

# BUS140: Legal Environment of Business

*For easy reference, Be sure to print a hard copy of this Syllabus.*

Welcome to MiraCosta's offering of BUS140, **Legal Environment of Business**. I hope you find the class interesting and enjoyable, and that you learn some valuable lessons and concepts you can apply to current and future personal and business situations. Knowledge of the law is helpful in many areas of your life.

## Course Description

Business law and government regulation topics include: court system, torts, crimes, contracts, sales, consumer protection, commercial paper, agency, employment, business entities, secured transactions, bankruptcy, insurance, real and personal property, intellectual property, landlord-tenant, wills, trusts, securities, antitrust and cyberlaw.

## Course Details

**Semester:** Spring 2015 **Jan 21 to May 20, 2015**

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 20th @ 2-3:50p**

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

**Section:** 3078; **Format:** On Campus Class **Campus:** Oceanside **Room:** 4802 **Time:** 2 – 3:20pm **Day:** MW

**Class Website:** [blackboard.miracosta.edu](http://blackboard.miracosta.edu) **Sample Quizzes:** Under the product name of **Course Mate**, Cengage, the publisher of our textbook, provides online, interactive quizzes, flashcards and crossword puzzles. How to access this material is provided with your textbook. Also, see below, under the Title, **Course Materials**.

## Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) & Course Objectives

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

Professor Drasco's (PD) goals go beyond the usual classroom style of learning. The lectures and the activities are designed to appeal to a variety of learning styles to keep everyone active and interested. As you proceed through the course, you will:

- Learn the subject matter and remember the key points
- Bring the law out into the open and demystify it
- Develop a good overview of how law and legal issues relate to business
- Be able to apply the concepts to your own business and personal situations
- Critically evaluate ethical, social, and business consequences of legal decisions
- Communicate through the discussion forums with other students on legal, ethical, technical, and other issues
- Increase your knowledge and improve your technical computer and Internet skills
- Improve your email and written communication skills
- Discover and explore some interesting websites that will be useful to you and your business endeavors

### SUBJECT MATTER OBJECTIVES:

The specific subject matter objectives for the course are for you to:

- Develop an understanding of the structure and process of the U.S. legal system, including organization, statutory law, case law, criminal law, tort law, dispute resolution, and litigation
- Explore business ethics and social responsibility and how these relate to decision-making by business managers
- Examine and compare legal doctrines in the Constitution, civil law, criminal law, and international law
- Understand the nature, characteristics, and status of contracts, and be able to draft and critique contracts
- Learn and apply the laws related to sales, warranties, and product liability
- Examine the rules related to personal and real property
- Learn the nature and types of negotiable instruments (commercial paper)
- Explore and utilize the rules and laws related to agency, employment and discrimination
- Examine the laws related to secured transactions, bankruptcy, cyberlaw, and intellectual property
- Discover the various forms of business organization and how businesses are regulated
- Practice using the power of your personal rights to plow through bureaucratic smokescreens
- Distinguish where the power of the U.S. government stops, where the power of the state stops and where your power is

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. From a set of facts, draft 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 to you utilizing legal and business research techniques and appropriate presentation principles established in class.

## Instructor Information

**Professor:** Mitchell I Drasco (a.k.a. PD) **Background:** Practicing Attorney. PD obtained his JD from Western State University. PD's undergraduate work was at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where he obtained a BS-Mechanical Engineering and a BS-Mathematics.

**Scheduled Office Hours:** TBA **Instructor's Home Page:** [www.miracosta.edu/home/mdrasco](http://www.miracosta.edu/home/mdrasco)

**E-mail:** [mdrasco@miracosta.edu](mailto:mdrasco@miracosta.edu)

**Phone/message:** (858) 926-0990 **email is always preferred.**

## Course Materials

**Required Text:** Beatty & Samuelson, *Essentials of Business Law*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cengage Learning, (ISBN 978-1-285-42703) which can be viewed at <http://www.cengagebrain.com>. Before you purchase any textbook, note: the recommended MCC special combo bundle (ISBN 9781305303348) 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 5th edition. Older editions are not supported.

Access to the text is required by the first week of class (to complete the homework assignments). There is a copy of the text on reserve at both the Oceanside and SEC campus libraries. Also, please note, using our Blackboard site, you can download the 1st 4-chapters **FREE**. MCC's Bookstore can be accessed online at [www.miracosta.edu](http://www.miracosta.edu). At the top of the page are three direct links - **Blackboard**, **Library** and **Bookstore**. The bookstore offers both NEW and USED copies of required textbooks. Likely there will be few USED copies available as this is only the second semester we've used the 5<sup>th</sup> edition.. Choose wisely, prior editions are not acceptable. You may choose to purchase the text from any number of sources and locations, but if you don't purchase it from the MCC Bookstore, you assume and accept all risks, including lack of return policy, delays in delivery, etc.

**For this Section of BUS140, a hardcopy of the textbook is recommended, but an ecopy will suffice.**

**Required Hardware:** Regular access to an efficient, dependable computer with fast, reliable internet support. Do NOT plan to rely only on a mobile device. **Your grade will most likely suffer. I've yet to meet a student that can do well on the online tests using mobil devices.** **Required Software:** Real Player (for videos), Adobe Flash Player (for narrated PowerPoint), Adobe Reader (for pdf's). All of these are free downloads on the Internet. **Required Supplies:** Except for the final exam and pop-quizzes, all quizzes and exams are taken on Blackboard. **NO Scantron forms needed.**

## Course Grading

**GRADING CRITERIA (typically 800 total points) (There are 30 Extra Credit points planned for this class and there are no makeup quizzes or exams; strive to complete all assignments on a timely basis.)**

- **230** points: Chapter Quizzes (24 individual chapters x 10 questions per chapter x 1pt each question)
- **400** points: Four Exams (including Final Exam) (4 x 100 points each; 50 questions per Exam)
- **100** points: Formal Research Paper
- **100** points: Ethics Dilemma (50 points) and draft contract (50 points)

**Note: In addition to chapter quizzes and exams, each week there will be video-homework, usually graded at 5 HW-points.**

### FEEDBACK SCHEDULE

- Chapter quizzes & exams will be graded and your scores posted automatically on Blackboard. **Keep a spreadsheet.**
- Written Projects will be graded by the Instructor and posted the week following the due date.
- Be sure to check the Online Grade-book regularly. Any claimed errors or discrepancies in the grades must be brought to the Instructor's attention within two weeks of the due date. Point postings are final after that.
- Instructor will respond to appropriate questions in proper format. For quick and simple questions (email is preferred) for more complex issues that require discussion, please make arrangements to meet with PD.

**The letter grading is as follows with the percentage of total possible points. However, the grading curve is subject to minor adjustment (up or down) by the Instructor in his sole discretion at the end of the semester.**

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

## Course Content

Most lectures cover one or two chapters of the textbook. You will be responsible for reading the chapters and other related documents, videos or websites, and completing all assignments. The quizzes and exams will consist of mostly multiple-

choice and a few T/F questions. As mentioned in the **Course Details**, above, there are available to you study aids (sample quizzes) and additional self-testing information. You'll find the link on our Blackboard site. Of course you may read ahead, but you will only be able to submit assignments during the appropriate week.

**Your first priority is to be sure all assignments for each week are completed on time.**

**ATTENDANCE:** The instructor takes attendance at each class. Regular attendance for the full class period is important. Please inform PD if you will unavoidably miss two consecutive class sessions. Also, be sure not to miss any classes during the first two weeks, and not to miss more than four 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 PD's sole discretion.

Again, regular attendance for the full class is important. Three (3) consecutive unannounced absences or six total absences for the class subjects the student to being dropped at PD's discretion, without notice. Keep track of your attendance. Communicate with PD before problems arise. It's advisable to make friends with your colleague-classmates. Should you miss a lecture, colleagues may share class-notes. Much of the lecture material is not in the textbook and is subject for testing.

**IN-CLASS-LECTURE/DISCUSSION:** BizLaw covers just about every aspect of our life. You're going to have an opinion on the text materials, the lectures, the videos and the comments of your colleagues. The richness of the lecture session comes from your insights, your comments and your questions. Reading the assigned chapters before class will automatically draw you into the discussions. Check the weekly Homework schedule for the chapters/topics assigned. To help you review for the quizzes and exam, use the questions at the end of each chapter and take the online practice quizzes. Students will complete most assignments individually, while some assignments require working with partners or in small groups. There are no makeup quizzes or exams. The student receives a score of "0" for any missed test or class exercise.

**CHAPTER QUIZZES:** Normally there is a separate quiz for each chapter, consisting of 10 MC and/or T/F questions. Chapter quizzes are taken online using Blackboard. Your lowest chapter quiz score is dropped and will not affect your grade.

**UNIT EXAMS:** There are three Unit-cumulative multiple-choice exams, covering units 1, 2 and 3. Each exam covers material in the text and lectures. Each exam is closed book, but students may have an unlimited number of personally prepared handwritten, typed, or word-processed pages of notes. There are no makeup exams. Exam due dates are established by PD.

**FINAL EXAM:** This test is taken in the classroom during finals week. The test questions are drawn from anywhere within the textbook, powerpoint materials, cases, lectures, video-homework or assigned reading.

**GRADING:** This is a letter-graded course, unless you choose the Pass / No-Pass option. If you are not concerned about receiving a letter grade, consider the P/NP option. The P/NP petition must be completed and submitted to Admissions and Records by the date listed in the current class schedule. If you choose this option and would have received a "C" or better, you will receive "P." If not, you will receive "NP." (For transfer courses, you likely want to take the class for a letter grade.)

## Course Rules & Expectations

### RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to:

- Please: Be prepared. Attend regularly (see PD's comments in the **Course Content**, above). Be on time for class. Pay attention in class. Participate and act interested in the subject. Do not engage in any form of academic dishonesty. On our Blackboard website, you'll find a detailed explanation (including videos) of our BUS140 Honor System.
- Respect fellow students, PD and guest speakers.. Don't bring food or uncovered beverages into the classroom. Turn off all cell phones. Dress and act appropriately for a good learning environment. **Text, email, and/or message before and after class. Class time is reserved exclusively for the lecture and discussions.**
- Access your email and our Blackboard class site several times per week (minimum of 3 times per week).
- Complete and submit assignments on a timely basis, according to PD's instructions and the syllabus schedule.
- Submit assignments on time - Do not ask for exceptions to the rules and/or wait until the last minute.

- Share your knowledge, participate with a view to learning and growing, and **most importantly, have a good time.**
- On all email submissions to PD, clearly identify yourself with full name and email address. Be professional.
- Take full responsibility for knowing the requirements, rules, deadlines, and activities
- Proactively work through all assignments to make the class a successful experience. If an assignment is missed, if computer or internet problems arise, or if other life activities take precedence, accept the fact, learn from it, and move on.
- Maintain a sense of humor and keep things in perspective.
- Even if collaboration is authorized by PD, **submit original written work**, and act and behave ethically, honestly, and politely throughout the course.
- **Reminder: What is the BUS140 Honor System?**  
You'll find our BUS140 Honor System conforms to major universities and is detailed on our Blackboard site.

### CLASS WITHDRAWAL RULES:

- If you decide to withdraw from this class, you're responsible to complete all necessary Admissions and Records forms. Remember, though, PD retains complete discretion to process a Withdrawal (Drop) for inactive, non-attending students. Accordingly, PD will, without notice, for any of the following (unless discussed with PD and approved in advance) remove a student's name from the roster, thus blocking BUS140 Blackboard access -
  - Failure to complete any assignment during the first two weeks of the semester
  - Missing ANY class during the first two weeks
  - Missing 2 consecutive classes or 4 total classes during the semester
  - Failure to complete 2 consecutive or 4 total Assignments of any type
  - Failure to complete ANY Unit Exam

### CLASS CONSIDERATIONS:

You must be proactive to succeed in this course. PD's emails and regular Blackboard postings will keep you updated; however, do not rely on PD reminding you of upcoming events and due dates. You are responsible for all activities and deadlines listed in this syllabus. Read this syllabus thoroughly and make note of important dates and deadlines. Make sure you have a backup plan if your computer or Internet has problems. Do not wait till the last minute to submit assignments. Remember Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong will go wrong. Take responsibility and plan accordingly.

- You need regular access to an efficient, reliable computer with video-fast internet speed.
- There will be limited opportunity to clarify instructions; you are expected to timely and carefully read the syllabus, class documents, and all Announcements.
- If you need further assistance or clarification from the instructor, you need to promptly email, call, or visit and be very clear with your questions and comments.
- You need to be technologically proficient and need to take full responsibility for completing online submissions timely.
- There will not be constant, ongoing reminders; you need to know all rules and deadlines and be skilled at time management.

### STUDY HOURS and TIME BUDGET:

The general rule for budgeting your time is to plan spending two (2) hours studying for every hour spent in the classroom. For our BUS140 course, you'll be spending 3-hours/week in the classroom listening to lectures, guest speakers, watching videos and/or working with colleagues. **Very few BUS140 students escape without putting in 6-hours/week studying.** Studying includes reading the assigned chapter(s), viewing assigned video(s), researching your writing assignment, preparing for quizzes / exams and taking the quizzes and exams.

## College Policies & Services

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Jan 30, 2015** (Friday): Last day to ADD classes.
- **Jan 30, 2015** (Friday); Last day to DROP classes with no grade, get a refund and avoid a "W".
- **Feb 20, 2015** (Friday): Last day to file Petition for Degree/Certificate and to file for Pass/No Pass.  
**Consider P/NP option if you do not need a letter grade.**
- **April 23, 2015** (Thursday): Last day to Drop class with "W" grade; Drops after that receive a letter grade (generally an "F").  
 If you discover this course is not for you, or your class performance is not satisfactory, make sure to drop in time.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE:**

Students seeking an "Incomplete" grade must consult with PD in person no later than the week prior to finals. Incompletes will only be considered for unforeseeable, emergency and justifiable reasons at the end of the term, and only upon agreement of conditions for completing coursework. Incompletes are rarely granted and only if the emergency or other unforeseeable 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 face rarely qualify for Incomplete status.

**PASS/NO PASS GRADING OPTION (for graded classes):**

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. This option for grading is irreversible 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 this option is accepted by their intended transfer institutions. Check the MiraCosta College catalog or schedule for more detailed information.

**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 (DSPS) 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.

**LIBRARY RESOURCES:**

The MiraCosta College faculty librarians will assist you with any 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. PD strongly encourages you to take advantage of library resources. More information regarding the library may be found at their webpage: <http://www.miracosta.edu/library>.

**COLLEGE SUPPORT SERVICES:**

The Tutoring and Academic Support Center (TASC) and the Writing Center (WC) 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 specific information, please call (760) 795-6682.

**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 all work submitted in my name will be my original work. I will not use computer programs or artificial intelligence systems to generate the work and 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 discipline 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.

**Reading assignments  
and  
Testing schedules  
Appear below**

# Reading Assignments & Testing Schedule

Read Assigned Chapters **BEFORE** Class – **Expect Pop Quizzes**

**Section 3078 – Spring 2015**  
**Campus: Oceanside    Room: 4802    Time: 12:30pm – 1:50pm    Day: MW**

## Quizzes / Exams:

Except for Pop-quizzes and the Final Exam, all quizzes & exams are taken on Blackboard. Chapter quizzes are valued at 10 points per chapter. Normally there will be ten (10) questions per chapter.

Unit Exams are valued at 100 pts. Each Unit Exam will have 50 questions. Your written Research Paper is valued at 100 pts.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** This syllabus is subject to change, at any time, at the discretion of the Instructor. Notice will be given to the students through an announcement in class, by email, and/or with an announcement on the class Bb site.

**Read & Study Chapter 1 before the first lecture.**  
**Note: Please re-review page 4, above, especially the paragraph titled: Study Hours & Time Budget**

## What's the secret to getting an "A" in this course?

You'll find the secret on our BUS140 Blackboard space where you'll discover several "A" students have written you letters explaining the trick(s).

Unit 1 - The Legal Environment								Unit 1
Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Chapter	Chapter Title	Bb Quiz / Ex	Due Date	Points	Cum Points	
1	19-Jan 21-Jan	1	<b>MLK Jr Day - Campus Closed</b> Law - Introduction					
2	26-Jan 28-Jan	1&2 2	Intro to Law Wrap-up & Bus. Ethics Bus. Ethics Wrap-up	1&2	1-Feb	20		
3	2-Feb 4-Feb	3 4	Dispute Resolution Common / Statutory / Admin. Law	3&4	8-Feb	20		
4	9-Feb 11-Feb	5 6	Constitutional Law Torts & Products Liability	4&5	15-Feb	20		
5	16-Feb 18-Feb	7	<b>President's Day - Campus Closed</b> Crime	7	22-Feb	10		
6	23-Feb	8	International Law	<b>Exam 1</b>	1-Mar	100	170	

No "separate" chapter quiz on chapters highlighted in yellow

**8 Chapters    Exam 1: 50 Qs    Some T/F    Some MC    Chapters 1-8**

Unit 2 - Contracts								
Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Chapter	Chapter Title	Bb Quiz / Ex	Due Date	Points	Unit 2 Cum Points	
6	25-Feb	9 & 10	Contracts - Introduction & Agreement	9 & 10	1-Mar	20		
7	2-Mar 4-Mar	11 12	Consideration Legality	11 & 12	8-Mar	20		
8	9-Mar 11-Mar	13 & 14 15	Capacity & Consent & Written Ks Third Parties	13,14 & 15	22-Mar	30		
9	16-21-Mar	Campus Closed - Spring Break						
You Select & Commit To Research Topic					25-Mar	10		
10	23-Mar 25-Mar	16 & 17 18	Performance & Discharge & Remedies Practical Ks	Exam 2	29-Mar	100	180	

No "separate" chapter quiz on chapters highlighted in yellow

10 Chapters Exam 2: 50 Qs Some T/F Some MC Chapters 9-18

Unit 3 - Commercial Transactions								
Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Chapter	Chapter Title	Bb Quiz / Ex	Due Date	Points	Unit 3 Cum Points	
11	30-Mar 1-Apr	19 20	Sales - Introduction Ownership & Risk	19 & 20	5-Apr	20		
12	6-Apr 8-Apr	21 22	Performance & Remedies Negotiable Instruments	21 & 22	12-Apr	20		
13	13-Apr 15-Apr	24 23	Bankruptcy Secured Transactions	23 & 24	19-Apr	20		
14	20-Apr 22-Apr	25 26	Agency Employment & Labor Law	Exam 3	26-Apr	100	160	

No "separate" chapter quiz on chapters highlighted in yellow

8 Chapters Exam 3: 50 Qs Some T/F Some MC Chapters 19-26



## Unit 4 - Employment, Biz Orgs and Property

Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Chapter	Chapter Title	Bb Quiz / Ex	Due Date	Unit 4 & Final Cum Points
15	27-Apr 29-Apr	27 33	Employment Discrimination Intellectual Property	27 & 33	3-May	20
16	4-Apr 6-Apr	34 30	Real Prop, Personal Prop & Comm. Prop Regulations: Securities & Antitrust	30 & 34	10-May	20
17	11-May 13-May	28 & 29 31 & 32	Starting a Biz & Corporations Consumer Products & Cyberlaw	Ethics TH Ks TH	17-May 17-May	50 50
18	20-May	<b>FINAL EXAM 2 - 3:50p</b> Final Taken in Classroom (Covers All 34 Chapters)		Research Paper Is Due Today	Paper Exam	90 100
						<b>330</b>

**No "separate" chapter quiz on chapters highlighted in yellow**

**Final Exam has two parts**

**Part 1 is a TakeHome exam covering  
Ethics Dilemma Analysis &  
Sales K Draft**

**Part 2 is taken in our regular classroom  
It covers the entire textbook Chapters 1-34  
50 Qs Some M/C & Some T/F**

**Total Points 840**

**Access to BUS140 Blackboard - Removed Today 25-May**