



BUSINESS LAW I - BLAW 280

Professor Kurt M. Saunders

OFFICE: JH 3256

EMAIL: kurt.saunders@csun.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday, 12:30 - 2:00 pm,
and by appointment.

Course Description

This course involves study of the role of law in business including the study of legal institutions and their role in facilitating and regulating business. The course includes a study of the legal system, civil litigation, torts, and the formation and performance of contracts. *Prerequisites:* Completion of lower-division writing requirements and sophomore standing.

Course Objectives

You will analyze how law applies to factual settings. You will read court decisions, prepare written briefs of the decisions, orally defend your interpretations of the cases, and answer hypothetical questions in open class discussion. You will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on changing circumstances in various cases and hypotheticals. You will learn to argue alternate sides of a dispute regardless of personal belief. You will learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

Life Long Learning Goals

Overall Goal: Students will develop cognitive, physical and affective skills which will allow them to become more integrated and well-rounded individuals within various physical, social, cultural, and technological environments and communities.

Life Long Learning GE SLO #1: Students will identify and actively engage in behaviors conducive to individual health, well-being, or development, and understand the value of maintaining these behaviors throughout their lifespan; BLAW 280 helps students learn the law relevant to engaging in business. This includes laws that help their own progress in life as well as those that help maintain a healthy and well-functioning society. In addition, students learn the process of legal analysis, so that they can develop their skills of critical thinking and problem solving. This is helpful to students to become fully developed students and adults.

Life Long Learning GE SLO #2: Students will identify and apply strategies leading to health, well-being, or development for community members of diverse populations; BLAW 280 teaches students to learn how to identify issues and apply law to situations. Doing this, students learn skills of issue identification and analysis, furthering the development of legal rights and duties in our diverse society

Required Texts

The texts for this course are Jane P. Mallor, et al., *Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment* (15th ed. 2012), and Saunders, *Business Law: Cases and Problems Supplement*. The Supplement will be distributed to you electronically. The textbook is available in hard copy at the campus bookstore. In addition, electronic versions of the assigned chapters only are available at a discount at: <https://create.mheducation.com/shop/>

Class Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend, be prepared for, and participate in class. Readings and problems will be assigned in advance of each class. Preparation for class entails reading the assigned materials, briefing all cases, and preparing written answers to problems. Case briefs must summarize the facts, issues, holdings, and rationale of each decision. In addition, class participation is mandatory. Class will be conducted through use of the Socratic and case methods, lecture, and discussion. You will be called upon at random during each class to discuss your briefs, answer questions, analyze problems, and a portion of your final grade will be based on your participation in class.

Method of Assessment

There will be three exams as well as a short analysis writing assignment before the first exam. Exams are composed of multiple-choice questions and one or more essay questions that require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues, and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases. Except in emergency or unforeseeable circumstances that can be documented, there are *no make-up examinations*. If you know *in advance* that you will be absent on the day of an exam and can present a valid excuse, you *may* be able to arrange with me to take the exam *in advance* of the rest of the class.

Plus and minus grading will be applied. Your final grade will be computed based on the total number of points you accumulate during the semester on the following:

Class Participation	10 points
IRAC Analysis Assignment	10 points
Midterm Examination	40 points
Final Examination	40 points

There are *no extra credit* assignments. You are also responsible for knowing and following the *Academic Dishonesty Policy*, available in the university catalog and online. Collaboration on examinations is prohibited. Instances of academic dishonesty will be immediately reported and will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Reading Assignments & Topical Outline

CLASS	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
1	Nature of Law	Chapter 1: 2-4, 6-7
	Resolution of Private Disputes	Chapter 2: 27-32; Supp: 7-9; <i>Butler*</i>
2	Resolution of Private Disputes	Chapter 2: 32-47; Supp: 6; <i>Hertz Corp.*</i> IRAC Analysis assigned
3	Intentional Torts	Chapter 6: 176-89, 206-09; Supp: 22; <i>Durham, Pope, Stephens, Wiseman*</i>
4	Negligence	Chapter 7: 216-43, 247-50; <i>Stahlecker, Kroger Co.</i> IRAC Analysis due
5	Negligence Defenses	Chapter 7: 242-43; Supp. 23-24; <i>Calhoon*</i>
	Strict Liability	Chapter 7: 247-50; Supp. 25-26; <i>Klein*</i>
6	MIDTERM EXAM	
	Introduction to Contracts	Chapter 9: 316-25; Supp: 42-43; <i>Pittsley*</i>
7	Offer	Chapter 10: 334-46; Supp: 44-48; <i>Leonard*, Family Video</i>
8	Acceptance	Chapter 11: 352-66; Supp. 49-50; <i>Union Carbide*, Okosa</i>
9	Consideration	Chapter 9: 328-29, Chapter 12: 371-82; <i>Gottlieb, Skebba</i>
10	Reality of Consent	Chapter 13: 388-99; Supp: 51-54; <i>Stambovsky*, Estate of Nelson*</i>
	Writing Requirement	Chapter 16: 434-52; <i>Schaadt</i>
11	Performance and Remedies	Chapter 18: 479-95; Supp: 55-56; <i>Bush*</i>
12	FINAL EXAM	

**Case in the Supplement.*