

**BUS 126 – Business and the Legal Environment**  
**Spring 2014 Code: 20638**

“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**

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

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, 4:15-4:45p; T: 4-4:45p; W: 9:30-10:15a; 4:15-4:45p; R: 4:15-4:45p

**Text and Required Course Materials**

Cross and Miller, The Legal Environment of Business, 8th edition, South-Western/Cengage Learning, 2012 (*Student’s Edition* ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-0-538-45399-8; ISBN-10: 0-538-45399-0) (*Text website*: [www.cengage.com/blaw/cross](http://www.cengage.com/blaw/cross))

**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)

**Course Objective:** To explore the analytical processes of learning and understanding the law and the policies behind the law.

**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.
- Identify, define, appropriately apply and analyze the five elements of a contract in a simulated factual situation based on an actual legal case.
- Identify, define, appropriately apply and analyze the four elements of negligence in a simulated factual situation based on an actual legal case.

**Evaluation**

**Scale**

Exam 1	60	A = 252-280
Exam 2	60	B = 224-251
Exam 3	60	C = 196-223
Drop Exam	-60	D = 168-195
Final Exam	80	
Take-Home Exam	30	
Homework	50	
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	

**Note on Exams:** Each student will need to provide a Scantron (100) and a # 2 pencil for each exam. Each student will need to provide a Blue Book for the Final 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 must 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&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=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, Chapter 1  
Week 2—Chapter 1, 2  
Week 3—Chapter 3  
Week 4—Chapter 3, 6  
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 7  
Week 13—Chapter 22  
Week 14—Chapter 27  
Week 15—Exam 3, Review  
Week 16—Final Exam

### **Final Note**

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