

Course Code & No. - Section: BLAW 360 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Business Law
Term & Year: Spring / 2015
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10202

Instructor: Professor Richard Gire (pronounced “Jeery”), J.D., M.B.A.
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Office: TCES – 2nd Floor
Office Hours: TTh 10:00-11:30am by appointment

Class Meeting Time: TTh 1:00-2:15pm
Location: TCES 206

Prerequisites (from Catalog): Completion of 45 credits
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 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 3rd and 4th 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.

Class Requirements

Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, laptop computers, tablets, or smart phones may not be utilized during class. Such usage may result in immediate expulsion from class. Smart phones must be turned off or in "silent" mode.

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.

1st 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.

2nd 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.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

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 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	Business Law Exercise - Class Introduction
Jan. 22	U.S. Legal System Structure
Jan. 27	When/How to Find a Lawyer – The Practice of Law
Jan. 29	Foundations of U.S. Law – The Constitution – Supreme Court
Feb. 3	Organizational Structures
Feb. 5	Organizational Structures (cont.)
Feb. 10	Corporations
Feb. 12	Contracts – Formation/U.C.C.
Feb. 17	Contracts – Capacity/Legality
Feb. 19	Contracts – Breaches/Remedies
Feb. 24	Business Document Portfolio Project Assignment
	On-line Exercise
Feb. 26	No Class (Psychology Dept.)
March 3	Administrative Law
March 5	SEC/Antitrust Law
	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	Litigation – Alternative Dispute Resolution
March 26	Torts

March 31	Negligence/Product Liability
April 2	Business Document Portfolio Project Due
	Ski Resort Legal Issues
	Ski Resort Case Distribution/Group Meetings
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	Legal Ethics – Sarbanes Oxley Act
	The Constitution and You – Bill of Rights
May 5	Final Exam Review
	Review Document Distribution
May 7	No Class – Final Exam Preparation
May 9 (Saturday) 3-6pm	Final Exam

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**.