

*** Please read Unit One before the first class ***

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Fall 2005F
Classroom D114
Classes: Monday, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
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Office Hours in D227,
Mon. 5:45 - 6:00 pm
Phone: 414-0830 (c)

**Introduction to Business Law
BUS 211-70**

I. Course Description: Nature and growth of the legal framework of business including such topics as: contracts, sales (including the Uniform Commercial Code), agency and employment, property, commercial paper, torts and liabilities. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. 3 hours

II. Textbook: Cross, Frank B., and Roger L. Miller, *West's Legal Environment of Business*, 5th Edition (2004).

III. Mission Statement

The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. Goals, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Goals

Students will develop an understanding of the legal framework which applies to the business community.

Students will gain an appreciation of the way the law impacts business decisions.

B. Common Student Learning Objectives – The following CSLOs, adopted December 9, 2004, apply to this course:

Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) – CK-1 – Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter

Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) – CS-1 –

Communicate effectively in oral and written forms

Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) – PS-1 – Use inquiry and collaboration to solve problems

Social Responsibility (Service and Leadership) – SR-2 – Make ethical and informed decisions

Global Perspectives (Diversity) – GP-1 – Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities, and cultures

Self-Direction and Personal Growth (Lifelong Learning) – SP-1 – Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity

C. Course-Based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLO)

1. To demonstrate an ability to perform legal analysis as it relates to statutory, administrative, and case law, and to demonstrate how these legal principles apply in the business context. (CS-1, PS-1)

2. To understand the court system as well as alternate forums for dispute resolution. (CK-1)

3. To analyze various business structures and basic employment law. (CK-1, GP-1)

4. To apply legal principles to factual scenarios in a decision-making context. (PS-1, SR-2, GP-1, SP-1)

V. Teaching Methods:

Lecture/Class Discussion (both in small groups and as a whole)

VI. Course Requirements

Attendance:

Attendance is required. Classroom discussion is an important element of the course, and therefore, more than one absence may result in the final grade being lowered.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignment and to participate in in-class activities.

Reading Assignments: Students should read assignment before the indicated class and be prepared to discuss the material covered.

Class One 10/17 – Unit 1

Class Two 10/24 – Unit 2 – First written project due

Class Three 10/31 – New bankruptcy laws & Review for Midterm –
No reading from text

Class Four 11/7 – Midterm Exam & Chapters 9, 10 & 11 of Unit 3

Class Five 11/14 – Chapters 12, 13 & 14

Class Six 11/21 – Unit 4

Class Seven 11/28 – Unit 5, Papers due & Review for Final Exam

Class Eight 12/5 – Final Exam

Written Assignments:

Students will be required to submit two written projects. The first, a brief report (2-3 pages), based on personal experience, will be due the second class period. It is worth 25 points. (CBSLO 1). The second, a substantial written project (8-10 pages), will be combined with an oral presentation on the chosen topic relating to business law. The second paper and presentation together will be worth 75 points. (CBSLO 1 & 4) Keep in mind that plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. The SCI Student Handbook defines plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards. Plagiarism is defined as, “The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas of language of the same and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind.” Black’s Law Dictionary 1035 (5th Ed. 1979).

VII. Means of Evaluation

In addition to the two written assignments, there will be a mid-term and a final exam worth 100 points each consisting of true/false, multiple choice, and essay format questions. (CBLSO 1, 2,3, & 4) Class participation will be worth 100 points, for a total of 400 points available for the course.

Grading scale:

A = 370 - 400 points

B = 330 - 369 points

C = 280 - 329 points

D = 250 - 279 points

E = Below 250

VIII. Course Outline

*Oral presentations will be incorporated in Classes Three through Eight as applicable

- I. Class One – The Foundations of Business Law – Unit 1
 - A. The legal environment of business – an overview
 - B. Introduction to legal research and analysis
 - C. The court system – state and federal
 - D. Alternative forums for resolving disputes
 - E. Business Ethics

- II. Class Two – The Public Environment – Unit 2
 - A. U.S. Constitutional Law
 - B. Administrative Law
 - 1. Agencies
 - 2. The administrative process
 - C. Criminal Law
 - 1. Elements and defenses
 - 2. Criminal procedure
 - D. International and Comparative Law

- III. Class Three – Bankruptcy
 - A. The new bankruptcy code of 2005
 - B. Legislative history
 - C. Practical changes for debtors
 - D. Creditor’s rights

- IV. Class Four – Contracts and Sales – Chapters 9, 10 & 11 of Unit 3
 - A. Contract formation – basic elements
 - B. Contract performance
 - C. Breach of contract and remedies
 - D. Sales

- V. Class Five – Commercial Environment – Chapters 12, 13 & 14 of Unit 3
 - A. Torts
 - 1. Intentional torts
 - 2. Negligence
 - 3. Strict liability
 - B. Product liability
 - C. Intellectual property
 - D. Internet and E-commerce law

- VI. Class Six – Business Structure – Unit 4

- A. Sole proprietorships
- B. Partnerships
- C. Limited liability companies
- D. Limited partnerships
- E. Corporations

VII. Class Seven – Labor and Employment Law – Unit 5

- A. Agency
 - 1. Formation of an agency relationship
 - 2. Duties of principal and agent
 - 3. Scope of authority and liability
 - 4. Terminating an agency
 - 5. Independent contractors
- B. Statutory employee protections
- C. Employment discrimination
- D. Labor Law

VIII. Class Eight – Final Exam and Finish Oral Presentations

IX. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.

X. Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques

The goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes listed above will be assessed through the written assignments, presentations, and exams. The instructor will also utilize prior knowledge inventories, directed paraphrasing, RSQ2C exercises, misconception/preconception checks, and other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary to provide continuous improvement in instruction. All students are required to participate in all assessment measures. Feedback on lectures and assignments is encouraged and will be respected.