



## **BUSINESS LAW I - BLAW 280**

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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.

### **Department of Business Law Mission Statement**

Our mission is to equip students with the academic knowledge, problem solving, analytical and professional skills in the areas of business law, business ethics, and real estate necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals.

### **Course Objectives**

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 Business Law courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.

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 Arlen W. Langvardt , et al., *Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment* (17th ed. 2019), 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 analytical 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. In addition, there will be five (5) unannounced quizzes in class during the semester.

Except in emergency or unforeseeable circumstances that can be documented, there are *no make-up examinations* and *no make-up quizzes*. If you know *in advance* that you will be absent on the day of an *exam* and can present a valid excuse *with documentation*, 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:

IRAC Analysis Assignment	10 points
Examination I	30 points
Examination II	30 points
Examination III	30 points
Class Participation	10 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

WEEK	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
1	Nature of Law	Chapter 1: 4-10
1-3	Resolution of Private Disputes	Chapter 2: 36-37, 42-54; Supp: 5-8; <i>Butler*</i> , <i>Hertz Corp.*</i>
3-4	Intentional Torts	Chapter 6: 200-10, 233-36; Supp: 16-20; <i>Durham, Farrell, Stephens*</i> , <i>Wiseman*</i>
	<i>IRAC Analysis assigned (week 3)</i>	
4-5	Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapter 7: 246-75; Supp: 22-25; <i>Stahlecker, Dick's Sporting Goods*</i> , <i>Calhoon*</i> , <i>Klein*</i>
	<i>IRAC Analysis due (week 4)</i>	
<b>EXAMINATION I</b>		
6	Introduction to Contracts	Chapter 9: 343-54; Supp: 41-42; <i>Pittsley*</i>
7	Offer	Chapter 10: 364-80; Supp: 43-48; <i>Leonard*</i> , <i>Family Video*</i>
8	Acceptance	Chapter 11: 383-96; Supp. 49-51; <i>Union Carbide*</i> , <i>Okosa*</i>
9	Consideration	Chapter 9: 356-57, Chapter 12: 405-18; Supp. 52-55; <i>Gottlieb*</i> , <i>Skebba*</i>
10	<b>EXAMINATION II</b>	
11	Reality of Consent	Chapter 13: 425-42; Supp: 56-59; <i>Stambovsky*</i> , <i>Estate of Nelson*</i>
12-13	Writing	Chapter 16: 483-94, 498-501; Supp. 60-63; <i>Schaadt*</i> , <i>Hinkel*</i>
14-15	Performance and Remedies	Chapter 18: 534-53; Supp: 64-65; <i>Bush*</i> , <i>Houseman</i>
Final	<b>EXAMINATION III</b>	

*\*Case in the Supplement.*

*You do not need to read unassigned cases in the textbook.*