



BLAW 023: U.S. Business Law

Term: 2020 Winter Session
Instructor: Staff
Language of Instruction: English
Classroom: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Class Sessions Per Week: 5
Total Weeks: 3
Total Class Sessions: 15
Class Session Length (minutes): 240
Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

This course provides a fundamental introduction to U.S. Business law. Students will examine the legal issues and legal risk management related to business decision making in business context, with focus on the basic principles of contract law and tort law, which is essential to business transaction. Topics covered in this course include: U.S. Legal Systems, tort law, contracts, property, employment, partnerships, corporations, debtor and creditor, bankruptcy and insolvency, sale of goods and consumer protection. Cases and current events will be used in the course to demonstrate legal issues and to solve business legal problems.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completions, students are expected to:

- 1) Understand the basics of U.S. legal system and the court system.
- 2) Understand the basics of Contract, including: contractual relationship, terms of contract, enforcement and termination of a contract, breach and remedies of contract, etc.
- 3) Identify different types and main principles of tort, as well as remedies to business tort.
- 4) Identify different laws involved in business context, including civil law, crime law, corporate law, property law, employment law, labor law, environment law, etc, and their features.
- 5) Develop understanding on procedures and policies to reduce legal risks in a company.

Course Materials:



1. **Textbook:**

The Legal Environment of Business, Meiners, Ringleb, and Edwards, 13th Edition

The Legal Environment of Business, Cross, 10th Edition

2. Lecture Notes

Course Format and Requirements:

Class time will be used for a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

Attendance:

Attendance at lectures is vital to get a thorough understanding of the material. This course requires verbal participation in class exercises, activities, and contributions to class discussions. Students must be present and actively involved to receive these points.

Grading Scale:

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Assignments:

6 Quizzes



Quizzes will usually consist of multiple choices, True-False, short answer questions and or short essay questions. No make-up quiz will be given.

Weekly Case Analysis Writing Assignment

This weekly assignment aims to test students' ability of applying business legal principles in covered chapter to analyze and solve real business cases. When writing the case analysis report, students shall understanding the following questions:

- 1) What are the legal issues or ethic issue in this case?
- 2) What possible bad impact would cause if these legal issues do not solve in an appropriate way?
- 3) Which legal principles does this case apply to? And why?
- 4) What are your solutions to the legal issues in the case?
- 5) Limitations and possible outcomes of each solution?
- 6) What lessons have you absorbed from this case, from the perspective of effective legal risk management?

Exams (Two midterm + Final)

Exams may not be taken early, made-up, or turned in late. Students must comply with all applicable instructions to receive credit. The Exams will include discussion questions and case problems. During the exams, each student must work individually without consulting others.

Course Assessment:

6 Quizzes	15%
Weekly Case Analysis Writing Assignment	30%
Midterm Exams 1	15%
Midterm Exams 2	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Course Schedule:



Week	Topics	Activities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go through Syllabus ● Course Introduction: What is Business law? And Why We Study Business Law? ● Overview of American legal system and Constitutional Law ● The legal Environment of Business and Legal Risk Management in a firm ● American Court System ● Alternative Dispute Resolution ● Administrative Regulations ● Basic Introduction to Civil Law and Criminal Law ● Tort Law: Intro to Tort law, Main Types and General Principles of Tort Business Tort Negligence, Premises Liability, Defense Intentional Torts and Unintentional Torts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 1 and Quiz 2 ● Class Discussion ● Weekly Case Analysis Writing Assignment ● Midterm 1
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Property: Personal Property Intellectual property(Copyright, Trademarks, Patent and Trade Secret) Real property ● Contract Law: Introduction, Source of Contract Law, Elements of A Valid Contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 3 and Quiz 4 ● Class Discussion ● Weekly Case Analysis Writing Assignment ● Midterm 2



	<p>Forming a Contractual Relationship</p> <p>The Terms of a Contract</p> <p>Offer and Acceptance</p> <p>Non-enforcement, Enforcement and Termination of Contract</p> <p>Breach of Contract, Remedies, Damages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Corporate Law and Legal Forms of Business: Sole Proprietorship General Partnership, Limited Partnership and limited Liability Partnership Corporation● Agency Relationship	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Employment Law, Employee right, Employment Relationship and Termination of the Employment● Sales of Goods: The contract, product and Promotion Price, distribution, and Risk Management Consumer protection● Financing the Business: Business and Banking Debtor and Creditor Bankruptcy and Insolvency● Environment Law● Business, Ethics and Law● Business Law and Cyber in Contemporary Business World● Review for Final	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Quiz 5 and Quiz 6● Class Discussion● Weekly Case Analysis Writing Assignment● Final Exam



Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.