

REVISED 8/18/2020

BLAW 280

Business Law I – Torts and Contracts



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.)

You will analyze how law applies to factual settings. You will read court decisions, prepare written briefs of the decisions, and defend your interpretations of the cases. 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 be online, with intermittent class meetings noted below. All other work will be done online in a [Canvas course](#) and with the use of the textbook. The assignments are listed below. 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.

Please note that on Canvas, [Course Summary](#) contains only those assignments that need to be submitted. There are additional reading and briefing assignments, so please be sure to follow this syllabus.



Technology Requirements

Since this is an online course, reliable internet is required. (Please see <https://www.csun.edu/it/internet-connectivity-users-who-do-not-have-it> for information on acquiring internet service.) You'll also need Microsoft Word (available at no charge from CSUN) for submitting written assignments. You will need access to a computer or tablet; please contact the bookstore for purchasing and borrowing options if needed.

Fall 2020 – Sections 13567/13718

Online – FOI

Intermittent class meetings will be on **Wed 2-3:15pm for 13567 and Fri 10:30-11:45am for 13718 as listed below** and as announced

Instructor: Professor Carr

E-Mail: nanci.carr@csun.edu

Phone: 818/677-3984

Student Help Hours: Wed 11:00am-2:00pm (on Zoom), and by appointment



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/>

Enter ISBN: 9781307303032

The price is \$52.12.



Professionalism

You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. For any video virtual class meeting, you must be dressed, and do not wear any type of Halloween mask that may startle classmates. If you are eating, please turn off your video. You may be asked to leave a video meeting for disruptive behavior, and you may be required to speak with the Student Conduct Coordinator before being invited to another video class meeting. Please maintain a professional tone in both online chat sessions and in emails to your professor and classmates.

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.

Some of these briefs, as noted on the assignment list, must be turned in as **Word documents**, using Canvas for credit. Hard copies and emails of the briefs will not be accepted for any reason, so please do not wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. These briefs are learning tools, 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](#). Most briefs that you write will be about one typewritten page.

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.

Students will articulate, develop and defend positions, think critically and 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

It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.

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 assignments, quizzes, and two exams. Grade allocation is as follows:

Assignments/Quizzes:	100 points
First exam:	45 points
Second exam:	<u>55 points</u>
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.****

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 virtual class meetings.



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 you do for your briefs. 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 than the conclusion that you reach.

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

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.

**This syllabus is subject to change as circumstances require.
I will notify you of any such changes.**

Course Topics and Assignments – Tentative
Please note that all online assignments are available on Canvas

Week (from Mon – Sun)	Date	Topics	Reading, videos, etc. Add'l materials may be posted in the modules	Work due (Unless otherwise noted, all work is due on Sundays at 5pm)
One	8/24-8/30	Introduction	Read: • Syllabus • Plagiarism materials Watch: • Plagiarism video • Truths/myths about online education	Attend Zoom meeting: Section 13567 on Wed, 8/26 from 2-3:15pm or Section 13718 on Fri, 8/28 from 10:30-11:45am • Syllabus and Canvas Scavenger Hunt • Introduce Yourself due 8/30 at 5pm
Two	8/31-9/6	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	Civil procedure quiz
Three	9/7-9/13	Torts: Battery and assault	Read: • What is a "case?" posted on Canvas. • "How to Brief a Case Using IRAC," posted on Canvas. • Ch. 6, pgs. 199-206	Brief <i>Manning</i> - (posted on Canvas in Supplemental cases)
Four	9/14-9/20	Torts: intentional infliction of emotional distress & false imprisonment	Read: • Ch. 6, pgs. 206-210	Brief <i>Durham</i> and PC4 - <i>Pope</i> (turn in).
Five	9/21-9/27	Defamation, invasion of privacy, rights of publicity	Read: Continue Ch. 6, pgs. 211 - 231	Brief <i>Fleming</i> in Supplemental cases and <i>Jordan</i> (turn in)
Six	9/28-10/4	Nuisance, trespass, & conversion	Read: Finish Ch. 6	Brief PC10 - <i>Pillen</i> and <i>Bhattal</i> in Supplemental cases (turn in)
Seven	10/5-10/11	Negligence	Read: Begin Ch. 7 pgs. 245 - 272	Brief <i>Currie</i> (turn in), <i>Black</i> , <i>Stahlecker</i>
Eight	10/12-10/18	Defenses and Strict Liability	Read: Finish Ch. 7	Brief <i>Davenport</i> (posted in Supplemental Cases), and <i>Toms</i>
Nine	10/19-10/25	First IRAC exam	During class time (Wed, 10/21, 2-3:15pm for Section 13567 and Fri, 10/23 10:30-11:45am for Section 13718)	Both sections: Quiz on torts due at 5pm on 10/25
Ten	10/26-11/1	Contracts: Offer	Read: • Ch. 9, pgs 343-346 • Ch. 10	Brief and turn in <i>Crunden-Martin</i> (posted in Supplemental Cases); Brief PC8 (<i>Home Folks</i>), and PC10 (<i>Jeff and Jake</i>), both in Ch. 10
Eleven	11/2-11/8	Acceptance	Read Ch. 11	Brief PC1 (<i>Citibank</i>)
Twelve	11/9-11/15	Consideration	Read Chs. 11 & 12	Quiz on offer and acceptance; Brief PC2 (<i>Gottlieb</i>) (turn in) and PC6 (<i>American Gölff</i>)
Thirteen	11/16-11/22	Promissory estoppel and quasi-contract	Read: • Finish Ch. 12 • Ch. 9, pgs 354-360	Brief PC1 from Ch. 12 (<i>Skebba</i>); brief <i>Calabro</i> (posted in Supplemental Cases)
Fourteen	11/23-11/29	Reality of Consent and Capacity	Read: • Ch. 13 • Ch. 14 (text only, no cases)	Quiz on Consideration, Promissory Estoppel, and Quasi-Contract; Brief <i>Odorizzi</i> and <i>Green</i> (in Supplemental Cases)
Fifteen	11/30-12/6	Legality, Statute of Frauds	Read: • Ch. 15 (text only, no cases) • Ch. 16 (pgs 483-496, text only, no cases)	Ch. 16, brief PC10 (<i>Rosenfeld</i>); Quiz on any contracts topic
Sixteen	Final exam week	Second exam as scheduled in SOLAR	Section 13567 3-5pm on Mon. 12/14 Section 13718 8-10am on Fri. 12/11	