

**BUS 126 – Business and the Legal Environment**  
**Code: 20130**

“The only legal certainty is the certainty of legal change. What makes law, it’s study and practice, qualitatively unlike most other things that human beings do is that we can never be sure of anything.”

-Justice E. Peters, Conn. Supreme  
Court

“The life of the law has not been logic: it has been experience.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

“Law is not justice and a trial is not a scientific inquiry into truth. A trial is the resolution of a dispute.”

-Edison Haines

**Course Information**

Semester: Spring 2015

Course Title and Number: BUS126—Business and the Legal Environment

CRN Number: 20130

Class Hours and Location: MW 10:15-11:40a, Room 411

Class Dates: February 17 - June 12, 2015

Units: 3

Instructor: Mr. Beckley; Office: 207; Phone: (760) 355-6324

Email: [jeff.beckley@imperial.edu](mailto:jeff.beckley@imperial.edu)

Office Hours: M: 9:15-10:15a; T: 6:00-6:30p; W: 9:45-10:15a, 6:00-6:30p; R: 6:00-6:30p

Online Office Hour: Sundays 6:00-7:00p

**Course Description**

An introduction to the legal environment of business. The following topics are covered: sources of the law, judicial systems, administrative law and governmental regulation, crimes and torts, protection of intellectual property, contracts, commercial paper, agency, labor law, legal forms of business organization, securities regulation, consumer and environmental law, warranties and product liability, bankruptcy, real property law and international law. Collaborative learning and the team approach are used in doing the

legal research, reading and understanding court opinions and writing brief of cases. (C-ID BUS 120) (CSU, UC)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- Evaluate and analyze three distinct legal case problems and communicate the results demonstrating writing competencies at the college level. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Identify, define, appropriately apply and analyze the five elements of a contract in a simulated factual situation based on an actual legal case. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- Identify, define, appropriately apply and analyze the four elements of negligence in a simulated factual situation based on an actual legal case. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)

### **Course Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define law.
2. Identify sources of the law.
3. Describe the impact of the Constitution on business and write a report.
4. Describe courts, judicial process, and alternative resolution of disputes.
5. Recognize crimes and criminal procedure.
6. Recognize business and individual torts.
7. Recognize the impact of law on computer technology.
8. Explain how intellectual property is protected.
9. Recognize the role of ethics and social responsibility in the world of business.
10. Explain the role of Administrative Agencies, Administrative Law and anti-trust law.
11. Explain the various classifications of contracts.
12. Explain the requirements needed to have a valid contract.
13. Explain the kinds of commercial paper, parties, and negotiability.
14. Student will explain the relationships between Principal and Agent.
15. Student will explain how an agency is terminated.
16. Describe the various laws that affect the labor-management relationships.
17. Identify the various forms of legal forms of business organization

and franchising.

18. Describe the elements of securities regulation.
19. Explain the laws that protect business and consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices.
20. Describe environmental law.
21. Explain theory of product liability.
22. Explain implied warranties and limited warranties under federal law.
23. Describe bankruptcy law, bankruptcy court, and the various proceedings.
24. Explain the nature of real property and real estate law.
25. Explain the fundamentals of international law.
26. Identify the methods that facilitate international commercial transactions.
27. Student will explain legal principles and doctrines followed in resolving international commercial disputes.
28. Collaborate with other student in doing legal research, in reading and understanding court opinions, and writing brief of cases.

### **Text and Required Course Materials**

Cross and Miller, The Legal Environment of Business, 9th edition, Cengage Learning, 2015 (*Student's Edition* ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-1-285-43511-4; ISBN-10: 1-285-43511-7) (*Text website*: [www.cengage.com/blaw/cross](http://www.cengage.com/blaw/cross))

### **Course Requirements and Instructional Methods**

Class activities will primarily consist of lecture and group discussion activities. Assignments will include reading of the textbook and other relevant material, and analysis of legal cases and problems. This will be done both in-class and through out-of-class homework assignments that will be distributed throughout the semester. There will be three Mid-term Exams throughout the course of the semester. These exams will occur approximately every 5 weeks and will focus on material that we have recently studied. One of these exam scores will be dropped when calculating student grades. There will also be a comprehensive Final Exam during Finals week. (Please see the "Course Grading" section below for more information on this topic.)

**Course Grading**

Exam 1	60
Exam 2	60
Exam 3	60
Drop Exam	-60
Final Exam	80
Take-Home Exam	30
Homework	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

**Scale**

A = 270-300
B = 240-269
C = 210-239
D = 180-209

**Note on Exams:** Each student will need to provide a Scantron (100), a # 2 pencil, and a Blue Book for each exam. Once an exam has started, students may not leave the classroom until they have finished the exam. There will be no make-up exams.

**Note on Take-Home Exam:** The Take-Home Exam will consist of essay questions covering Chapters 4 and 5 of the text. It will be assigned in the latter half of the course. Students will have approximately 2 weeks to complete the exam. Details to follow.

**Note on Homework:** Homework will consist of student analysis of legal case problems. Homework must be turned in on the date assigned to receive full credit. Homework may be turned in one class period late for up to one-half credit. No homework will be accepted that is more than one class period late.

**Attendance Policy:**

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See IVC General Catalog for details.

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. If a student is absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes for that day's lecture. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.

Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.

Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.

Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.

Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you should ask for help.

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do

an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) use of a commercial term paper service

### **Disabled Students Programs and Services:**

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

### **Student Counseling and Health Services**

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at

[http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&qid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&qid=4516&Itemid=762)

### **Information Literacy**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

### **Tentative Course Outline**

Week 1—Introduction

Week 2—Chapter 1

Week 3—Chapter 2

Week 4—Chapter 3

Week 5—Chapter 6

Week 6—Exam 1, Chapter 9

Week 7—Chapter 9

Week 8—Chapter 10  
Week 9—Chapter 10,11  
Week 10—Exam 2, Chapter 12  
Week 11—Chapter 12, 14  
Week 12—Chapter 14, 7  
Week 13—Chapter 7, 22  
Week 14—Chapter 22, 27  
Week 15—Review, Exam 3  
Week 16—Final Exam

**Final Note**

The above schedule and procedures are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.