

**California State University, Northridge**  
**BLAW 280: Business Law 1**  
**Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Professor Wade M. Chumney, J.D., M.Sc.

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**Location:** Online

**Textbook:** Required: Langvardt, *Business Law: The Ethical, Global & E-Commerce Environment* (17th ed. 2019). To purchase the eBook for our class, go to the McGraw Hill bookstore website at <https://create.mheducation.com/shop/> and enter ISBN 9781307303032 (Business Law I). The cost is about \$52.12 for the eBook. You can also purchase the condensed copy from the bookstore for approximately \$56.34 using ISBN 9781307256604.

**Office Hours:** Thursday 9:00am – 12:00 Noon AND By Appointment

**BLAW 280 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, 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.

**Technology:**

- **Regular login to Canvas is required** <https://canvas.csun.edu/>
- This course meets online. Before you enroll, take CSUN's Student Online Readiness Survey to see whether your learning preferences and technology skills are likely to help you succeed as an online learner. If you are not sure how successful you will be in a Hybrid or Online course, then take the quiz. <https://www.csustan.edu/academics/online-programs/online-readiness-self-assessment>

**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 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.

In this class, students will develop cognitive skills that will allow them to become more integrated and well-rounded individuals within various physical, social, cultural or technological environments and communities. 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 will cover the topics of the court system and procedure. We will analyze how the legal system has been created, and how it is modified to address changing concerns. We will study the law of torts -the legal concept of "private wrongs" which set standards of conduct in our society. We will then cover the law of contracts: the law which enforces agreements.

**Grade Determination:**

Your final grade will fall into one of the following categories:

GRADE	DEFINITION	GRADE POINTS
A	Outstanding	4.0
B	Very Good	3.0
C	Average	2.0
D	Barely Passing	1.0
F	Failure	0

Your final grade will be calculated as described below:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percent of Final Grade</b>
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Weekly Papers	15%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%

This course has quizzes, weekly papers, a midterm and a final exam.

As a rule, I do not accept late assignments, so put all the due dates in your calendar at the beginning of the semester.

### **Online Modules and Quizzes:**

The online weekly modules will become available on Thursdays at 4:00pm. All work within them must be completed by the following Wednesday at midnight. Online modules and out-of-class reading provide the basis of theory in the course. Reading prior to class should provide you with the “what” of the course. Lectures will be used to emphasize major topics and explore concepts in greater detail. This will be used to provide you with the “how” and “why.”

Online quizzes are to be completed prior to Wednesday at midnight, preceding the class in which the topic will be discussed. You will only have one opportunity to complete each timed quiz.

The module responses are timed; therefore, you should be certain that you are prepared to answer the questions correctly. Failure to answer all questions in the online modules correctly within the allotted time will result in a reduced grade for the module.

### **Weekly Papers:**

You will be assigned weekly papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman Font) that will provide you with better insight into aspects of business law. These papers will generally be case briefs based on a topic found within the weekly Modules, which are available Thursdays after 4:00pm. The writing rubric for assessing your papers can be found in Canvas.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

Exams are composed of essay questions which require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases. Exams also include multiple-choice questions.

### **University Attendance Policy:**

You are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who are absent from the first 2 meetings of a class that meets more than once a week or from the first meeting of a class that meets once a week lose the right to remain on the class roll and must formally withdraw from the class, following University procedures and deadlines. Failure to formally withdraw from a class will result in the instructor assigning to the student a grade of “WU” (Unauthorized Withdrawal), which, in computing a student’s GPA, counts as a grade of “F.”

<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/attendance-class-attendance/>

This is an online course requiring you to login to Canvas regularly.

### **University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title V, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense, diminishes the quality of scholarship, and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs. Such dishonesty includes:

- Cheating
- Fabrication
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty
- Plagiarism

Please review the entire policy for a full description.

<http://www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/academic-dishonesty/>

### **Disability Resources and Educational Services:**

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (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.

<http://www.csun.edu/dres/index.php>

If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment. I cannot help if I do not know you need help.

### **Statements regarding sexual misconduct disclosures and maintaining a respectful learning environment:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining a safe and respectful space to express their reasoned opinions. Professional courtesy and consideration for our classroom community are especially important with respect to topics dealing with differences in race, color, gender and gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, disability, and age.

In this class, you will discuss and write about ethical dilemmas. Please keep the following in mind as you develop new topics throughout the course of the semester: consider all of your writing for this class as public. You are encouraged to write on topics that matter to you, and while this can elicit writing and reflection that may be deeply personal, you must always be prepared that you may be asked to share your work with others.

As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. In the event that you choose to write, speak or otherwise disclose about having experienced sexual misconduct/sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking and specify that this violence occurred while you or the perpetrator were a CSUN student, federal and state laws require that I, as a “responsible employee,” notify our campus Title IX coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options as a survivor and connect you with support resources, including possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Know that you will not be forced to share information and your level of involvement will be your choice.

CSUN’s Title IX Coordinator is: Susan Hua  
University Hall, Room 285 Phone: (818) 677-2077  
[susan.hua@csun.edu](mailto:susan.hua@csun.edu)

If you do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing the experience to me, you can speak confidentially with our Campus Care Advocate.\*

CSUN’s Campus Care Advocate is: Paria Zandi  
(818) 677-7492  
[paria.zandi@csun.edu](mailto:paria.zandi@csun.edu)  
Klotz Student Health Center Room 140G

For more information regarding your university rights and options as a survivor of sexual misconduct/sexual violence, please visit the University’s Title IX website at:

<http://www.csun.edu/shinalight>

\*Note: If it is determined that an alleged perpetrator poses an imminent threat to the broader campus community or if person(s) under 18 years of age are involved, our Campus Care Advocate is required to notify our Department of Police Services.

### **Briefing Cases**

To brief cases, case problems and questions, use the following "IRAC" format:

**Issue:** What question must be answered in order to reach a conclusion in the case? This should be a legal question which, when answered, gives a result in the particular case. Make it specific (e.g. "Has there been a false imprisonment if the plaintiff was asleep at the time of 'confinement?") rather than general (e.g. "Will the plaintiff be successful?") You may make it referable to the specific case being briefed (e.g. "Did Miller owe a duty of care to Osco, Inc.?" ) or which can apply to all cases which present a similar question, (e.g. "Is a duty owed whenever there is an employment relationship?") Most cases present one issue. If there is more than one issue, list all, and give rules for all issues raised.

**Rule:** The rule is the law which applies to the issue. It should be stated as a general principal, (e.g. A duty of care is owed whenever the defendant should anticipate that her conduct could create a risk of harm to the plaintiff.) not a conclusion to the particular case being briefed, (e.g. "The plaintiff was negligent.")

**Application:** The application is a discussion of how the rule applies to the facts of a particular case. While the issue and rule are normally only one sentence each, the application is normally paragraphs long. It should be written debate - not simply a statement of the conclusion. Whenever possible, present both sides of any issue. Do not begin with your conclusion. The application shows how you are able to reason on paper and is the most difficult (and, on exams, the most important) skill you will learn.

**Conclusion:** What was the result of the case? With cases, the text gives you a background of the facts along with the judge's reasoning and conclusion. When you brief cases, you are basically summarizing the judge's opinion. With case problems, the editors have given you a summary of the facts of an actual case, but have not given you the judge's opinion. Your job is to act as the judge in reasoning your way to a ruling, again using the IRAC format. While most of these case problems are followed by a question, ignore the question and instead brief the problem.

Most briefs are one page long. They must be brought to class on the day they are to be discussed. They will be collected at random. Once an assignment has been discussed, you no longer need to bring it to class. Briefs may be either handwritten or typed.

For sample case briefs, please see the appropriate link on the Business Law Department site at: <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>.

**Course Schedule:**

The following schedule will be observed as closely as possible. This syllabus is subject to change. I will make every effort to notify you in advance about any changes. Advance notice will be provided if modification of the schedule is necessary. As a rule, I do not accept late assignments, so put all the due dates in your calendar at the beginning of the semester.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Guiding Question</u>	<u>Work Due</u>
1	Introduction & Course Overview	What is this class about?	Watch Welcome Video (click white link) Read Syllabus Create Introduction Video Read the 5 documents found under “How to Brief a Case” found here: <a href="https://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources">https://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources</a> Submit Weekly Paper

2	IRAC and Briefing Cases	How does one understand the application of the law?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 1 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
3	The Nature of Law	What is the source of our legal system?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 2 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
4	The Resolution of Private Disputes	How are disagreements between members of society resolved?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 6 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
5	Intentional Torts	How does the law handle intentional wrongful acts?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 7 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
6	Negligence and Strict Liability	How does the law handle unintentional acts that cause harm?	Watch Video Lectures Submit Weekly Paper
7	Intentional Torts, Negligence and Strict Liability Review	How do I develop a deeper understanding of these concepts?	<b>Review and prepare for your Midterm.</b>
8	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	How do I enjoy my time off from school?	<b>Review and prepare for your Midterm (only after you've implemented your answer to the prior question)</b>

9	Midterm	How well have I learned the material covered so far in the class?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 9 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
10	Introduction to Contracts	What is the nature and purpose of contracts?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 10 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
11	The Agreement: Offer	What is an offer and how does an offer terminate?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 11 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
12	The Agreement: Acceptance	What is acceptance and how is it communicated?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 12 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
13	Consideration	What is consideration?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 13 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
14	Reality of Consent	What actions prevent consent in a contract?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 14 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz

15	Capacity to Contract	What are some examples where individuals lack the mental capacity to enter into a contract?	Watch Video Lectures Read Chapter 16 Submit Weekly Paper Take Quiz
16	Writing	What types of contracts need to be in writing to be valid?	Prepare for you Final Exam
17	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Thursday 5/20, 5:30pm</b>	