



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

Melvin D. & Valorie G. Booth School of Business

Business Law I

FIN 53311, 48 contact hours, 3 credit hours

5-Week Summer Session

Instructor: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Office Hours: By appointment

Prerequisites: None

Textbook: Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment (Mallor, Barnes, Bowers, and Langvardt), 15th ed. (ISBN: 9780073524986).

Supplementary Materials: None

Course Description: Fundamental principles of law in relation to the legal environment of business, including procedure and evidence, business ethics, court systems, contracts, torts, administrative law, and constitutional law.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to increase students' awareness and understanding of the legal environment of business in the 21st century. Students will be encouraged to form educated opinions on how various situations should be handled in their professional lives. This will be accomplished through case analysis and discussion of current events along with the application of current legal principles. Students should stay current with relevant events as they occur during the session and are encouraged to share these throughout the session.

Student Learning Outcomes (Assessment Methods):

At the completion of the course, successful students can...

- ...discuss current issues that involve business and law (classroom presentations and discussions) ...describe the nature of law and how it is used in the American system to resolve private disputes (examinations)
- ...explain fundamental elements in the constitution regarding the rights of businesses and individuals (examinations)
- ...outline basic criminal and civil law and procedure (examinations)
- ...explain basic concepts related to torts, negligence, and strict liability as they relate to business (examinations)
- ...describe and explain the rights and obligations related to intellectual property (examinations)
- ...explain the elements of a contract including consent, capacity, illegality, and the rights of third parties (examinations)



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

Instructional Methods: This course will be delivered fully online, and all instructional methods and assessments outlined as follows will be adapted to this format on Canvas.

Instructional methods in this class will include lectures, class discussions, small group work, individual/group work, learner (student) presentations, and potentially guest speakers.

Everyone in the class is expected to conduct him/herself in a professional manner. All communication, including email, should be professional and respectful. Dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. Students should refer to the University Academic Honesty Policy and the section below.

Late work of any type will not be accepted unless the instructor has approved prior arrangements. Participation in class not only improves your learning, but that of your fellow students. This class especially will involve discussion of complicated topics that may not have a clear answer. Varying points of view are welcome, but should be presented constructively and respectfully with civility to all involved. Discussions should focus on the topics and will not devolve into personal attacks.

Graded Course Requirements:

The final course grade will be determined using the following criteria:

- 15 points Current Event Selection and Report
- 15 points Current Event Presentation
- 400 points Chapter Exams (4 @ 100 points)
- 100 points Comprehensive Final Exam

Successful students in this class will spend a minimum of three hours in out-of-class preparation for each hour spent in class.

Current Events: (a/k/a “What’s Going On in the World Related to Business Law”) Each individual student will complete one current event assignment on a specific date selected early in the session. Current events are reports from student-selected articles from current newspapers, magazines, or reliable electronic sources. Students should prepare a one-page, single-spaced (Times 12-point font with one inch margins) summary and analysis of the article and be prepared to present the article to the class. Proper grammar, usage, and a professional format are expected. DO NOT READ your summary during the presentation. The heading of the report should include the APA citation of the article and your name in the following centered format:

Lincoln, A. (1863). The rest of the things I forgot to say.
Washington DC News of the Day, 21(14), 41–47.
YourNamesGoesHere

If your article is available electronically, include a persistent link here.

The report should consist of at least four paragraphs:

A summary of the article including the legal issue/decision



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

1. How the article relates to Business Law (this is important--your article must be related to the class)
2. The lesson we can learn from the article
3. Your comments and analysis of the article including your assessment of whether the decision/outcome was fair/appropriate

At the end, include three or four questions to get the discussion started.

Assistance with citing periodicals is available at:
<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/citing/apa.htm#per>

The Current Event is completed in two parts, the Report (15 points) and the Presentation (15 points).

- The Report is to be completed as outlined above and submitted online at least 24 hours before your presentation is scheduled.
- The Presentation is scheduled early in the session; if you miss your scheduled date, there may not be time to make it up. The presentation (including discussion) should last about 15 minutes).
- The exams in the class may include bonus questions from the current events. To be eligible for bonus points, you must complete both parts of your current event (i.e., bonus points for individuals not completing the report and presentation will be cancelled).

Exams: 500 points (100 points each)

Five exams are expected including the comprehensive final. It is very important that you realize the study of law is cumulative—once a concept is covered, that concept is important in understanding later concepts.

No exams will be given early, and make-up exams will be extremely rare. If a student misses an exam, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 24 hours. If exams are not made up within three days, or when the exams are scored (whichever is earlier) a make-up may not be allowed. You will not be allowed to make up more than one exam. Exams may include essay, short answer, and/or multiple-choice questions.

All tests in this class are closed-book, closed note. The use or possession of notes, sending or receiving physical or electronic communications of any sort, or any other attempt to gain prohibited advantage during an exam, test, or assessment will be treated as academic dishonesty (cheating).

Turn-Around Time:

Turn-around time for exams is one (1) week and two (2) weeks for other written materials.

Grading scale:

- A – 89.5% and above
- B – 79.5% to less than 89.5%
- C – 69.5% to less than 79.5%



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
MARYVILLE | KANSAS CITY

D – 59.5% to less than 69.5%

F – less than 59.5%

Make-Up Policy:

Students not present for a quiz or other assessment will be assigned a grade of "0" for that quiz. Makeups for exams or other material will be extremely rare.

Course outline/major topics studied: (Note: Course schedule is subject to change with instructor notification and students will be responsible for abiding by these changes.)

Exam 1: Week 1 – Day 4, Thursday:

- Part 1 Foundations of American Law
- Chapter 1: The Nature of Law
- Chapter 2: The Resolution of Private Disputes
- Chapter 3: Business and the Constitution

Exam 2: Week 2 – Day 4, Thursday

- Chapter 4: Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Corporate Governance, and Critical Thinking Part 2 Crimes and Torts
- Chapter 5: Criminal Law and Procedure
- Chapter 6: Intentional Torts
- Chapter 7: Negligence and Strict Liability

Exam 3: Week 3 – Day 4, Thursday

- Chapter 8: Intellectual Property and Unfair Competition
- Part 3 Contracts
- Chapter 9: Introduction to Contracts
- Chapter 10: The Agreement: Offer
- Chapter 11: The Agreement: Acceptance
- Chapter 12: Consideration

Exam 4: Week 4 – Day 4, Thursday

- Chapter 13: Reality of Consent
- Part 3 Contracts (continued)
- Chapter 14: Capacity to Contract
- Chapter 15: Illegality
- Chapter 16: Writing
- Chapter 17: Rights of Third Parties
- Chapter 18: Performance and Remedies Comprehensive

Final Exam: Week 5 – Day 4, Thursday

Review Week 5, Days 1-3

The Final Exam for this course is cumulative and covers Chapters 1-18



NORTHWEST
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Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes as specified in the course syllabi for each course. “It is the responsibility of the student to promptly notify his or her instructor when unable to attend class.” Please refer to the university policy on attendance at <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Attendance.pdf>

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy:

Cell phone and other electronic devices are disruptive to the class and active learning. Such devices are prohibited and should be turned off and earphones must be removed before class begins. You may use a computer to take notes, but surfing the web, updating and viewing social networking sites, working on other classes, and viewing and responding to email is strictly prohibited. If I see a cell phone during class, I will ask you to leave and consider you absent for the entire day. If I see a cell phone during exams or quizzes, I assume you are cheating and will respond accordingly (see below).

Final Exams: If an emergency occurs that results in the institutional cancellation of a final examination, the final course grades will be calculated based on the work in the course completed at that time and the faculty member’s considered judgment. Final exams will not be rescheduled, and a grade of “I” will not be given as a result of an institutional cancellation of a final examination. This final exam policy does not apply to online courses.

Administrative Drop: An instructor may request the Office of the Registrar delete a student from a course roster if the student has not met the prerequisite for the course as stated in the catalog, or as a result of non-attendance in the course.

Academic integrity policy: The students, faculty, and staff at Northwest endeavor to sustain an environment that values honesty in academic work, that acknowledges the authorized aid provided by and intellectual contributions of others, and that enables equitable student evaluation. Please refer to Northwest Missouri State University’s Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

Non-discrimination and anti-harassment policy: Northwest Missouri State University is committed to maintaining an environment for all faculty, staff, students, and third parties that is free of illegal discrimination and harassment. Please refer to the NonDiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/diversity/titlevi.htm>

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policy: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (commonly known as the Buckley Amendment), is a federal law which provides that colleges and universities will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. Please refer to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Policy at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/policies/academics/Family-Educational-Rights-and-Privacy-Act.pdf>