

BUSINESS LAW 280 - Syllabus – Spring 2015¹

Professor C. Docan

13008 TR - 8:00 - 9:15

18735 TR - 11:00 -12:15²

18738 Fri - 9:00 - 11:45³

Office: Juniper Hall 3248

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Email: carol.docan@csun.edu ~ In the subject line please state *BLAW 280, your name, and class time*

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30–10:30 AM, Tuesday 12:30–1:00 PM, and Friday 8:30–9:00 AM.

BLAW 280 pre-requisite: The completion of written composition (English 113B, 114B, 115, or equivalent), sophomore standing, and your *willingness to do your best*.

Course Objectives, Content, and Method of Instruction for Business Law 280

Business Law 280 (3 units) is designed to provide students with an understanding of the legal environment in which business decisions are made. The course covers the topics of the sources of law, the court system, and civil procedure, as well as the law of torts – the legal concept of “private wrongs,” which sets standards of conduct in our society, and contract law, which enforces private agreements.

Students will analyze how the law applies to factual settings. Students will read court decisions and legal problems, prepare written briefs, orally defend their interpretations, and answer hypothetical questions in open class discussion. Students will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on the changing circumstances in various cases and hypotheticals and learn to argue alternate positions in disputes regardless of personal view. Students will also learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law, and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

The class is taught through lecture and class discussion.

Learning Goals and Objectives for All Business Law Courses

Classes are taught using the Socratic method with its goal of participatory learning and the development of reasoning skills. This active learning process requires students to articulate, develop and defend positions, to think critically and to engage in problem-solving. Students learn to formulate an effective legal analysis by synthesizing information, identifying legal issues, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant facts, using facts and law to support argument, reasoning by analogy and reaching conclusions based on analysis. In addition, students in all courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.

BLAW 280 is a GE (General Education course) LIFE LONG LEARNING 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.

¹ This syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Announcements are made in class and posted at **Moodle**.
<http://moodle.csun.edu>

² **TR classes:** No class, March 31, 2015, Spring Recess April 6-11

³ **Friday class-** 15 class meetings: January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8, FINAL on May 15

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.

Textbook: Business Law and the Legal Environment, Standard Edition, 6th Edition, ©2013

Author: Jeffrey F. Beatty | Susan S. Samuelson ISBN-13: 9781111530600

- As an alternative to buying the textbook, students may rent the textbook or purchase selected online chapters at \$4.49 per chapter. <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781111530600>
Note: Chapter 1 and the table of contents are free when you purchase one or more chapters.
- A hardcopy of the text is in the Reserve Room in the Oviatt Library.

The course will cover the following chapters. A detailed **Homework Assignment List** is posted at Moodle.

Chapter 1, Introduction to Law

Chapter 3, Dispute Resolution

Chapter 6, Intentional Torts

Chapter 7, Negligence and Strict Liability

Chapter 10, Introduction to Contracts

Chapter 11, The Agreement: Offers and Acceptance

Chapter 12, Consideration

Chapter 14, Voidable Contracts: Capacity and Consent

Chapter 15, Written Contracts

Chapter 17, Performance and Discharge

Sign in at Moodle for class materials and announcements: <http://moodle.csun.edu>

You must have an active CSUN email account to access this system and you must monitor your CSUN email to receive important messages. To activate email, to reset your password, or to forward email see:

<https://www.csun.edu/account>

Homework, Class Participation and Preparation

Homework includes readings from the textbook and materials posted at Moodle and preparing written briefs of cases and problems following the IRAC format (explanation at Moodle). Normally we complete one or two assignments in each class meeting (for classes meeting once a week, we complete three assignments each meeting). If we do not finish an assignment it will be covered in the next class session along with the next assignment.

Bring to each class meeting: Written homework due, the textbook or a copy of the case or problem, the **Syllabus**, the **Homework Assignment List**, the **Course Flowchart**, and the **Chapter Outline** being covered.

Class Rules

- Students will be called on **at random** to read their briefs and answers to questions. Students will not be graded on the accuracy of the briefs or answers, but on the **effort** made. Homework is a learning tool.
- Once during the semester a student may give me a note at the start of class stating that the student is unprepared, which will act as an excuse.
- On occasion, homework for the day will be collected from all students.
- **To receive credit, students must correct their homework, in pen, while in class.**
- After homework has been covered in class students make any additional corrections, as needed. In the following class meeting students may turn in their corrected homework for **feedback**.
- Students who are called on in class who are absent, or have not completed the homework due, or have not corrected their work receive a **1% deduction in the course grade**.
- Students who turn in lecture notes as a substitute for their homework will receive a **10% deduction in the course grade** (i.e. grade will be reduced from C to D).
- Homework is not accepted late or by email, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.
- All electronic devices must be turned off, including laptops unless permission has been granted.
- No tape recording without prior consent.
- Each use of a cell phone, text messaging, or misuse any device will result in a **deduction of 1%** in the course.
- Food and drinks, except for water, are prohibited.
- Remove hats, caps, hoods, and sunglasses.
- Please wait until the lecture has concluded before packing up to leave.

Attendance: It is your responsibility to be prepared for every class. If you are absent, you are responsible for being prepared for the next class meeting. **Exchange contact information with another student in the class** to find out any missed information. You should contact that fellow student first and not the professor to learn of missed work, unless you have a particular question regarding the material.

***Planned absences** are excused for religious observances or for university related activities ONLY. A written note must be submitted by the 2nd week of the semester stating *the dates of absence*. If I receive the note on time there will not be a deduction of the course grade.

Tutoring is offered by the Business Honors Association. Check <http://www.csun.edu/bha> for details.

Examinations

Midterm 1 - 30% - Week 6

February 26, 2015 – Tuesday/Thursday classes

February 27, 2015 - Friday class

Midterm 2 - 30% - Week 11

April 2, 2015 - Tuesday/Thursday classes

April 3, 2015 - Friday class

Finals - 40%

13008 TR (8:00 - 9:15) 5/14/15, Thursday, 8:00 -10:00 AM

18735 TR (11:00 -12:15) 5/12/15, Tuesday, 10:15- 12:15

18738 Fri (9:00 - 11:45) 5/15/15 Friday, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

If you miss a midterm exam, you must email or leave a telephone message on the day of the exam. Include a telephone number where you can be reached on the day of the exam. If the reason for the absence is sufficient and can be documented, the value of the midterm will be added to the final exam. If the reason given is insufficient or cannot be documented, a grade of FAIL will be assigned to the midterm. Failure to take the final exam will result in the grade of FAIL in the course. Some exceptions may apply.

There are NO make-up exams, unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

Grade

The test scores determine the minimum grade in the course, keeping in mind any deductions as described above. At the professor's discretion, the grade may be raised based on **valuable class participation and improvement**.

Grade Scale: Plus (+) and minus (-) grading is used to determine the final grade in the course.

A=100-90%	Outstanding (e.g. 90% = A)
B= 89-80%	Very Good
C=79-70%	Average
D=69-60%	Barely Passing
F= 59%	Failure

Extra credit is NOT available.

Read How to Succeed in BLAW 280 at Moodle. These are comments made by students who earned an A or B in the course. Also seek feedback on corrected homework and visit me during office hours for additional help or with questions.

Academic honesty and behavior

There is a **presumption of cheating**, if during an exam, your answers are visible or accessible to other students. Written homework cannot be identical to that of another student. An incident of cheating will result in the grade of Fail (F) in the course for ALL parties. **Protect yourself.**

Students are responsible for knowing and complying with all College and University rules and regulations. Any incident of cheating or plagiarism will result in a Fail in the course and disciplinary action may be imposed, including expulsion from the university.

Instructions for Exams

- Write your **name on the exam** where indicated.
- Use non-erasable dark blue or black pen for essays. Answers in **pencil** RECEIVE NO CREDIT.
- Use a #882 scantron and #2 pencil.
- Exams are closed book. Notes are not permitted.
- Students may not leave the room during exams.

*Each failure to follow the instructions above will result a 1% deduction in the exam grade.

- **Cells phones** and all electronic devices are turned **OFF**. **Any use of a cell phone or an electronic device will be presumed to be cheating and the student will FAIL the course.**

Directions for Answering Essay Questions

You may write notes on the exam.

DO NOT BEGIN BY SUMMARIZING THE FACTS OR GIVE A CONCLUSION. Instead, answer in the following order:

1. State the **issue** (the question).
2. Define the **rules** that are relevant to the issue.
3. Apply each element of the rule(s) to the facts. The **application** is most important part of the answer. Do not assume that I know that you know something. Define every legal term you use. **Do not ignore facts, change the facts, or add facts.** If additional facts could affect the conclusion state with particularity what the facts are and how those facts could affect the outcome.
4. Make a **conclusion**. The actual conclusions you reach may be the least important part of your answer, however you must base your conclusions on your application of the rules involved.

Legal Advice, Department Information, & University Guidance

Business law faculty members may not provide legal advice or provide legal services to students.

For legal advice, information regarding the law, law school admission, internships and department awards visit the **Department of Business Law web page** at <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>

To improve your study strategies and writing skills visit **Learning Resource Center**, located in Bayramian Hall 408 or <http://www.csun.edu/lrc/>

For advice on personal issues visit the **Counseling Center** (818) 677-2366, Room 520 (5th floor) in Bayramian Hall <http://www.csun.edu/counseling/>