Course Description

This course is designed to assist undergraduate business students in understanding important legal issues and laws that 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 so that students will increase their ability to identify and analyze legal issues and can make better business decisions.

Course Format

GENBUS 202 is presented in an active learning format. Students will acquire knowledge through reading the assigned material before coming to class. During class, the Professor will facilitate learning by presenting interactive individual and group exercises that require students to apply knowledge gained from the readings.

Active learning provides an opportunity for all students to be involved and creates an energetic and fun learning environment. Considerable research in cognitive science and the scholarship of teaching and learning have established that students learn far more through active learning than from simply watching and listening to lectures. Thus, the Professor will spend little time telling students what they need to know. Rather, students will spend classroom time discovering what they need to know through activities that require students to think, solve, interpret, and do more than simply watch, listen and take notes. The Professor will provide opportunities for students to learn. It is the responsibility of the student to take advantage of them.
Active learning classroom participation. Students are expected to be prepared for class, to take responsibility for their own learning, to contribute intelligently to discussions, and to prepare thoroughly for quizzes, exams, and participation in active learning classroom exercises, including iClicker.

Participation in active learning exercises will require students to work independently and with fellow students and to give a brief presentation/report out to the class. Students are required to participate and contribute to the group and class analysis and discussion.

Required Text


iClicker Student Response System

We will be use iClicker in every class. iClicker helps me understand what you know, gives everyone a chance to participate in class, and allows you to review the material after class. iClicker will account for ten percent (10%) of your final grade. And I will use iClicker to keep track of attendance. You must be present in class to participate and earn points. Students who are not present in class and attempt to participate by submitting a response when an iClicker poll is active, will forfeit all iClicker points earned and may receive an F for this course.

You will earn points for submitting a correct response to PowerPoint slide questions. The questions are based on the assigned readings and prior class discussions. Each correct answer is worth $\frac{1}{4}$ point, up to a total of 50 points (or 200 slides). There will be far more than 200 slides presented throughout the semester, so if you fail to respond to a question, submit an incorrect answer or miss an entire class, there will be other opportunities to improve your score.

I will never entertain excuses about iClickers. If you miss a day, forget your device, fail to log in through eduroam and lose Internet connection, fail to purchase your subscription prior to the end of the trial period, leave the classroom to sneeze ... none of that matters because you will have plenty of other opportunities to earn points. No excuses! Since you know the policy in advance, of course you will make smart choices (or quietly accept responsibility for the choices you actually do make).

You will need to create an iClicker account to participate in class using your laptop, smart phone, or tablet. And your device must be connected to the Boise State eduroam wireless network, not to
Bronco-Guest. Students who connect through Bronco-Guest do so at their own risk of being kicked off the wireless network halfway through class and missing points.

You will need to purchase a subscription to use iClicker. You can buy an access code from the bookstore at a discounted rate or use a credit card to purchase online, in-app purchase. Creating an iClicker account automatically starts a free 14-day trial subscription. If you choose to take advantage of the free 14-day trial subscription, it is your responsibility to purchase an access code before your trial subscription expires so that you will not miss out on participation points.

Boise State students can take advantage of reduced prices for 6 month, 1 year, and 2-year mobile licenses for the iClicker app. To get this discount, students must purchase their access code through the Boise State Bookstore.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boise State Bookstore Price</th>
<th>iClicker Reef In-App Purchase Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Month</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
<td>$14.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td>$23.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Year</td>
<td>$21.99</td>
<td>$32.99</td>
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**Cheating**

Submitting answers for another student is CHEATING and will be treated as such, according to Boise State University policy. At a minimum, answering for another student or having another student answer for you, will result in an F for this course. It may also result in expulsion from the University.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

The overall goals of the course are 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. Identify and explain the most common business torts, such as defamation and negligence, as well as product liability theories.

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

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

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

11. Describe the primary federal laws concerning consumers, debtors and creditors, including secured transactions and the three main types of bankruptcy.

12. 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.

13. Discuss and critique the various issues regarding workplace privacy.

**Grading / Exams**

Your grade is based on iClicker, six online quizzes, and three out of four exams.
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 losing your points.

Exams. All exams will be taken in the Boise State Testing Center. They are scheduled to be available during an entire business week, beginning at 10AM on Monday during the scheduled exam week.

There are four exams (including the final exam), each worth 100 points. Exams are closed book and closed notes. The exams are multiple choice and are not cumulative. Your top three exam scores will count toward your final grade. If you are unable to take an exam on the assigned day (which you scheduled with the Testing Center), for whatever reason, that will simply be the exam score you drop. It is not necessary to tell me why you missed the exam.

There will be absolutely NO make-up exams in this class. NONE. EVER. There is no reason for make-up exams because only three out of the four exams count toward your final grade.

Grades will be based upon a total of 410 points, broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iClicker</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes (6)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 of 4)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>75% (100%)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>410</td>
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At the end of the semester, grades are assigned as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
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On rare occasions, students with a borderline grade may earn the higher grade if they meet these criteria: consistent attendance, 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 (including inappropriate laptop/mobile device use) to others.

**Student Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to exhibit behavior that reflects Boise State’s [Statement of Shared Values](#) which is characterized by academic excellence, caring, citizenship fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness.

And students in this course are expected to uphold standards outlined in the Boise State University [Student Code of Conduct](#). Any work submitted by a student in this course will be the student’s own work. Collaboration is allowed for group active learning exercises; however, each student is expected to meaningfully contribute to the group. Cheating, copying, or plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course, in accordance with Boise State University policy.

Laptops and other mobile devices can be used in class for note-taking, participation in iClicker, and the Blackboard course site for this course only. Use of laptops and other mobile devices for Facebook, YouTube, email, other coursework, etc. will not be tolerated.

**Active Learning Classroom Environment**

We are fortunate that students in this class represent a rich variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Professor Vos is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity which is particularly important in an active learning classroom. In order to receive the full benefit of learning from the unique backgrounds and perspectives of peers, all students are expected to:

- Share their unique experiences, values and beliefs;
- Be open to the views of others;
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues;
- Appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this classroom;
- Value each other’s opinions and communicate in a civil manner;
- Keep confidential discussions that the classroom has of a personal (or professional) nature; and
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the campus community.
Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities needing accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact the Educational Access Center (EAC). All accommodations must be approved through the EAC prior to being implemented. To learn more about the accommodation process, visit the EAC’s website.

Boise State University Legal Services for Students

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 full fee/activity fee paying students of Boise State. Topics eligible for discussions include the following:

- Landlord/Tenant problems
- Small claims court
- Divorce/Family Law
- Child Custody/Child Support
- DUI
- Collection & Debt Problems
- Wills
- Insurance claims
- Automobile accidents/Personal Injury
- Guardianship and Conservatorships
- 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. To schedule an appointment online visit Attorney. For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (208) 426-1527.

Modification of the Syllabus and Class 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.