

**BUSINESS LAW II (BLAW 308) - FALL 2021**  
**PROF. DAVID NEWMAN**

**Class:** Bookstein Hall 2206, Wednesdays @ 7-9:45 p.m.  
**Office:** Bookstein Hall 3250, Wednesdays @ 6:30-7 p.m. & 9:45-10:15 p.m. I am also available by appointment.  
**E-mail:** dnewman@csun.edu  
**Textbook:** BUSINESS LAW: THE ETHICAL, GLOBAL AND E-COMMERCE ENVIRONMENT, 18<sup>th</sup> edition, Prenkert *et al.* It is available in hard copy but I recommend buying the e-version of the assigned chapters, which is available at:  
<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/custom/product/9781307707359.html>

**OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVE OF COURSE**

The mission of the Department of Business Law 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.

This class is 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 will study ethical issues in a business context.

The primary goal of this course is to study the role of law in business including the study of legal institutions and their role in facilitating and regulating business. We will analyze how law applies to factual settings. We will read court decisions, prepare written briefs of the decisions, orally defend interpretations of the cases, answer hypothetical questions in open class discussion, and write papers in which we analyze legal disputes. We will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on changing circumstances in various cases and hypotheticals. We will learn to argue alternate sides of a dispute regardless of personal belief. We will learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law, and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

*Prerequisite: BLAW 280. Corequisites/Prerequisites for Business majors: BUS 302/L.*

If you need any assistance with Disability Resources and Educational Services, please review the options at <https://www.csun.edu/dres>

**CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Class will be conducted through a mixture of lecture and discussion but there will be a **heavy emphasis on student participation. A significant portion of your final grade will be based on your participation in class.** 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. In advance of each class, you will prepare short case briefs that must summarize the facts, issues, holdings, and rationale of each “case.” A “case” is a court case which is contained in the text. These are graded on a “pass/fail” basis.

You will be required to submit your homework by 6pm the day of class on Canvas. You will be called on throughout the semester to discuss your homework in class. If you are unprepared or absent, this will affect your grade as discussed below. It is your responsibility to be prepared for every class. In addition, you will be given at least two formal writing assignments that you will have to turn in online and that will be graded. You will post assignments that are listed as “WA” online at turnitin.com.

You may not record the class. If you bring cell phones or smartphones into the classroom, they must be turned off and put away. **USE OF CELL PHONES DURING CLASS IS PROHIBITED AND MAY COUNT AGAINST A FINAL GRADE.**

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

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. For example, written homework cannot be identical to that of another student. Making your exam answers visible or accessible to others is prohibited. The academic honesty policy is available here: <https://catalog.csun.edu/policies/academic-dishonesty/>

### **ASSIGNMENTS<sup>1</sup>**

The chart below indicates the reading assignments, exams, and homework that are scheduled for each week of the semester. In addition to the work listed below, it is likely that I may assign additional homework at the end of each class.

You can submit your homework directly to Canvas. Each week I will post a link for the homework that is due. I may also use Canvas to share additional materials or news stories that are relevant to the topics being discussed in class.

Date	Class topics	Work due
Sept. 1	Introduction	
Sept. 8	Agency	Chap. 35. Brief <i>CBS Corp.</i> and PC # 4 <sup>2</sup>
Sept. 15	Agency	Chap. 36. Brief <i>Treadwell</i> and PC ## 9 & 10
Sept. 22	Employment	Chap. 51. Brief <i>Bunch</i> and <i>Gaskell</i> . Also, reread the <i>CBS</i> case from Chapter 35
Sept. 29	Business Organizations / Partnerships	Chap. 37. Brief <i>Finch</i> and PC ## 2, 4
Oct. 6	<b>MIDTERM EXAM # 1</b>	<i>Exam covers chapters 35-37 and 51</i>
Oct. 13	Partnerships	Chap. 38. <u>WA<sup>3</sup>: to be provided in class</u>

<sup>1</sup> This syllabus is subject to change. I will make every effort to notify you about any changes.

<sup>2</sup> “PC” refers to a “Problem case” at the end of the chapter.

Oct. 20	Partnerships	Chap. 39. Brief <i>Paciaroni and Gelman</i> and PC # 6
Oct. 27	LPs, LLLPs, LLCs	Chap. 40. Brief <i>Hecht</i> and PC ## 8 & 11
Nov. 3	Corporations	Chaps. 41 & 42. Brief <i>Supply Chain</i> , Coyle, PC ## 4 & 7 (for Chapter 41)
Nov. 10	<b>MIDTERM EXAM # 2</b>	<i>Exam covers chapters 38-42</i>
Nov. 17	Corporations	Chap. 43. <u>WA: to be provided in class</u>
Nov. 24	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Dec. 1	Shareholders' Rights	Chap. 44. Writing assignment TBD.
Dec. 8	Securities	Chap. 45. Writing assignment TBD.
Dec. 15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<i>Final exam covers all materials</i>

### **EXAMS AND GRADING**

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. The final exam is cumulative. The exams will most likely consist of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and essays. The exams will be closed: no notes or books will be allowed. Except in the most extraordinary circumstances, there will be no make-up exams. The weekly homework assignments are not individually graded. They are pass/fail.

The grade allocation for the class is as follows:

Midterm exam (50 pts):	30% of course grade
Final exam (50 pts):	30% of course grade
Graded homework (30 pts):	20% of course grade
Class Participation (30 pts):	20% of course grade (this requires <u>active</u> participation in class, which means taking an active role in class discussions – both asking and answering questions – and being prepared to share your answers to homework. Simply attending class does not count as <u>participation</u> .)

NOTE: The overall class grade for all students is based on a “curve.” The curve is *generally* as follows: A’s ≈ 15%, B’s ≈ 25%, C’s ≈ 25%, D’s & F’s ≈ remainder. There is +/- grading for each letter grade.

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<sup>3</sup> “WA” refers to a graded writing assignment.