

**Course Code & No. - Section:** BLAW 360 - Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Business Law  
**Term & Year:** Spring / 2014  
**Course Ref. No. (CRN):** 10035

**Instructor:** Professor Richard Gire (pronounced “Jeery”), J.D., M.B.A.  
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**Office:** TCES upstairs cubicles  
**Office Hours:** TTh 1-2:15pm by appointment

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 11:30am-12:45pm  
**Location:** TCES 106

**Prerequisites (from Catalog):** MGMT 260  
**Corequisites (from Catalog):**

### Course Description

This course provides students with an overview of our system of law and the legal issues that may be encountered in any business environment, underscoring the pervasiveness of such issues, and examining their significance within the context of a variety of business disciplines.

### Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Identify legal issues when they arise in a business environment as a component of **professional preparedness**.
2. Address such issues from an informed and **entrepreneurial** perspective.
3. Ascertain the relative seriousness of such issues.
4. Confidently seek advice from legal professionals with respect to issues deemed critical.
5. Assess and act upon professional advice received.
6. **Sustain** the value of business law lessons learned by knowing how to stay abreast of changes in legal precedence.

### Methods of Assessing Student Performance

Student performance will be assessed using the following:

1. Attendance and participation in class discussions;
2. Unannounced, written in-class, open-book/notes pop quizzes based upon reading assignments and lecture material;
3. Researched and written business document portfolio project;
4. Written in-class, closed-book, midterm examination and comprehensive final examination. The final examination date is not negotiable; students need to plan their summer break accordingly.

### Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, class discussions, case studies, an individually assigned project and reading/homework assignments.

**Required Text**

*Business Law Today*; Tenth Edition, Miller; South-Western/Cengage Learning (c) 2014; ISBN: 978-1-133-19135-3.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be taken at the outset of each class session. Full attendance is expected in that class preparation/participation is a significant component of a student's grade. Only two (2) absences are allowed for normal illness, transportation issues, etc. Hence, doctors' notes or other similar documentation are neither required nor accepted. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> absences will each result in a full grade point deduction from a student's preparation/participation grade. Any student missing five (5) class sessions without severe extenuating circumstances such as hospitalization, death in the immediate family, etc. will earn an "F" or an "Incomplete" in the class. Any student failing both the Midterm and Final Exam will also earn an "F" in the class. Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated and may also result in full grade point deductions from a student's preparation/participation grade. Missed pop quizzes may not be made up.

**Computing Devices/Cell Phones**

Unless cleared in advance for note-taking use by your professor, laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, or other digital computing devices may not be used during class sessions. Breaches in this policy may result in expulsion from a class session.

**Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism****The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

**Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

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## Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

- 1) Class Attendance/Participation – 20%
- 2) Unannounced Pop Quizzes – 15%
- 3) Business Document Portfolio Project – 20%
- 4) Midterm Exam – 20%
- 5) Final Exam – 25%

## ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

## The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). All students must have an SNC email account and students should check these accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## Class Schedule

(subject to change for variations in class progress)

Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – College Closed
Jan. 22	Business Law Exercise - Class Introduction
Jan. 27	U.S. Legal System Structure
Jan. 29	When/How to Find a Lawyer – The Practice of Law
Feb. 3	Foundations of U.S. Law – The Constitution – Supreme Court
Feb. 5	Legal Ethics – Sarbanes Oxley Act
Feb. 10	Organizational Structures
Feb. 12	Corporations
Feb. 17	President's Day – College Closed
Feb. 19	No Class
Feb. 24	Contracts – Formation/U.C.C.
Feb. 26	Contracts – Capacity/Legality Business Document Portfolio Project Assignment
March 3	Contracts – Breaches/Remedies
March 5	Litigation – Alternative Dispute Resolution Midterm Review Document Distribution
March 10	Midterm Review
March 12	Midterm Exam
March 17	Spring Break – School Closed
March 19	Spring Break – School Closed

March 24	Administrative Law/SEC/Antitrust
March 26	Business Document Portfolio Project Due
March 31	Torts
April 2	Negligence/Product Liability
April 2	Ski Resort Legal Issues
April 2	Ski Resort Case Distribution
April 7	Group Case Presentations
April 9	Real Property
April 14	Intellectual Property/Unfair Competition
April 16	Bankruptcy/Tax Law
April 21	Labor/Employment Law
April 23	Estate/Family Law
April 28	International Law/Law in Cyberspace
April 30	The Constitution and You – Bill of Rights
April 30	Criminal Law
May 5	Final Exam Review
May 5	Final Exam Review Document Distribution
May 9	Final Exam
3-6pm	

### Mission Statement

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the **liberal arts** and **professional preparedness** through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes **entrepreneurial thinking** and environmental, social, economic and educational **sustainability**.