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.

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 theories which impact business; analyze the differences and similarities between law and ethics; and apply the major ethical theories to business issues.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students in this class will learn or practice the following COBE Core Curriculum concepts, methods, and skills:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Understand and apply analytical and disciplinary concepts and methods related to business and economics:</td>
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**Text**


**Attendance and Participation**

To confirm attendance, I will take role at the beginning of class. If you are late for class, the burden is upon you to approach me at the first class break (which will occur after the first hour of class) so I can mark you as "present".

**Exams / Grading**

Your grade will be based upon five online quizzes, classroom participation, two (out of three) exams each weighted equally, and one mandatory, cumulative final exam.
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 will 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” or a paper / pencil icon), your quiz was not submitted properly and you should contact me right away to avoid a late penalty.

After the quiz due date has passed, the “two takes” option will be removed. You may still take the quiz once, for reduced credit.

Exams. All exams will be taken in the Boise State Testing Center. They are scheduled to be available during an entire week, beginning at noon on Monday after class during the scheduled week.

The exams will be closed book, and closed notes. Exams 1, 2 and 3 will NOT be cumulative. Each will be worth 100 points – the top two scores will count toward your final grade. If you are unable to take an exam on the assigned day, for whatever reason, that will simply be the exam score you drop. It is not necessary to tell me why you missed the exam.

In addition to the above, I will assign four (4) open book essays over the course of the semester. These essays will be based on the information offered during class lectures and discussions. You will have a week to complete the essays, so that they may be handed in at the beginning of class the next week.

The final exam is required and cumulative.

There will be absolutely NO make-up exams in this class. There is no reason for make-up exams because only two out of three exams count toward your final grade.

Finally, you must have a passing grade on your exam average (60% average) to pass the class. For example, a student with a 59% exam average, but a 62% overall due to the “easy” participation and quiz points will not pass the class.

Grades will be based upon a total of 500 points, broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open book essays (4)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online quizzes (5)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2 of 3)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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At the end of the semester the total possible points will be added and the grades will be:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On rare occasions, students with a borderline grade will earn the higher grade if they meet these criteria: consistent attendance and class 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 and attendance or is disruptive to others.

**Class Preparation**

1. Participation in this class is mandatory. On the first day of class, each student will fill out an index card indicating the student’s name and class level (sophomore, junior, etc.). These index cards will be shuffled before each class and will be used to call on students during that session. Students will also be furnished “name plates” so I can become familiar with faces and names.

2. Class participation will include responding to questions in class, and, from time to time, presenting on a short topic, which will be assigned to the student the prior week.

3. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters before coming to class. 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.

4. Cheating, copying, or plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course, in accordance with BSU policy.

**Classroom Laptop and Behavior Policy**

Laptops may not be used during class. The same goes for cell phones. I have based this decision on observations made while monitoring GB 202 lectures during fall 2016. I also found the following persuasive:

> An informal survey of students in an earlier GB 202 class indicated that 52% of students had been distracted by other students’ use of laptops.

> “[T]he detriments of having laptops in the classroom are substantial. Students who spend longer periods of time engaged in extraneous activities on their laptops will perform more poorly on examinations, and among those students, the ones who have access to the Internet are most at risk.” Nancy G. Maxwell, *From Facebook to Folsom Prison Blues: How Banning Laptops in the Classroom Made Me a Better Law School Teacher.*

**Student Conferences Outside the Classroom**

Students are welcome to meet with me 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. 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.

I will make myself available after class, and to the extent possible, can arrange to meet with you in a conference room or office in the Business building.
Disability Services and Personal Issues

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/.

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

Boise State University Legal Services for Students

I copied this information straight from 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

The syllabus and/or schedule may be modified at any point during the semester. Revisions will be documented in an announcement on the Blackboard course site.
**Tentative Class and Assignment Schedule** (we may move ahead or fall behind on occasion so expect some changes):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</table>
| 9       |   | **Introduction to course**  
|         |   | **Chapter 1**  
|         |   | **Chapter 2**  
| 16      |   | **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY- NO CLASS**  
| 23      |   | **Chapter 2 cont’d**  
|         |   | **Chapter 3**  
| 27 (Friday) |   | **QUIZ 1 (due by midnight)**  
|         |   | **(Chapters 1, 2 & 3)**  
| 30      |   | **Chapter 4**  
|         |   | **Chapter 8**  
|         |   | (Note: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 will be covered outside of class. Chapter 7 will be addressed later in the course.)  
| February | 6 | **Chapter 8 cont’d**  
| 10 (Friday) |   | **QUIZ 2 (due by midnight)**  
|         |   | **(Chapters 4, 5, 6 & 8)**  
| 13      |   | **Chapter 9**  
|         |   | **Chapter 10**  
|         |   | **Exam 1 Review**  
| 13 – 17 |   | **EXAM 1**  
|         |   | Exam 1 will be available from Monday, Feb. 13 at noon to Friday, Feb. 17 at 8 pm (or whatever time the Testing Center closes)  
| 20      |   | **PRESIDENTS DAY- NO CLASS**  
| 27      |   | **Chapter 11**  
|         |   | **Chapter 12**  

March

6

Chapter 12 cont'd
Chapter 13

10 (Friday)  QUIZ 3 (due by midnight)
(Chapters 11, 12, & 13)

13

Chapter 14
Chapter 15

17 (Friday)  QUIZ 4 (due by midnight)
(Chapters 14 & 15)

20-26

SPRING BREAK

27

Chapter 16
Exam 2 Review

27 – 31

EXAM 2
Exam 2 will be available from Monday, March 27 at noon to Friday, March 31 at 8 pm (or whatever time the Testing Center closes)

April

3

Chapter 17
Chapter 19

7 (Friday)  QUIZ 5 (due by midnight)
(Chapters 17 & 19)

10

Chapter 18
Chapter 20

17

Chapter 21
Chapter 7
Exam 3 review

17 – 21

EXAM 3
Exam 3 will be available from Monday, April 17 at noon to Friday, April 21, at 8 pm (or whatever time the Testing Center closes)

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Course Wrap-up
Final Exam Review
May 1-5 FINAL EXAM – to be taken this week during Testing Center Hours

NOTE: The open book essays are not identified in the above schedule. Advance notice will be given of these assignments.