

Mira Costa College
Professor Lisa A. Burns
lisaburns@miracosta.edu
760.757.2121 x1403

Office Hours:
By appointment

Syllabus

Course: Business 140
Legal Environment of Business

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the American Legal System and to the legal environment of conducting business today. The course will survey the various sources of law, along with the ethical and social influences impacting the conduct of business.

Scope of this course includes business legal systems, sources of law, social and ethical influences, judicial and administrative systems, contracts, torts, bankruptcy, agency, business organizations, securities regulation, regulation of property and protection of intellectual property interests.

Course Objectives:

To provide the student with an introduction to the basic areas of law which have an impact on the conduct of business.

Students will be able to:

- a. identify the economic and legal environment as it pertains to profit and non profit organizations with consideration of social and political influences as they affect such organizations;
- b. analyze a set of facts to consider legal issues as they pertain to those facts, to use given set of laws in relation to those facts, to apply these rules of law and to come to a proper legal conclusion;
- c. demonstrate a working knowledge and appreciation for the history and general applications of contract law principles;
- d. demonstrate a working knowledge of the court system and the legal process and the scope of judicial review;
- e. develop the ability to reason from a legal perspective;
- f. discuss actual cases involving substantive law applied to fact situations;
and
- g. identify ethical considerations and standards of professional conduct.

Course text: Essentials of Business Law, 5th Edition. Beatty and Samuelson. 2015. Cengage Learning.

Evaluation: Students will be graded on the following basis:

- a. **Exams:** Three tests will be administered during the semester. Two midterms and a final examination. Each test will be worth 100 points each and will consist primarily of objective questions and some essay.
- b. Chapter homework as assigned in “Assignments” on Blackboard.
- c. **Case briefs:** Students will be expected to brief at least two cases related to the topics and substance covered during class. Each brief will be worth 50 points and will be assigned throughout the semester.
- d. Choose one of the listed **projects** on Blackboard: This assignment will be worth 100 points.
- e. **Movie Assignment:** This assignment will be worth 100 points. Students will view a movie feature from a list and complete a report/essay assignment.
- f. **Class Participation:** Students are encouraged to participate in discussion debate and review sessions throughout the semester.

Details regarding the Assignments/Handouts/Reviews and Extra Credit Options are available on Blackboard.

ALL assignments/projects must be completed. If you are unable to turn in a project on the due date, please email me the assignment, or fax (760) 487-1126 me, so that it is received **on or before the due date**. If you are unable to be present for an exam, you must advise me prior to the scheduled exam. If you miss an exam, you may make up the exam but will lose one letter grade on that exam (i.e. 10 points.) Late assignments will also be penalized by one letter grade (i.e. 10 points.)

Final grades are computed as follows:

Tests are worth 75% of the final grade. Assignments are worth 25% of the final grade.

The combined percentage results in the following grades:

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

Below 60% = F

Dishonesty, plagiarism and cheating are not tolerable. Simply put.... you cheat, you get an F.

Attendance: Bottom line.... be here!

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings unless excused by the instructor. Excessive absences will have an adverse impact on the student’s final grade. The student is responsible for officially dropping or withdrawing from the course. Please do not just stop showing up to class.