

The Legal Environment of Business (LGLS211)

Andrea Boggio

Syllabus

Course Description

A business manager's strategic decision making is affected by the laws and regulations which have been designed and promulgated to control the behavior of commercial activity. Students in the Legal Environment of Business will examine the laws which are relevant to the daily and long term planning of a business. An understanding of the legal system and judicial process will be developed throughout the semester. The substantive material will be presented in a manner which encourages critical legal analysis. The international implications and ethical considerations which arise will be studied accordingly.

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the following legal reasoning and analysis goals:

1. To define and describe key legal concepts, specific facts and critical issues in law and correctly apply this information to particular examples; and
2. To use conceptual legal models and theories to analyze legal events and case decisions; and
3. To apply law and legal theories to make convincing arguments supported by evidence and reasoning.

In particular, through their readings, discussions and class work, students will demonstrate an understanding of and ability to:

- a) utilize appropriate legal terminology in the analysis of both real and hypothetical legal business problems; (Goal 1)
- b) retrieve statutory and case law from valid legal resources; (Goal 1)
- c) respect legal writing conventions by incorporating same in their written analyses; (Goals 1, 3)
- d) apply customary legal reasoning methods by identifying legal issues and the relevant rules of law contained in case decisions an/or hypothetical business and legal problems; (Goal 2)
- e) appropriately use legal analogies in their written analyses of business and legal issues; (Goal 2)
- f) compare previous legal precedents and case rationales in analyzing current legal problems in business; (Goals 2, 3)
- g) identify the relevant and material evidence in a legal business hypothetical or fact pattern; (Goal 1)
- h) distinguish between statutory and case law; domestic and international law; and federal and state legal systems; (Goal 1)
- i) identify and explain the legal issues, case precedents and holding of a case decision from both a state and federal court system. (Goal 2)

Course Materials

1. David P. Twomey & Marianne M. Jennings, Business Law: Principles for Today's Commercial Environment, 3rd Edition (ISBN-10: 0-324-78669-7 | ISBN-13: 978-0-324-78669-9). The title is

available through the [text rental program at Bryant](#).

2. LGLS211 Documents (this PDF document can be found under "Course Documents")

Assigned chapters are listed on Blackboard under Assigned Readings.

Time Expectation

This is a three-hour course. The expectation is 9 hours of preparation outside class each week. The course is structured to require 9 hours of readings and homework per week.

Attendance Policies

Class preparedness and participation are essential to success in this course. While there is no penalty for failure to attend a particular class, participation credits are often given to students who are in class. Participation credits count towards "Class participation" (see "Grading Policies"). According to the Bryant University Student Handbook, students must contact the Academic Records Office in the event of situations requiring prolonged absences. In addition, please provide independent notice to me in advance of the absence. Laptop use is permitted only for note-taking purposes.

Tests and Final Exam

There will be 6 tests and a final. The 6 tests are short (15 questions: true/false and multiple choice), closed book/open notes, and non cumulative. The will be administered at the beginning of class and, after the test, class will resume ordinarily. The final is cumulative and closed book/open notes. The final is also closed book/open notes but cumulative. The test schedule appears in the "Semester schedule" tab. Test questions do not address issues that have not been covered in class. Beware that occasionally the lecture touches upon issues that are not in the book: these issues may be included in the tests. "Notes" should be read as notes taken by the student. Collaboration on taking notes is acceptable as well as copying in writing or typing parts of the book in the notes.

Photocopies of the book are not acceptable "notes." Typed notes should be printed out: on screen reading is not acceptable.

Makeup Exam Policy

Students with a legitimate excuse are allowed to take a makeup exam. If you anticipate missing a test, you must contact me prior to the scheduled test, either in person, by phone, or by e-mail. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade of zero for that exam

Grading Policies

The final grade will be based upon written work and class participation as follows:

1. Tests: 10% each (x6)
2. Final: 10%
3. Homework: 15% - Several online assignments will be given throughout the semester. Some will be graded on a pass/fail basis and others will be graded based on whether or not the answer is correct. Late homework is not accepted (I make exceptions only for the first couple of assignments). Students who do not turn in online the assignment by the due date receive no credit.

4. Class participation: 15%. These are the participation credits that are given to students who are in class when I take attendance. Students who are not in class on the day I take attendance receive no credit. In the event of a justified absence (such as to attend a Bryant-sponsored event), the student must request that I assign make-up homework to catch up with the absence within one week after the absence.

Grades are scaled whenever appropriate.

NOTE ON FINAL TEST: On the last week of classes, I will ask the class if there is consensus to modify the syllabus by (1) eliminating the final test and (2) changing the grading policy so that test and class participation scores cumulated by then will be used as the only basis to determine the final grade using this formula:

Tests 1, 2, and 3 => 10% each

Tests 4, 5, and 6 => 15%each

Homework => 12.5%

Attendance => 12.5%

TOTAL = 100%

I will only implement this change is ALL students consent to it.

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

93-100%: A

90-92%: A-

87-89%: B+

83-86%: B

80-82%: B-

77-79%: C+

73-76%: C

70-72%: C-

67-69%: D+

60-66%: D

59% or below: F

Assigned readings

Week	Topic	Chapter
1	Introduction to Law	1
2-5	Contracts: Formation, Third Parties to Contracts, Performance, Breach and Discharge	12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20
6	UCC: Sales	23, 24, 25, 26, 27
7	UCC: Negotiable instruments	28, 29, 30

8	Secured Transactions	34
9	Agency	37, 38
10	Bankruptcy	35
11	Government Regulation of Business: Antitrust	5
12-13	Business Structure: Comparison of business entities. Formation, operation, and termination of partnerships and LLPs	41, 42, 43
14	Government Regulation of Business: Federal Securities Regulation, Employment	46, 39