will offer advance notice of any changes.

WEEK #	DATE	TOPIC	HOMEWORK
Week 1	June 8	Ch. 1 Legal and Constitutional Foundations of Business Ch. 2 Courts and Alternate Dispute Resolution	<b><u>All work due June13th</u></b> Syllabus Quiz; Week 1 Activities Ch. 1, Case 1.1 Binding vs. Persuasive Authority Ch. 2, Case 2.6 Corporate Contacts
Week 2	June15	Ch 3 Ethics in Business & Tort Law Ch. 4 Tort Law	<b><u>All work due June20th</u></b> Ch. 3, Case 3.1 Business Ethics Ch. 4, Case 4.3 Negligence
Week 3	June22	Ch. 5 Intellectual Property Rights Ch. 6 Internet Law, Social Media, and Privacy Ch. 7 Criminal Law and Cyber Crime	<b><u>All work due June27th</u></b> Ch. 5, Case 5.7 Copyrights Ch. 6, Case 6.5 Social Media Ch. 7, Case 7.3 Defenses to Criminal Liability
Week 4	June 29	Ch. 8 Agreement and Consideration in Contracts Ch. 9 Capacity, Legality, and Enforceability Ch. 10 Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	<b><u>All work due July6th</u></b> Ch. 8, Case 8.4 Taco Bell Ch. 9, Case 9.4 Minors <b><u>Mid-Term Exam (Chapters 1-9)</u></b> Ch. 10, Case 10.4 Conditions
Week 5	July 6	Ch. 11 Sales & Lease Contracts (UCC Article 2 Sale & Articles 2A Leases) Ch. 12 Performance and Breach in Sales and Lease Contracts Ch. 13 Negotiable Instruments	<b><u>All work due July11th</u></b> Ch. 11, Case 11.5 Goods and Services Combined Ch. 12, Case 12.8 Implied Warranties Ch. 13, Case 13.6 Indorsements
Week 6	July 13	Ch. 17 Employment Law Ch. 20 Investor Protection, Insider Trading, and Corporate Governance Ch. 21 Antitrust Law and Promoting Competition	<b><u>All work due July18th</u></b> Ch. 17, Case 17. 5 Sexual Harassment Ch. 20, Case 20. Insider Trading, Case 21.7 Section 1 of the Sherman Act.
Week 7	July 20	Ch. 22 Consumer Law Ch. 25 International Law in Global	<b><u>All work due July25th</u></b> <b><u>Essay- Business Law in the News</u></b> Ch. 22, Case 22.4 Deceptive Advertising <b><u>Final Exam (Chapters 11-13, 17, and 20-22)</u></b>

## Important Dates: Spring 2020

DATE	EVENT
JUNE 8, 2020	DAY AND EVENING CLASSES BEGIN
JUNE 8 – JULY 25, 2020	7-WEEK DATES
JULY 30, 2020	GRADES DUE
AUGUST 10	END OF SPRING SEMESTER

## Student Responsibilities

- Follow the requirements in the Academic Honesty document posted in this class.
- Read assigned chapters before coming to class.
- Assignments will be due in accordance with the course calendar.
- Attend all classes and be on time. If you are absent you are still responsible for all information presented and for turning in any assignments that are due.
- The student is responsible for the material covered in a missed class. Notify your instructor in advance if you are going to miss a class and make arrangements to make up any missed work.
- Participate in class activities and discussions in a responsible and considerate manner. Student discussion and questioning is encouraged.
- View the grade book weekly and JC email account weekly. Grade issues must be reconciled within the same week of grade posting. Waiting until the end of the semester will not result in a grade change for any reason.
- Points are earned for learning, not for effort or best intentions.
- **As applicable, all assignment must be typed using Times New Roman or Arial typeface, either 11 or 12 font size, double spaced, with references properly cited.**
- Appropriate business talk and written work (grammar, spelling and capitalization) are expected.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance will be tracked by JetNet.

## Classroom Policy

Be respectful of your instructor and your peers. This is a learning community – and we all will learn something – so be positive and encouraging of those around you. Any behavior considered being disruptive, disrespectful, inappropriate, or threatening will be addressed by the instructor and/or security and/or the Dean of Students. Consequences may involve deduction of points/grade and/or may include removal from class.

## Tips!!

- It may be surprising to learn how much of student **success depends directly upon you, the student.**
- Generally speaking, students who have come to class, submitted homework ON TIME, and prepared for each week's tests have generally done well in the class. **This is not a guarantee, but your effort can significantly affect your final grade.**
- **Please read feedback offered for every assignment.** The intent is to learn from your assignments and improve throughout the semester. If you do not read the feedback, you may be making the same mistakes and having points deducted.
- **Do not wait until the last minute to submit work.** If you wait until 11:00pm ET to start your quiz, work on your homework, or complete your assignments and computer issues arise, you may be late in your submission. Remember, all late work will be penalized 50% regardless of reason.

If you are able to complete your work early in the week, you can avoid the “it’s due tonight” stress. Please plan ahead now.

- **Use spell check** for all written assignments.
- **Find a “study buddy.”** Your “study buddy” will help to remind you of upcoming assignments and can serve as a class teammate to address ideas and concerns.
- We may not review every topic included in each chapter during our time together in the classroom. **It is your responsibility** to review the assigned readings to prepare for any quizzes and complete your assignments.
- **Writing and reading make up a significant portion of our class, especially for the online version of BUA250.** At times, talking and listening are replaced by reading and writing. If you do not like to read and find it difficult to write, this class, either in person or online, may not be for you.
- **Schedule a quiet place** for class three (3) times each week as well as studying.
- Talk with friends/employers about business topics we study to reduce study time and memorization as well as increase retention.
- **Due dates for all assignments are on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of each week by 11:55pm ET.** Please plan ahead now.

### Grading Rubric

Grade	Evaluation
A	Student demonstrates full grasp of the subject area. Depth of answer is appropriate for type of question asked and necessary support and evidence is given for answer. Student shows excellent understanding of the material. High levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluations used. Answer is accurate, legible and organized for optimum communication and free of spelling and grammar mistakes.
B	Student demonstrates general understanding of the subject area but lacks advanced concepts. Student did not fully support answer with necessary facts and evidence but student shows a good understanding of the material. Moderate levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluations used. Answer is accurate with nominal level of errors in spelling, grammar, syntax or organization.
C	Student demonstrates peripheral knowledge of the subject but did not answer specific question. Student shows some understanding of the material but did not support answer with necessary facts and evidence. Significant level of errors in writing mechanics or organization.
D	Student’s answer did not address question asked. Student made attempt at answer but missed the point of the question. Student’s work meets bare minimum requirements in content and lacks some key understanding of the material. Document organization and/or mechanics are well below professional expectations.
F	Does not meet minimum requirements in content. Work shows little understanding of material. Grammar, structure and spelling are not on college level.

### Caveat

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as deemed necessary and will communicate such amendment to the students in the course.