

Course Code & No. - Section: BLAW 360 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Business Law
Term & Year: Spring / 2020
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10507

Instructor: Professor Richard Gire (pronounced “Jeery”), J.D., M.B.A.
Phone(s): (530) 587-2327
Email: rgire@sierranevada.edu
Office: TCES – 2nd Floor
Office Hours: TTh 8:00-9:00am, by appointment only

Class Meeting Time: TTh 3:00-4:45pm
Location: TCES 106

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 including Socratic questioning;
2. Unannounced, written, in-class pop quizzes based upon reading assignments and/or 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 Winter break accordingly.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, class discussions, case studies, an individual business portfolio project and reading/homework assignments.

Required Text

Business Law Today – The Essentials – Text & Summarized Cases, Roger Leroy Miller, © 2017, Cengage Learning, 11th Edition, ISBN: 978-1-305-57479-3.

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. In the event of an absence, students are expected to obtain notes/assignments from their classmates and to keep up with all coursework assigned. 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 up to 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 grade point deductions from a student's preparation/participation grade. Missed pop quizzes may not be made up.

Athletics Excused Absences

The Athletic Director notifies faculty members via email of student athletes with excused absences for training and competition. This email excuses the student athlete from class attendance, **but not from doing the assigned reading or other coursework on time**. Student athletes are expected to obtain notes/assignments from their classmates and to keep up with all coursework assigned. Pop quizzes missed as a result of an excused absence will not be factored into a student athlete's grade. Without severe extenuating circumstances, student athletes are only allowed two (2) unexcused absences; hence, a 3rd unexcused absence will earn an "F" in the class.

Class Requirements

This class is a "no phone zone." Laptop computers/tablets may only be used for note-taking or other authorized class-related purposes. Students using smartphones/earbuds or using laptops/tablets for unauthorized purposes will be subject to expulsion.

Student Pets

Pets are not allowed in the classroom with the exception of bona fide service animals required by a student with a severe disability such as blindness, deafness, wheelchair restriction, or seizure disorders. Emotional support animals are not allowed without evidence from a licensed mental health professional of a student's psychological or emotional disability. ESA letters available for sale online will not be accepted for such purposes.

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. Faculty and students must make a diligent effort to ensure that high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers, as well as by 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 members 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. While student collaboration is acceptable and even encouraged, it is important that students recognize the difference between collaboration and plagiarism; the former occurs when students consult each other while each individually prepares an assignment, the latter occurs when one student's work is substantially copied and presented as one's own work. Both the student sharing his/her work and the student copying such work are equally guilty of plagiarism and both will be reported as required by SNC Administration.

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. 21 Jan. 23	Class Introduction - U.S. Legal System Structure When/How to Find a Lawyer – The Practice of Law
Jan. 28 Jan. 30	Foundations of U.S. Law – The Constitution – pp. 1-24, Appendix B Organizational Structures – pp. 524-541 Corporations – pp. 551-575
Feb. 4 Feb. 6	Contracts – Formation/U.C.C. – pp. 207-232 Contracts – Capacity/Legality – pp. 237-260 Contracts – Breaches/Remedies – pp. 265-288
Feb. 11 Feb. 13	Business Document Portfolio Instructions/Discussion Online Exercises Administrative Law – pp. 3-4 SEC/Securities Law – pp. 581-594
Feb. 18 Feb. 20	Litigation – Alternative Dispute Resolution – pp. 39-67 Torts – pp. 73-86
Feb. 25 Feb. 27	Torts (cont.) Negligence/Product Liability – pp. 86-100 3-4pm – Negligence/Product Liability (cont.) Distribute Midterm Exam Study Guide 4-6pm - Vilde Johansen Symposium
March 3 March 5	Midterm Review Midterm Exam
March 10 March 12	Spring Break – No Class Spring Break – No Class
March 17 March 19	Midterm Results Ski Resort Legal Issues Group Presentation Assignment Group Case Presentations Real Property – pp. 656-668
March 24 March 26	Labor/Employment Law – pp. 490-517 No Class – Business Document Portfolio Prep
March 31 April 2	No Class – Business Document Portfolio Prep Labor/Employment Law (cont.)
April 7 April 9	Intellectual Property/Unfair Competition – pp. 106-125 Business Document Portfolios Due Bankruptcy/Miscellaneous Tax Law – pp. 441-457
April 14 April 16	Estate/Family Law International Law/Law in Cyberspace – pp. 684-696, pp. 130-147 Distribute Final Exam Study Guide
April 21 April 23	Final Exam Review 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**.