

# BUS 140: Legal Environment of Business

Welcome to MiraCosta's BUS 140-03 (2914), Legal Environment of Business. I trust that you will find this course to be interesting, enjoyable and very practical. You will learn some valuable lessons and concepts which will apply throughout your personal and professional life. My name is Professor Jack A. Green and this is my sixth year teaching this course at MiraCosta. I recently came to this area from Boston, Massachusetts where I had three decades of experience as a global lawyer, corporate senior executive and professor. I taught Business Law at several universities in the Boston area. For eleven consecutive years this course was selected by seniors as the most practical course they took while at Tufts University. I am also currently teaching International Sports Law and the Law of Amateur Sports at Thomas Jefferson Law School in San Diego and Economics on-line for Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. I will do my best to make this course an extremely worthwhile educational experience for you.

## Course Description

This course introduces business related law, ethics, social responsibility and government regulations. Topics include dispute resolution, legal system and laws, torts, crimes, contracts, sales, warranties, negotiable instruments, secured transactions, bankruptcy, agency, employment, business entities, real and personal property, cyberlaw and intellectual property.

## Course Details

**Semester:** Fall, 2016.

**Units:** 3; Prerequisites: None; Acceptable for Credit: CSU, UC.

**Section:** 2914; Classroom Format.

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM in Room OC4801 beginning 8/23/16 and ending 12/13/16.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) & Course Objectives

### Course Objectives:

For the student to acquire an understanding of the basic principles of the American legal system. This includes the structure of the system, civil dispute resolution, criminal law and procedure, the Constitution and business regulation, tort law, property law, the Uniform Commercial Code, contract law, product liability law, intellectual property, debtor creditor relations, secured transactions, employment law, antitrust law, environmental law, international law, agency law, proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, bankruptcy and ethical considerations. Applicable learning objectives include leadership qualities, decision making skills, analytical thinking, innovative problem solving techniques, communication skills and business acumen.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. From a set of facts, prepare a legally enforceable contract for a party you represent.
2. Given a business scenario, determine the relevant legal and ethical issues, present the options, and make recommendations on how you would address them.
3. Prepare and deliver a written paper, oral presentation, or poster presentation on a law topic of interest utilizing legal and business research techniques and appropriate presentation principles established in class.

## Instructor Information

**Jack A. Green**

[jgreen@miracosta.edu](mailto:jgreen@miracosta.edu)

<http://www.miracosta.edu/home/jgreen>

E-mail will be the preferred method of communication. I will always endeavor to respond to your e-mail or voicemail communications within twenty-four hours and generally much sooner. Cell 978-273-0845

### Instructor Background Information:

- BBA (Business Administration) and JD (Law) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Senior Vice President Administration, General Counsel and Secretary of Converse Inc. for thirty years (retired). Converse is the worldwide athletic footwear and apparel manufacturer and marketer.
- Professor of Management, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA.
- Professor of Business Law, Tufts University, Boston, MA.
- Chairman of the Board of Directors, Arrow Mutual Liability Insurance Co., Boston, MA.

- Member of the Board of Directors and Board of Commissioners of IACBE (International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education). IACBE is an international accreditation agency for college and university business programs.
- Guest Lecturer at numerous schools including Harvard Business School, Harvard Law School, Princeton University, University of Notre Dame Law School, Suffolk University Law School, California State University San Marcos and California Western Law School.
- Professor of Sports Law, Thomas Jefferson Law School, San Diego, CA.

### **Teaching Philosophy:**

My objective and responsibility as a business program college professor is to provide a framework and a classroom environment in which students can advance their education and experience level as a business professional. As an educator in the disciplines of Business Law and Management, my intent is for the students to acquire a solid understanding of the applicable technical concepts in addition to critical professional competency requirements such as decision making skills, analytical thinking, innovative problem solving techniques, communication skills, business acumen and leadership qualities.

As a long time corporate attorney and Fortune 500 senior executive, I have the requisite experience to assess the skill set necessary to succeed in business, whether it be as a small business owner or as the CEO of a multi-national corporation. Through the use of lectures which emphasize the relationship between the technical business and legal concepts and their real world application, class discussions, high level guest speakers and creative individual and group projects, students are given the opportunity to gain a clear understanding of what it means to be a true business professional.

Since excellent oral and written communications skills are often the difference maker with respect to how fast a young manager can progress within an organization, I provide a large number of opportunities for students to enhance their speaking and writing skills during the semester. Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally by attending class regularly and by being prepared for complex discussions on the subject matter. The standard that I set for myself with each new class is for the students to be able to make an honest positive assessment at the end of the course of a personal business maturity level well beyond their initial expectations, in addition to aspirations of achievement not previously considered.

## **Course Materials**

### **Required Text:**

*Essentials of Business Law* by Beatty and Samuelson, 5th edition (2015), published by Cengage Learning. I recommend the MCC special combo bundle, ISBN 9781305303348. It is reasonably priced at the MiraCosta bookstore and includes a 3 hole punch, shrink wrapped complete edition of the text along with CourseMate. CourseMate is not required but offers excellent study aids and complete access to the ebook of the text. The regular student copy ISBN of the text is 9781285427003. Make sure you have the current 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Older editions are not supported.

## **Course Content**

Most weeks we will cover two chapters in the text. You will be responsible for reading the chapters in advance and coming to class prepared to discuss the material in detail. There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam. They will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. There will also be homework assignments and quizzes. High level guest speakers are anticipated.

## **Course Grading**

### **Grading Criteria:**

Midterm and Final Exam: 25% each; total of 50%  
 Class Participation/Attendance, Homework and Quizzes: 50%

### **Letter Grading:**

A (Excellent): 90% +  
 B (Good): 80-89%  
 C (Average): 70-79%  
 D (Below Average): 60-69%  
 E (Failure): Below 60%

The grading curve is subject to minor adjustment (lowering) by the Instructor in his sole discretion at the end of the semester.

## Course Rules & Expectations

1. Please check your MiraCosta e-mail and the Blackboard class site regularly for class related messages.
2. Consistent class participation is a critical element of the learning experience in this course. Regular attendance at each class session is expected. Don't bring food into the classroom. Turn off all cell phones and beepers.
3. Regular attendance for the full class period is important. Please inform the Instructor if you will unavoidably miss a class session. Also, be sure not to miss any classes during the first two weeks, and not miss more than two total classes for the semester. Do not interrupt class by entering the classroom if you are more than 10 minutes late. Violations subject you to being dropped at the Instructor's sole discretion
4. Class Withdrawal Rules: Students are responsible for completing all necessary paperwork if they decide to withdraw from class. The Instructor must take strong steps to be sure that all students are attending and active. Therefore, the Instructor retains complete discretion to process a Withdrawal (Drop) for students without additional notice for any of the following reasons (unless discussed with the Instructor and approved in advance):
  - a. Failure to complete any assignment during the first two weeks of the semester.
  - b. Missing any class during the first two weeks or missing 2 total classes during the semester.
  - c. Failure to complete 2 total Assignments of any type.
  - d. Failure to complete any exam.
5. Please submit papers and assignments on time. Work submitted past the deadline will be accepted and/or penalized at the instructor's discretion. All work submitted must meet the standards for college English competency. Plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment or an F for the course, at the discretion of the Instructor.
6. Students are expected to comply with the highest levels of academic and professional integrity, honesty and ethics. Failure to do so may result in removal from the course, failure in the course, and such other disciplinary action as is deemed appropriate by the Instructor in his sole discretion and/or the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District, as is described in the College Catalog. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with professional business standards, including timely submission of all work, taking an active part in class discussions and regularly arriving on time for class.

## College Policies & Services

### Important Dates:

- 1/26/16 First Class.  
9/2/16 Last Day to Add classes.  
9/2/16 Last day to Drop classes with no grade and no "W".  
9/23/16 Last day to file for Pass/No Pass grading option.  
11/18/16 Last day to drop class with a "W" grade (withdraw). Drops after that receive a letter grade (perhaps an F).  
12/13/16 Last Class (Final Exam).

### Incomplete Grade:

Students seeking an "Incomplete" Grade must consult with the Instructor in person no later than one week prior to the Final Exam. Incompletes will only be considered for emergency or other unforeseeable and justifiable reasons at the end of the term, and only upon agreement between the Instructor and the student of clear conditions and timelines for completing all outstanding coursework. Incompletes are rarely granted and only if the emergency or other unforeseeable and justifiable reason occurs after the date for dropping the class. Work, vacation, family concerns, class schedules, time management problems, and other normal issues that all students deal with do not qualify for an Incomplete grade.

### Library Resources:

The MiraCosta College faculty librarians assist students with their research questions, whether academic or personal. Students may obtain assistance from librarians either one-on-one at the reference desk, through class orientations, group workshops, individual appointments or online. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of library resources. More information regarding the library may be found at their webpage (<http://www.miracosta.edu/library>)

### Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs & Services (<http://www.miracosta.edu/StudentServices/DSPS/index.htm>) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations

are implemented in a timely manner. Their phone number is (760) 795-6658 and they are located on the Oceanside campus in Building 3000-Student Services, Room 3009, adjacent to Parking Lot 3C.

### Pass/No Pass Grading Option:

You have the option to choose Pass/No Pass grading for this class. If you choose this option, you must submit a Petition for Pass/No Pass to Admissions & Records before 30% of the class has elapsed. The deadline this semester is 2/25/11. This option for grading is not reversible once selected. The petition form is available online or from Admissions & Records. Students planning to transfer should consult with a counselor before opting for Pass/No Pass to ensure that this option is accepted by their intended transfer institution. Check the MiraCosta College Catalog or schedule for more detailed information.

### College Support Services:

The Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC) (<http://www.miracosta.edu/StudentServices/Tutoring/index.htm>) and the Writing Center (WC) (<http://www.miracosta.edu/StudentServices/WritingCenter/index.htm>) assist students by providing individual and group tutoring, WC drop-ins, learning communities, self-help materials, and student success workshops. Services are free and available to all students during day and evening hours at all MiraCosta College campuses. Take advantage of these academic support services. For more information, please call (760) 795-6682 for TASC and (760) 795-6339 for WC.

### PLAGIARISM AND ETHICS POLICY:

Each student agrees to the following statements of student behavior:

- I agree that I, and only I, will be the one completing and submitting class materials (homework, quizzes, exams, written projects, etc.) in my name.
- I agree that I will not directly copy or plagiarize material from books, publications, the Internet, other students' work, or any other source. I am familiar with, and I agree not to violate, copyright laws. If small amounts of material from other sources are used as part of any class assignment, I agree to clearly indicate such and properly cite the source.
- I agree that any projects submitted for this class have been prepared for this class only and have not been, and never will be, submitted for any other class at MiraCosta or any other school.
- I agree that, unless approved by the instructor, I will not share answers to homework assignments, quizzes, exams, or any other course material with fellow classmates.
- I acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the above statements may result in failure of an assignment, removal from the course, failure in the course, and disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Instructor in his sole discretion and/or policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Trustees of the MiraCosta Community College District, fully described in the College Catalog.

## Weekly Schedule

Week	Class Dates	Chapters
1	8/23 & 8/25	1. Introduction to Law 2. Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
2	8/30 & 9/1	3. Dispute Resolution 4. Common Law, Statutory Law and Administrative Law
3	9/6 & 9/8	5. Constitutional Law 6. Torts and Product Liability
4	9/13 & 9/15	7. Crime 8. International Law
5	9/20 & 9/22	30. Government Regulation: Securities and Antitrust 33. Intellectual Property
6	9/27 & 9/29	9. Introduction to Contracts 10. Agreement

7	10/4 & 10/6	11. Consideration 12. Legality
8	10/11 & 10/13	Midterm Exam and 13. Capacity and Consent
9	10/18 & 10/20	14. Written Contracts 15. Third Parties
10	10/25 & 10/27	17. Remedies 20. Ownership, Risk and Warranties
11	11/1 & 11/3	21. Performance and Remedies 22. Negotiable Instruments
12	11/8 & 11/10	23. Secured Transactions 25. Agency Law
13	11/15 & 11/17	26. Employment and Labor Law 27. Employment Discrimination
14	11/22	29. Corporations
15	11/29 & 12/1	29. Corporations (continued) 24. Bankruptcy
16	12/6 & 12/8	34. Real and Personal Property Review
17.	12/13	Final Exam (date to be confirmed)

NOTE: There is no class on 11/24 for Thanksgiving Break



