



American Legal Environment of Business

Course Number:	LAW 291	Term:	Summer, 2020
Instructor:		Email:	
Contact Hours:	48	Meeting Times:	Online
Credits:	3.0		

Course Description:

Legal Environment of Business is a course designed to acquaint university students with the major concepts, ideas, movements, and figures in United States Business Law. This course examines the most important legal, policy, and ethical principles relevant to business in today's environment.

Our classroom sessions will be highly interactive and engaging, with every student actively participating in the analysis, criticism, assessment, and understanding of the primary aspects of Business Law. The goal is to furnish students with the information and analytical tools necessary to grasp the legal, ethical, and policy-based considerations important to contemporary business.

We will cover the fundamental structure and function of the United States legal system, including the various federal courts and the typical state court systems. We will examine Alternative Dispute Resolution in all its forms. The course will cover the basics of torts, contracts, intellectual property, "white collar" crimes, agency, environmental, equal opportunity and treatment, workplace safety, and business organizations law.

Throughout the course, we will look for interconnections and relationships between and among these diverse components that together form the legal environment of business. Emphasis will be on case studies and practical, contemporary issues of significance in today's business climate.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to:

- Describe, analyze, and compare the core concepts and fundamentals of U.S. legal systems.
- Understand and evaluate legal, policy, and ethical concepts that are covered in this course and/or are encountered elsewhere.
- Understand and critically assess important concepts, approaches, ideas, assumptions, and theoretical perspectives relating to business law.
- Define and identify the basic schools of thought used in legal analysis.
- Apply legal, policy, and ethical concepts to current issues, opportunities, challenges, and problems including those relevant to contemporary business, both internationally and within the United States.

Required Textbook and Course Materials:

Business Law I
Valbrune, De Assis, Cardell, Taylor, Sappleton, Mitchell,
Philips
ISBN-10: 1-947172-78-6

This textbook is available to students for free at OpenStax at Rice University using the following link:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/business-law-i-essentials>

Language of Instruction:

This course is taught entirely in English, including lectures, homework, assignments and examinations. Teaching assistants will be fluent in both English and Mandarin.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

University Policies

Class Format

This is a fully-online course. All course activities, discussions, assignments and resources will be made available online prior to the start of the course.

Attendance, Participation and Deliverables

Summer courses are very intensive and in order to be successful, students need to attend every class. Attendance is required for all lectures and in class activities. Class participation and discussion are expected from every student and form a significant portion of the final course grade.

All course deliverables (homework assignments and tests) are due on time as assigned. This course includes *no* make-ups, postponements or additional assignments, except for verified medical emergencies. If you miss an exam/assignment due to a non-sanctioned absence, your score on that exam/assignment will be zero.

Academic Dishonesty

All cases of academic dishonesty will be diligently pursued. Academic dishonesty includes representing the work of another as one's own work or cheating by any means. Academic dishonesty also includes aiding, abetting, concealing or attempting such activity. The penalty is automatic failure of the course and possible suspension from the university.

Grading Scale

Student grades will be determined using the following grading scale:

Grading Scale (%)

97 - 100	A+	77 - 79	C+
93 - 96	A	73 - 76	C
90 - 92	A-	70 - 72	C-
87 - 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
83 - 86	B	63 - 66	D
80 - 82	B-	60 - 62	D-
		0 - 59	F

Instructor Policies

TBA

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Lecture Topics
Week One	American Law, Legal Reasoning, and the Legal System Disputes and Dispute Settlement Business Ethics and Social Responsibility
Week Two	Business and the United States Constitution Criminal Liability The Tort System Mid-Term
Week Three	Contract Law Sales Contracts
Week Four	Employment and Labor Law Government Regulation Antitrust Law
Week Five	Unfair Trade Practices and the Federal Trade Commission International Law Securities Regulation Comprehensive Final Exam

