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Office Phone:  208.426-1313
Office Hours:  By appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to assist undergraduate business students to gain an understanding of important legal principles and the laws which affect business—that is, the “legal environment” in which business operates. The course will begin with an introduction to law. During the course a wide range of legal topics impacting many different aspects of business will be examined. Increased knowledge of the legal system and the basic knowledge of legal and regulatory issues impacting business will help students make better business decisions.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

It is expected that after completing this course students will be better able to: (1) recognize, and analyze important legal issues affecting business; (2) avoid legal problems and reduce the risk of litigation due to increased knowledge of legal issues; and (3) participate more effectively in the resolution of legal issues that will arise. Specifically, a student who successfully completes GB202 should be able to:

1. Understand the structure and jurisdiction of the federal and state court systems; the key sections of the U.S. Constitution that impact business; the concepts of federalism and separation of powers; the role and functions of administrative agencies.
2. Explain the most important ethical theories and apply them to business situations to understand the relationship between law and ethics, and to discuss the social responsibility of corporations in society.
3. Recognize some of the most important legal issues which affect and impact international business, appreciate cultural and national differences, and understand the structure and role of key organizations involved in international business.
4. Describe and apply important legal principles concerning contracts, torts, product liability, securities law, corporations and other business entities, real and personal property, intellectual property, cyber-law, environmental law and regulation, employment law and employment discrimination, rights of debtors and creditors, and legal rules relating to marketing and advertising.
5. Describe and differentiate the distinct legal aspects of the various forms of business entities, such as, sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations.
6. Identify and explain the most common business torts.
7. Describe the essential features and requirements for making valid and enforceable contracts.
8. Describe and identify the federal environmental protection laws that affect business.
9. Explain important legal issues involving employment law, including employment-at-will, termination, drug and alcohol testing, discrimination, hostile work environment, and workplace privacy.
10. Understand the role of OSHA; work place safety; and wage and hour laws.
STUDENTS IN THIS CLASS WILL LEARN AND PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING COBE CORE CURRICULUM CONCEPTS, METHODS, AND SKILLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Understand and apply analytical and disciplinary concepts and methods related to business and economics:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ ☑ 1.6. International environment of business</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ ☑ 1.7. Legal environment of business</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ ☑ 2.1. Communicate effectively: Write messages and documents that are clear, concise, and compelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ ☑ 2.2. Communicate effectively: Give oral presentations that use effective content, organization, and delivery</td>
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<td>✓ ☑ 3. Solve problems, including unstructured problems, related to business and economics</td>
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<td>✓ ☑ 4. Use effective teamwork and collaboration skills</td>
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<td>✓ ☑ 5. Resolve ethical issues related to business and economics</td>
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SHARED VALUES

Boise State University upholds the following values as the foundation for a civil and nurturing environment. Campus community members and all who are part of COBE are expected to adhere to the following values.

- **Academic Excellence** – engage in our own learning and participate fully in the academic community's pursuit of knowledge.
- **Caring** – show concern for the welfare of others.
- **Citizenship** – uphold civic virtues and duties that prescribe how we ought to behave in a self-governing community by obeying laws and policies, volunteering in the community, and staying informed on issues.
- **Fairness** – expect equality, impartiality, openness and due process by demonstrating a balanced standard of justice without reference to individual bias.
- **Respect** – treat people with dignity regardless of who they are and what they believe. A respectful person is attentive, listens well, treats others with consideration and doesn't resort to intimidation, coercion or violence to persuade.
- **Responsibility** – take charge of our choices and actions by showing accountability and not shifting blame or taking improper credit. We will pursue excellence with diligence, perseverance, and continued improvement.
- **Trustworthiness** – demonstrate honesty in our communication and conduct while managing ourselves with integrity and reliability.
- **Diversity - Learning Outcomes of the Diversity Requirement:**
  - Knowledge Content: The course will increase the student's knowledge and awareness of the unique contributions of diverse groups and their beliefs, values, knowledge, and experiences of people of diverse groups; (b) Self-reflection: The course will require students to gain self-awareness of and insight into their own and others' cultural perspectives; and (c) Social Analysis: The course will critically examine the foundations of legal, social, business and governmental institutions and their policies and structures in the United States and abroad that affect or are affected by the beliefs, values, and experiences of people of diverse groups.

As stated in the BSU catalog (page 46), "Boise State University values cultural diversity in its faculty, its students and its curriculum. Because we live in a multicultural world, we seek to
educate students to recognize and appreciate the many ways in which each of us is shaped by culture, nationality, religion, and ethnicity. This requires that we examine cultural differences, being attentive to the special challenges that each of us faces in understanding those whose lives are shaped by cultures other than our own.” The material discussed and analyzed in this course should assist the student in understanding the legal, ethical, and social duties expected in society. This class will also: (1) help students gain an understanding of "issues of culture, nationality, religion or ethnicity as these may be found anywhere in the world;” and (2) require "reflection on the challenges and benefits of dialogue across differences."

TEXTBOOK AND RELATED MATERIALS

The textbook is “The Legal Environment of Business”, 6th edition, by Bixby, Beck-Dudley, Cihon and Park. There is a study guide for this book, which is recommended, but not required. It is available in the bookstore. Please note that the textbook is required to successfully pass this course. It is a valuable resource, not only for this class but for your future career.

Professor Larson uses the BSU Blackboard web site to post the course syllabus, power point slides, assignments, course announcements, and other course related information. Please note that the 5th edition is acceptable, however, if the 4th edition is purchased, it will be the student’s responsibility to make the necessary adjustments to conform to the 5th or 6th edition.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

In addition to being prepared for class, each student in my lecture class will be required to present to the class an oral presentation of an assigned court case from one of the chapters in the text. This is called “the on-call assignment”. The description of this assignment is located on the second to last page of the class syllabus.

Each student will also be required to attend at least one session of the Idaho Supreme Court or Idaho Court of Appeals, and write a two-page, double spaced summary. Description of the assignment is provided at the end of the syllabus. Court schedules can be accessed at the Idaho Supreme Court website – www.isc.Idaho.gov

In addition to these major assignments, there will be projects, discussion board participation in-class work, and quizzes. At the end of the semester the points earned during the semester will be totaled. The total points earned will be compared to the total points possible. Then the letter grade will be assigned based upon the grading scale noted below.

For example, if a student earns 800 points and the maximum points that could be earned is 1000, then the calculated percentage would be 80%. The grading scale below then shows that 80% is a letter grade of B-.

Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>125 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>225 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-call case assignment:</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appellate Court Review:</td>
<td>150 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation:</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale

A: 930 and above
A-: 900-929
B+: 870-899
B: 830-869
B-: 800-829
C+: 770-799
C: 730-769
C-: 700-729
D+: 670-699
D: 630-669
D-: 600-629
F: 599 and below

Please Note: Professor Larson will consider consistent classroom attendance, exceptional class participation, and attitude to determine near borderline grades that may result in earning a higher grade.

Extra credit:

I do not give out extra credit assignments. I believe there is sufficient amount of work involved to successfully complete this class. The assignments, exams, and other assigned projects are comprehensive enough to test your ability to learn how law affects business environment. Relying on extra credit serves no reasonable purpose.

CLASS PREPARATION:

1. Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters before class. Class sessions will add to and expand upon the knowledge gained by reading the textbook. Many studies have shown that students learn more if they prepare in advance for classes and participate in class discussions.

2. Students will learn and understand the legal issues examined in this class better if they read and try to analyze the “Practical Exercises” at the end of each chapter, as well as the “In Consultation” features in the book and the questions at the end of each chapter. Some of these exercises may be assigned as required written assignments during the semester as announced on Blackboard or in class.

3. “Class participation” includes: (a) attending classes; (b) being alert and aware (as opposed to asleep and lethargic, and looking at your smart or i phone) in class; (c) coming to class on time; (d) volunteering answers, ideas, thoughts and constructive suggestions during class; (e) turning in written assignments complete and on time; (f) being prepared when called on in class; (g) performing fully during “on call” presentations and other assignments. Engaging in distracting activities such as using cell phones, laptops, tablets, reading newspapers, and continuous talking to others during class that is not related to class work or class activities will result in points being deducted.

4. I have found that outlining each chapter, including points discussed in class will help students grasp and retain the information. Microsoft Word provides some good examples on how to effectively outline.

5. Cheating, copying other students’ work, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. This behavior can result in an "F" for the assignment, exam, or the course, in accordance with BSU Policy. Plagiarism includes cutting and pasting documents into assignments or exams without citing a reference. Assignments and essay questions are to be answered in your own words. If
you do refer to outside research it will be required to cite the reference material, use quotes and use the accepted citation rules followed by BSU policy.

6. **Electronic Device Policy**: My classroom policy is that electronic devices, such as, laptops, tablets, notebooks, will be used for class purposes only (note-taking and research). Cell phones will not be used in class, unless instructed to do so.

**EXAMS/QUIZZES:**

Quizzes and exams are administered on Blackboard and in the Testing Center. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that when taking an exam on Blackboard that your computer or tablet has a solid and reliable internet connection.

*My suggestion*: Use the school's computers for taking an exam. I do not give make-up exams. **EXCEPTION**: If a student misses an exam due to serious illness, death in the family, or other serious life events that prevents taking an exam, then allowing a make-up exam will be considered.

There are two exams – mid-term and the final. The exams are not open book and will be proctored. You will be permitted to bring one 6x9 card containing your notes, but nothing else. Consult the course calendar for exam dates.

**The mid term and the final exams in this course will be taken in front of a proctor.**

Take the exam at the Boise State Testing Center. The testing center is open during the regular semester on Monday - Friday from 8 am to 8 pm. Extended hours may be available during finals week. You may schedule appointments to take your exams by clicking here. **This option is free to students.**

There will be 13 quizzes. Three of the quizzes with the lowest scores can be dropped. Each quiz is worth 15 points for a maximum total of 150 points. The quizzes will be administered on Blackboard and will not be proctored, therefore, the quizzes are open book. The quizzes are located under course documents.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS:**

Assignments and projects are due on the due date assigned. **Late assignments will result in an automatic reduction in points.** I reserve the right to adjust the project schedule during the semester. If changes are made I will announce the change in class or via Blackboard. Therefore, it is important to attend class regularly. Each student is responsible for knowing the class schedule.

**MODIFICATION OF THE SYLLABUS AND CLASS SCHEDULE:**

This syllabus is not a contract. Therefore, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, the assigned projects, and schedule at any time. Revisions will be announced on the BSU Blackboard site.
On-Call Assignment Requirements

1. The following are the requirements and the format to be followed for the on call assignment:

- Give an oral presentation with power point slides;
- Submit a written summary;
- Submit and discuss a related recent news article (optional)

2. The following describes the format for the oral and written summary:

- Identify the litigants, the court and its geographical location;
- Short sentence describing what the case is about;
- Short summary of the facts;
- Identify the specific legal issue that the court is reviewing and what the litigants are seeking from the court;
- Identify the court’s analysis (short), decision and disposition;
- Provide answers to the case questions

3. The written summary will provide headings for above requirements identified under the following format

   o Litigants/Court/ Date
   o Case Subject Matter:
   o Facts:
   o Legal Issue:
   o Court’s Analysis/Decision:
   o Case Questions/Answers:

4. This assignment’s grade will be based upon the following rubric

- Following the above format;
- Identifying the correct legal issue(s);
- Conciseness and clarity;
- Analysis
- Correct spelling and grammar
- Verbatim reading or writing of the case in the text is not permitted. It must be in your own written and spoken words. If references are used please observed correct citation rules.

Appellate Court Review Summary Assignment

This assignment consist of four main parts. Grades will be based upon following the format identified below, providing accurate information, and observing correct spelling and grammar.

1. Date of Appeal hearing
2. Identify the litigants and the appeals court;
3. Identify the legal issue the appeals court is reviewing;
4. Provide a short description of the case;
5. Provide your personal opinion and observations of the appeal process.