COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to assist undergraduate business students in gaining understanding of important legal principles and laws which affect business – that is, the “legal environment” in which business operates. During the course we will examine a wide range of topics involving many different aspects of business. Increased knowledge of legal and regulatory issues will help students make better business decisions.

TEXT


COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the course is to help students: (1) recognize, assess, and analyze important legal issues affecting business; (2) avoid legal problems due to their increased knowledge of legal issues; and (3) participate more effectively in the positive resolution of legal issues which do arise. Specifically, a student who successfully completes The Legal Environment of Business should be able to:

1. Explain the structure, powers, organization and jurisdiction of the federal and state court systems.
2. Identify the key provisions of the U.S. Constitution that impact business, the concepts of federalism and separation of powers, and the role that law plays in American society and business.

3. Describe the powers and functions of the rulemaking and enforcement actions taken by federal and state regulatory agencies.

4. Identify the major ethical issues that affect and impact business; analyze the differences and similarities between law and ethics.

5. Identify four ways in which corporations might have social responsibility toward society and explain the differences between each.

6. Describe and differentiate the distinct legal aspects and strengths of the various forms of business entities such as partnerships, limited partnerships, LLPs, LLCs and corporations, and the legal rights and duties of the partners, members, shareholders, and directors of those entities.

7. List the major tenets of the two most important federal securities laws, the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and explain the primary rules regarding insider trading.

8. Identify and explain the most common business torts, such as defamation and negligence, as well as product liability theories.

9. Describe the essential features and requirements for making valid and enforceable business contracts, and analyze an ethical dilemma involving contracts.

10. Explain the fundamental legal rights regarding the types of real, personal and intellectual property and the methods of acquiring and transferring ownership.

11. List and explain the most important federal environmental laws which impact business, including air, water and toxic waste pollution regulation, and EPA enforcement.

12. Describe the primary federal laws concerning consumers, debtors and creditors, including secured transactions, the three main types of bankruptcy, and the federal regulations covering false advertising and deceptive practices.

13. Explain the most important legal issues involving employment law, including “employment at will” and its exceptions, termination and discipline, drug and alcohol testing, employment discrimination, and wage and hour laws.

14. Discuss and critique the various issues regarding workplace privacy.
## COBE Core Curriculum Student Learning Goals and Objectives

Students in this class will learn or practice the following COBE Core Curriculum concepts, methods, and skills:

1. Understand and apply analytical and disciplinary concepts and methods related to business and economics:
   - 1.6. International environment of business
   - 1.7. Legal environment of business

2. Communicate effectively:
   - 2.1. Write messages and documents that are clear, concise, and compelling
   - 2.2. Give oral presentations that use effective content, organization, and delivery

3. Solve problems, including unstructured problems, related to business and economics

4. Use effective teamwork and collaboration skills

5. Demonstrate appropriate principles of responsible business practices
   - 5.1 Resolve issues related to Individual Responsibility (Business Ethics)
   - 5.2 Resolve issues related to Corporate Social Responsibility
   - 5.3 Resolve issues related to Leadership Responsibility (Corporate Governance)
   - 5.4 Resolve issues related to Environmental Responsibility (Environmental Sustainability)
   - 5.5 Resolve issues related to Cultural Responsibility (Diversity)

## Required Technical Equipment and Skills

- A computer capable of running any of these [certified or compatible operating systems](#).
- Access to the Internet through a high-speed network connection or a broadband Internet Service Provider.
- A Web browser (check this matrix of [certified or compatible browsers](#)).
- An e-mail account and the ability to send and receive e-mail and e-mail file attachments. The default e-mail account used by Blackboard is your Boise State e-mail account. You cannot change to another account in Blackboard; however, you can have mail sent to your Boise State account forwarded to another account, such as a Gmail.com or Yahoo.com account.
- The ability to use a browser to navigate the Web, the ability to navigate among multiple open windows, and the ability to open, close, and save files and attachments.
• A Blackboard User Account. If you register for a course that uses Blackboard, a Boise State Blackboard Administrator will automatically create your account. Your username will be your BroncoWeb login ID. Your password will be your BroncoWeb password.

• Any additional requirements as requested and specified by the course instructor, such as access to Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Acrobat Reader, Real Player, or other specialized hardware or software.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

This course is conducted entirely online. You will read selections from the textbook and material available online, participate in online discussions, take online quizzes about the material you have read, and take three online exams.

ALL WORK in this class is due on a Friday at 9PM (except for the proctored exams). If there is a change in due dates for a specific assignment I will send out announcement. Discussion Boards and Group discussions will be open for two week. For the most part, you can participate in these activities on your own schedule, right up to the deadline for each activity. You may complete the online activities from wherever you choose – from home, work, or a campus computer lab. However, this course will be conducted on a fixed schedule, meaning that you will be unable to work ahead and complete the course before the semester ends. Instead, portions of the course will become available on a weekly basis, right up to the end of the semester.

In most instances, the weekly reading assignment will be the focus of our discussions and other activities. If you have questions about what you have read, please ask them; chances are, other students will have the same questions. I have created a discussion forum specifically for you to use to ask questions about assignments and readings.

Finally, please note that the course site contains quite a bit of material that complements and supplements your text, including self-study aids and interactive documents. Please use these materials to enhance your understanding of the text and to verify that you understand what you should know after completing each reading assignment.

GRADING

Your grade will be based upon weekly quizzes, online discussions, and exams. There are 13 weekly quizzes, and you may drop your three lowest scores. The tests will count the same and will consist of multiple choice and possibly some short answer questions.

**Quizzes.** You will have two “takes” for each quiz – the higher of the two scores will be recorded. After your first take, you may review the question and your answers. The correct answers will not be available until the due date has passed and the quiz availability period has ended. Some of the questions on the second take may be different. If you submit your quiz correctly, you will see either a score or a “!” in the gradebook. If you see anything else (a “bomb” icon or a paper / pencil icon), your quiz did not get submitted properly and you should contact me right away to avoid a late penalty. Quizzes submitted after the due date will not be accepted.

**Exams.** The mid-term and the final exam in this course must be taken in front of a proctor. You have two proctoring options:
• Take the exam at the Boise State Testing Center. The testing center is open during the regular semester on Monday – Friday from 8 am – 8 pm. Extended hours are available during finals week. You may schedule appointments to take the exams here: http://at.boisestate.edu/tools-and-facilities/online-testing-center/. This option is free to students. (The CWI and CSI testing centers are affiliated with Boise State and are also an option for students, but you must contact me well in advance to make arrangements.)

• Take the exam on your own computer and have it proctored by BVirtual. BVirtual is a company that offers students proctored online testing at a time and place that is convenient to you. To register with BVirtual, you'll need to supply your name, email, phone number, and student ID#, as well as create a password.

To schedule your proctored exam, you also need to provide the name of the exam and the time you are available to complete the exam. Please pay attention to exam due dates in the schedule! To register in the BVirtual system, schedule your exams, test your technology, and begin your proctored exam on the day and time scheduled, visit http://bvirtuallive.onlineproctornow.com/.

BVirtual charges a fee for online proctoring. It is $15 for up to 90 minutes, $20 for up to two hours, and then $10 for each additional hour. The exams in this class are not timed, but generally do not take students longer than 90 minutes to complete.

Please make your choice and register for your exam during the first week of class to ensure availability. More detailed information about the exams can be found in each Exam folder.

The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions, and may have extra credit questions at the end. You will be allowed one 3x5 card for each exam. No books, no notes. You will not be allowed to re-enter an exam after you close out of it.

All quizzes and exams can be found in the Quizzes / Exams tab in Blackboard. You will also find a link to each quiz and exam in the corresponding module folder in Blackboard.

Grading. Grades are based upon the following:

- Online quizzes (10 out of 13) 150 points
- Exams (2) 300 points (100- mid term; 200- final)
- Group Discussions (4) 100 points
- Assignments/projects (3) to be announced

At the end of the semester the total possible points will be added and the grades will be:

A -- 93% and above
A- -- 90-92.9%
B+ -- 87-89.9%
B -- 83-86.9%
B- -- 80-82.9%
C+ -- 77-79.9%
C -- 73-76.9%
C- -- 70-72.9%
D+ -- 67-69.9%
D -- 63-66.9%
D- -- 60-62.9%
F -- below 60%

On rare occasions, students with a borderline grade will earn the higher grade if they meet these criteria: consistent attendance and participation, completion of all assignments, and possibly improvement. This
policy does not apply to students who have not completed all assigned work OR to students whose behavior in class indicates a lack of preparation or is disruptive to others.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

1. I expect you to visit the course site each day; making Blackboard your home page in your Web browser will help you to remember to visit the site. I also expect you to participate in all activities, including the ungraded discussions; failure to do so will place you in academic jeopardy. Failing to participate in a substantial number of activities may mean that you do not pass the course. Failure to complete the Syllabus Quiz and Introductory Discussion may result in you being administratively withdrawn from the course.

2. If you do miss an activity, you must stay current with the class. At the very least this means that you are responsible for any assignments arising from the activity. More broadly, it means that you must somehow become knowledgeable about the content and discussion of the activity. Quizzes cannot be made up; with few exceptions, most other activities cannot be made up.

3. Be prepared for your online discussions. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters before participating in any discussion group activities. Active participation in discussion boards will enhance your learning experience as well as enrich the experience of your classmates through the knowledge you share. You will learn more if you participate in class discussion!

4. Preparation means giving the discussion your full attention, volunteering answers, ideas, thoughts and constructive suggestions during discussion, and completing weekly quizzes on time. Think about and be prepared to discuss the questions and practice exercises at the end of each chapter, as well as any hypotheticals presented to you in class.

5. Read the weekly quiz feedback. Once the quiz due dates have passed, the detailed results will be available, including feedback on incorrect answers. If your quiz scores are low, the feedback will help you do better on the next quiz!

PLAGIARISM AND INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Plagiarism occurs when a person passes in another person's work as his or her own or borrows directly from another's work without documentation. It doesn't matter if the work is that of a published author, an unpublished co-worker, or another student. Plagiarism also occurs when a person passes off another person's ideas as his or her own; merely casting another writer's ideas in different words doesn't free one from the obligation to document one's source. Finally, plagiarism occurs when graphic images are borrowed without attribution.

Other than plagiarism, intellectual dishonesty occurs in a variety of ways, one of which is having a person other than the student who is enrolled in the course answer assignment questions, participate in online discussions, and/or complete exams.

A student who plagiarizes or otherwise engages in intellectual dishonesty will be excluded from the course, will receive a final grade of F, and will be referred to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action. Other penalties may include academic probation, suspension, or expulsion from school. With this in mind, keep all preliminary work you do for each assignment. For instance, you should print hard copies of each draft or make separate electronic files. Should you turn in an assignment that appears to me to
have been plagiarized, you will want to be able to show evidence of your work: notes, outlines, drafts, and other such material. If you are unable to do so, then we have a serious problem.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

Any student who feels s/he may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You will also need to contact the Disability Resource Center at 208-426-1583 located in the Administration Building, room 114.

For more information on BSU Disability Resource Center (DRC) see the web site at [http://drc.boisestate.edu/](http://drc.boisestate.edu/).

To schedule an appointment, contact the DRC at (208) 426-1583 or send your e-mail request to [ElyseTaylor@boisestate.edu](mailto:ElyseTaylor@boisestate.edu).

**OFFICE HOURS AND OFFICE POLICY**

Students are welcome and encouraged to stop by during office hours to introduce themselves, ask questions, talk about the class and related topics, and to discuss personal issues that are having an impact on class performance. If you have personal plans or are experiencing a personal issue that will require you to be “absent,” please discuss this with me in advance, or as soon as possible in the case of an emergency. I’m quite willing to work with students ahead of time to come up with a solution. If you wait until the last minute, however, this may not be possible.

My personal office space is a gun-free zone, concealed weapons permit notwithstanding.

**NETIQUETTE: ETIQUETTE FOR ONLINE COMMUNICATION**

Most, if not all, of the communication in this course will occur online, which poses both benefits and challenges. It means that we can craft our responses effectively. However, if we don’t take the time to do this, we can communicate unintended messages. It is sometimes difficult to remember that real people are reading our messages. Words can convey different meanings – what we intend to say is not always what others hear. This is especially true of online communication where others do not have the opportunity to see your body language or hear your tone, which may create a greater possibility of misunderstanding your true intent.

For these reasons, Internet users have developed guidelines for net communication aimed at lessening the chances of miscommunication and perceived disrespect. Please follow these guidelines in all of your online responses and discussion groups.

- Respect all who are participating in this learning community by:
- Honoring their right to their opinions
- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others
- Responding honestly but thoughtfully and respectfully using language which others will not consider foul or abusive
- Respecting your own privacy and the privacy of others by not revealing information which you deem private and which you feel might embarrass you or others
- Being constructive in your responses to others in the class
• Being prepared to clarify statements which might be misunderstood or misinterpreted by others
• One good way to avoid problems is to compose your postings off-line and reread them before sending. Comments written in haste may not convey what you really think after the heat of the moment has passed.
• Do not send messages written in all upper case – this is the visual equivalent of SHOUTING. In the online world, this is considered aggressive and very bad behavior. If you ever feel like shouting a message, wait until you have calmed down before responding. Then respond in a calm and factual manner.

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY LEGAL SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

I copied this information straight from [http://osrr.boisestate.edu/asbsu-legal-services/](http://osrr.boisestate.edu/asbsu-legal-services/)

The Associated Students of Boise State University (ASBSU) provides FREE ATTORNEY CONSULTATIONS with a local private lawyer for most legal problems you may have. This service is available to all eligible students of BSU. Topics eligible for discussions include the following:

- Landlord/Tenant problems
- Small claims court
- Divorce/Family Law
- Child Custody/Child Support
- DUI/Criminal
- Collection & Debt Problems
- Wills
- Insurance claims
- Automobile accidents/Personal Injury
- Guardianship
- Probate
- Adoptions/Name change
- Workman’s Compensation Claims

An attorney is available every Monday and Thursday through the Fall and Spring semesters from 9:00am to 2:00 p.m. by appointment only. Walk-in appointments are not accepted. If you wish to make an appointment, please call the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities at 426-1527. The initial appointment will be for thirty minutes. Future, follow-up appointments can be scheduled as needed.

MODIFICATION OF THE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

I may modify the syllabus and schedule at any time. Revisions will be documented in an announcement on the Blackboard course site.