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| **REVISED 12/10/2019** |  | **Spring 2020 – Section 13580 Wednesday 12:30pm – 1:45pm Classroom: BB1234** |
| BLAW 280  Business Law I – Torts and Contracts |  | **Instructor:** Professor Carr  **E-Mail:** nanci.carr@csun.edu **Phone:** 818/677-3984 **Office:** BB 3251 **Office Hours:** Wed 10:30am-12:30pm, virtual as posted on Canvas, and by appointment |
| **Overview** Catalog course description: Prerequisites: Completion of lower division writing requirement; Sophomore standing. Study of the role of law in business, including the study of legal institutions and their role in facilitating and regulating business. Includes a study of the legal system, civil litigation, torts and the formation and performance of contracts. (Available for General Education, Lifelong Learning.) |  |  |

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| 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. **Class Preparation**  This course will meet once per week face-to-face. All other work will be done online in a [Canvas course](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967) and with the use of the textbook.  The assignments are listed below. Normally we complete one assignment during each face-to-face class. If we begin but do not finish an assignment, prepare the next full assignment for the next class. Assignments include reading from the text, online videos and exercises, online quizzes, and writing case briefs. If you have questions about the assigned material, please ask. You may not audio or video record the face-to-face class meeting, nor take any photos in the classroom.  It is your responsibility to be prepared for every class. If you were absent for one face-to-face class, it is still your responsibility to be prepared for the next class and to make up the work that you missed. You’ll have access to all of your classmates on Canvas, so please be sure to find out any missed information from an absence. Once during the term, you may give me a note at the start of a face-to-face class stating that you are unprepared for class discussion and no negative mark will be made. You must be present in class to give such a note. It is not available as an excuse for an absence or a brief that is to be turned in through Canvas.  Please note that on Canvas, [Course Summary](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/syllabus) contains only those assignments that need to be submitted. There are additional reading and briefing assignments, so please be sure to follow this syllabus.  **Reading Briefs in Class and Submitting Through Canvas**  *Briefs*: There are cases and problem cases which must be briefed in writing. A "case" is an appellate court decision which is contained in the text. A "problem case" (“PC”) is an end-of-chapter case, which, again, must be briefed. These PCs are also actual court cases, but do not include the court's decisions so it will be your job to analyze the law in the context of the facts of the case. **When a PC contains questions, simply ignore them, and instead brief it as a case.** All cases and PCs listed on the syllabus must be briefed and brought to class.  You will be called on at random throughout the semester to read your briefs in class. This is an opportunity for you to get assistance on your briefs because they are learning tools. If you are unprepared when called on, your grade will be negatively affected.  Some of these briefs, as noted on the assignment list, must be turned in, using [turnitin.com](http://turn-it-in.com), through Canvas, prior to the beginning of class, for credit. Hard copies and emails of the briefs will not be accepted for any reason, so don’t wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. These briefs are learning tools as well, so they don’t need to be perfect. I just want to see that you made a good faith effort to complete all elements of the assignment. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report the amount of your brief that is copied. It is expected that certain phrases will appear as copied because due to the nature of the case, everyone is using the same phrase. However, if your originality report is over 49%, you will not receive credit. **How to Brief a Case - IRAC** To brief cases and PCs, use the "IRAC" format, which is explained on [Canvas](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/pages/irac-introduction?module_item_id=2194202).  Most briefs that you prepare for class will be about one typewritten page. If you choose to handwrite them, they will be longer. Each brief must be brought to class on the day it is scheduled to be discussed, and you should take notes on them as we discuss them. The briefs may be handwritten if they are not scheduled to be turned in. **Mission Statement, Learning Goals and Objectives** 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.  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 BLAW courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.  LIFE LONG LEARNING OVERALL GOAL: Students will develop cognitive, physical and affective skills that 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.  **General Instructions on Taking Exams**  Answer each question fully, clearly, and in the order given. Mere conclusions receive no credit. You should:   * Use the IRAC format, just as we do in class. Discuss the issues involved, the applicable legal rules, and an application of the law to the facts to reach your conclusion. * Do not ignore any facts. * Write for “grandma.” Do not assume that the reader knows what you’re talking about, so be sure to define every legal term used. * You must base your conclusions on complete and intelligent applications of the facts to the legal principles involved. Thoughtful arguments and detailed analysis are more important that the conclusion that you reach.  **Exams are Closed Book** All exams are closed book. Make sure that all study materials are completely out of sight. Make sure that all books, notes, bookbags, and purses are placed in front of the class at the start of the exam. **Cell phones and smart watches must be turned off and stowed away**. There is a presumption of cheating if any study materials are within view during exams. There are no restroom breaks during exams as they, too, carry a presumption of cheating. Note: all cases of cheating result in a grade of "F" for the course and are referred to the Dean's office for further action.  **In-class exams will be typed in the computer lab.** |  | **Textbook** Business Law: The Ethical, Global and E-commerce Environment, 17th ed., Langvardt *et al.*, (2018). *(Yes, the 17th ed. is required. An older or newer text will not match the assignment list.)* The textbook is available in hardcopy at the campus bookstore and elsewhere. A custom electronic version, with just the chapters that we will use, is available at a significant discount online at:  [**https://create.mheducation.com/shop/**](https://create.mheducation.com/shop/)  **Enter ISBN:**  9781307303032  **The price is $52.12.**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.  **Professionalism**  You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. If you walk in late, please do so quietly and take the first available seat. Food is not permitted in the classroom, nor is sleeping during class or raising your voice to fellow students or the professor. You may be asked to leave class for disruptive behavior, either in class or online, and you may be required to speak with the Student Conduct Coordinator before returning to class.  **Plagiarism**  Plagiarism will not be tolerated on homework or exams. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and Turnitin will report on the amount of your homework briefs that are copied. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.  **Grading** Your grade will be based upon participation (attendance, discussions), turned-in briefs, quizzes, and two exams. Grade allocation is as follows:  **Participation**: 20 points  **Assignments/Quizzes:** 80 points  **First exam**: 45 points  **Second exam**: 55 points  **Total**: 200 points  Scale: A-/A – 90% and above  B-/B/B+ – 80% - 89%  C-/C/C+ – 70% - 79%  D-/D/D+ – 60% - 69%  Plus/minus grading is used. The grade reached after calculating the grades above will be the minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your course grade may be raised based on effort and/or improvement.  **\*\*Late work will not be accepted.\*\***  Attendance  Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class meeting. Please be on time as tardiness is disruptive to the entire class. Your grade is affected by whether you have been late, left class early, are prepared when called on, and whether you have turned in required briefs. If you are late, absent, or unprepared when called on, that will be noted, and will have a negative impact when calculating your final grade.  Exams  Exams are composed of one or more fact patterns which you will brief using IRAC. They require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases.  No recording class; No photos  You may not audio or video record the class, nor take any photos in the classroom.    **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Disability Resources and Educational Services**  If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office <http://www.csun.edu/dres> or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) <http://www.csun.edu/ncod>. The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at 818/677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at 818/677-2611. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment.  Legal Advice   1. **Faculty members may not provide legal advice or legal services to students.** If you need legal advice or information regarding the law, resources can be found on the Department of Business Law web page at <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>.   Questions **If you have any questions about the material contained in this syllabus, please contact Professor Carr.**  Your continued enrollment in the course evidences your agreement to the policies contained herein. |

**Course Topics and Assignments – Tentative**

**Please note that all online assignments are available on Canvas**

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topics** | **Reading** | **Work due** |
| One | 1/22 | Intro, IRAC, Civil Procedure | **Read:**  Syllabus | Read Syllabus |
| Two | 1/29 | Finish Civil Procedure; Remedies | **Read:**   * Ch. 1, pgs 3-9 (only the text, not the cases shaded in green) * Ch. 2, all of the text, but not the cases * Ch. 6, pgs 199-203 | [Syllabus assignment](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558977) and [Post Canvas profile photo](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558975) due online; Be prepared to discuss *Mathias* in Ch. 6 |
| Three | 2/5 | Torts: Battery, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress & false imprisonment | **Read:**   * [What is a "case?"](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/12439/pages/read-what-is-a-case?module_item_id=671986) posted on Canvas. * “[How to Brief a Case Using IRAC](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/46883/pages/irac-introduction?module_item_id=1266185),” posted on Canvas. * Begin Ch. 6, pgs. 199-210, 238 | [Civil procedure quiz](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/quizzes/163162) due online. Brief *Manning -* (posted on Canvas in [Supplemental cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175)), *Durham* and PC4 - [*Pope*](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558983) (*turn in*). |
| Four | 2/12 | Defamation, invasion of privacy, rights of publicity | **Read:**  Continue Ch. 6, pgs. 211 - 231 | Brief *Fleming* in [Supplemental cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175) and [*Jordan* (*turn in*)](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558982) |
| Five | 2/19 | Nuisance, trespass, & conversion | **Read:**  Finish Ch. 6 | Brief PC10 - *Pillen* and[*Bhattal*](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558978) in [Supplemental cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175) (turn in) |
| Six | 2/26 | Negligence | **Read:**  Begin Ch. 7 pgs. 245 - 272 | Brief [Currie](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558981) *(turn in)*, [*Black*](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/46883/assignments/245761)*, Stahlecker* |
| Seven | 3/4 | Defenses and Strict Liability | **Read:**  Finish Ch. 7 | Brief Davenport (posted in [Supplemental Cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175)), and *Toms* |
| Eight | 3/11 | First IRAC exam in computer lab during class |  | [Quiz on torts](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/quizzes/163164) due online; IRAC exam during class (BB2129) |
|  | 3/18 | Spring break – no class |  |  |
| Nine | 3/25 | Contracts: Offer | **Read:**   * Ch. 9, pgs 343-346 * Ch. 10 | Brief and turn in [*Crunden-Martin*](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558974) (posted in [Supplemental Cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175)); Brief PC8 (*Home Folks*), and PC10 (*Jeff and Jake*), both in Ch. 10 |
| Ten | 4/1 | Acceptance | **Read** Ch. 11 | Brief PC1 (*Citibank*) and PC4 (*Standard Bent*) |
| Eleven | 4/8 | Consideration | **Read** Ch. 12 | [Quiz on offer and acceptance](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/quizzes/163166) due online; Brief PC2 ([Gottlieb](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/assignments/558980))(turn in) and PC6 (*American Golf*) |
| Twelve | 4/15 | Promissory estoppel and quasi-contract | **Read**:   * Finish Ch. 12 * Ch. 9, pgs 354-360 | BriefPC1 from Ch. 12 (Skebba); brief *Calabro* (posted in [Supplemental Cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175)) |
| Thirteen | 4/22 | Reality of Consent and Capacity | **Read:**   * Ch. 13 * Ch. 14 (text only, no cases) | [Quiz on Consideration, Promissory Estoppel, and Quasi-Contract](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/quizzes/163163) due online; Brief Odorizzi and Green (in [Supplemental Cases](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/files/7654733?module_item_id=2194175)) |
| Fourteen | 4/29 | Legality, Statute of Frauds and review for exam | **Read:**   * Ch. 15 (text only, no cases) * Ch. 16 (pgs 483-496, text only, no cases) | Ch. 16, brief PC10 (*Rosenfeld*) |
| Fifteen | 5/6 | Catch-up/review |  | Bring study guides and questions |
| Sixteen | Finals week | Second IRAC Exam in computer lab during class | The exam will be on the date posted on SOLAR. | [Quiz on any contracts topic](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/70967/quizzes/163160) due online; [IRAC exam during class](https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/28151/quizzes/56479) (BB2129) |