The Legal Environment of Business
Course ID #40037 | 3 Credits | Summer 2017 Semester Term

Instructor: Brett J. Long
Email: blong@usi.edu
Phone: 8124657146

Office Hours: By Appointment
Online Meeting: By Appointment Using Zoom or Phone
Office Number: BEC 2063

Course Description

Required: Business Core requirement for all business majors. An introduction to the legal system within which business organizations operate, as well as ethical considerations and social and political influences that affect such organizations by changing the legal system.

Prerequisite(s): sophomore standing.

Term(s) Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recall, recognize, or describe legal terms, historical origins, institutions, law types, law sources, legal processes, and functions of fundamental laws relevant to business.
- Identify typical legal issues that arise in the business environment and apply the appropriate law to determine the most likely legal outcome.
- Compare and contrast legal and ethical decision making in situations relevant to businesses.
- Develop critical thinking skills through legal problem solving.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills and ethical awareness.

Communication Guidelines

- Netiquette
  All class communications and interactions with other students and the professor should follow common social standards for respect and courtesy. Learn about the USI Netiquette Guidelines for Online Students so that you can get the most out of your class.

- Communication Expectation
Students should contact the instructor through email. The instructor will respond by the end of the next business day. Students should expect to receive feedback on graded assignments within 1 week of the due date of the assignment.

**Blackboard Course Site Overview**
Blaw 263 on Blackboard includes 4 modules that cover a total of 24 chapters of content. Each module includes reading assignments, video-lectures, discussion boards, internet research or written communication assignments, formative quizzes, and examinations in chronological order with the text.

**Course Requirements**
- **Required Readings** Textbook Chapters 1-6, 8-15, 17-25, and 27
- **Technical Requirements**
  - **A Reliable Computer**: a dedicated computer with an updated operating system, such as Windows 7 or later, or Mac OS X.
  - **High-Speed Internet Connection**: (e.g. DSL or Cable). All USI online students are required to have a stable high-speed Internet connection. A wired Internet connection is recommended for online meeting, exams, and assignment submission.
  - **Office 365** (USI login needed) & **Adobe Acrobat Reader** installed.
  - **Supported Web Browser**: Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari.
  - Headset & Webcam
  - Any additional software/hardware required for your class

* More information on the system requirements for taking online courses can be found at [http://usi.edu/distance/students/current/requirements](http://usi.edu/distance/students/current/requirements).

**Minimum Technical Skills**
Students must be able to navigate Blackboard and post comments on Blackboard.

**Online Student Readiness Assessment**
To get started with the assessment, go to Blackboard and choose the course site FREE Distance Learning Student Readiness Assessment in your course list. Spend 20min to learn about your readiness level and get ready for online learning. If you have any questions about this assessment, please call the Department of Distance Learning at 812/228-5124 for assistance.

**Assessment**
Graded weekly assignments in this course include chapter quizzes, examinations, discussion boards, internet research assignments or business letter assignments. All assignments are due by Friday of that
week at 11:00 p.m. Discussion board comments on postings by peers are due by Noon on Saturday of that week at 6:00 p.m.

### Grading Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Point Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Research</td>
<td>Every Friday at 11:00 p.m. CST</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Letters</td>
<td>Every Friday at 11:00 p.m. CST</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>Every Friday at 11:00 p.m. CST</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation</td>
<td>Every Friday at 11:00 p.m. CST Comments on postings of peers are due every Saturday at Noon. CST</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>Saturday at Midnight CST as stated on the calendar</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total: | 850 | 100% |

### Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>850-765</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>764-731</td>
<td>86-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>730-680</td>
<td>80-85.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>679-646</td>
<td>76-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>645-595</td>
<td>70-75.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>594-561</td>
<td>66-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>560-510</td>
<td>60-65.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 510</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Policy

- **Participation**
  
  In order to obtain full credit for participation, students are expected to post their legal decision for each “You be the Judge” case and give appropriate reasons for their decision. This participation is worth a maximum 30 points per discussion board. Constructive and appropriate comments on your classmates’ decisions will also be considered in earning an additional 7.5 participation points for each “You be the Judge” discussion board assignment. Comments should be supported with authority that supports your position or comment.

- **Late Assignment Policy**

  Twenty percent of the total points allowed for assignments will be deducted for work submitted late. No points will be assessed for assignments or examinations, submitted after the instructor has given feedback on those assignments or examinations. If students fail to complete examinations on time, students will generally not be allowed to take makeup tests. If students
will not be able to complete examinations on time (because of valid emergencies) they should ask the instructor for some accommodation prior to the date of those examinations. Accommodations will be approved by the instructor only where circumstances so warrant.

- **Academic Dishonesty**
  Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism and/or cheating on an examination will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information, please visit [http://www.usi.edu/media/3379739/Academic-Integrity-Policy-Interim-Fall-2014.pdf](http://www.usi.edu/media/3379739/Academic-Integrity-Policy-Interim-Fall-2014.pdf).

- **Diversity Issues**
  The pursuit of an intellectually open setting for class discussions is one of the goals of the course. Students should feel free to articulate respectfully different perceptions of the social world; however, belittling, abusive, and discriminatory language will not be tolerated under any circumstances. For more information, please visit [http://www.usi.edu/diversityresources/](http://www.usi.edu/diversityresources/).

- **Disability Statement**
  If you have a disability for which you may require academic accommodations for this class, please contact Disability Resources at 812-464-1961 or email Ronda Stone at rfstone@usi.edu as soon as possible. Students who are approved for accommodations by Disability Resources should request their accommodation letter be sent to their online instructors. Due to the nature of online courses some accommodations approved for on campus courses may not apply. Please discuss this with Disability Resources to clarify as needed. Students who receive an accommodation letter from Disability Resources are encouraged to discuss the provisions of those accommodations with their professors before or during the first week of the semester. If you will be in an internship, field, clinical, student teaching, or other off-campus setting this semester please note that approved academic accommodations may not apply. Please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible to discuss accommodations needed for access while in this setting. For more information, please visit the Disability Resources website at [www.usi.edu/disabilities](http://www.usi.edu/disabilities).

- **Title IX – Sexual Misconduct**
  USI does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report incidences of potential sexual misconduct known to them to the Title IX Coordinator to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those who need to know to ensure we can respond and assist. If you are seeking help and would like to speak to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with a counselor.
in the University Counseling Center. Find more information about sexual violence, including campus and community resources at www.usi.edu/stopsexualassault.

- **Class Withdrawal & Incomplete Policy**
  It is the student’s responsibility to officially drop/withdraw from any courses before the deadline. The university does not withdraw students from any classes. Please refer to the USI Academic Calendar (https://www.usi.edu/registrar/academic-calendar) for specific dates. For more information, please visit http://www.usi.edu/registrar.

Under special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. However, it is up to the course instructor to decide if an incomplete will be granted. Students receiving an incomplete grade will need to complete all course requirements by the agreed deadline to avoid an “F” grade.

**Syllabus Change Policy:**
This syllabus is a guide to the course may be subject to change with reasonable advanced notice.

**Technical Support**

- **IT Help Desk Support**
  Since your professors are not trained as technology experts, they will not be able to assist you with your technical needs. Please contact the Help Desk at (812) 465-1080 or send an email to it@usi.edu for technical support. To learn more about the USI helpdesk, please visit http://www.usi.edu/distance/students/current/help-desk

  o **Blackboard Support**
    If you would like to speak to a support technician, you can call (812) 465-1080 during normal USI business hours (8am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday). Click on the following link for more FAQ about Blackboard http://www.usi.edu/it/blackboard-online-help/faq-for-students.

- **Distance Learning Office Support**
  o **VoiceThread Support**
    For issues involving VoiceThread, please contact the department of Distance Learning at (812) 228-5124 or send an email to DLHelp@usi.edu. The following link will direct you to tutorials on how to use VoiceThread https://docs.voicethread.com/web-application/browse/publishing-your-own-voicethread/.

  o **Web Meeting Support** (e.g. Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate, etc.)
    For issues involving web meeting setup/host/participation, please contact the Department of Distance Learning at (812) 228-5124 or send an email to DLHelp@usi.edu.

- **Privacy Policies & Accessibility Statements**
For detailed information about the privacy policies and accessibility statements of the course technologies, please visit https://www.usi.edu/distance/students/current/support.

**Academic Support Services**

- **The Writing Lab**
  The Writers' Room serves as a resource for undergraduate writers by providing assistance from peer writing consultants, a comfortable writing environment, and reference materials. [http://www.usi.edu/university-division/academic-skills/tutoring/writers-room](http://www.usi.edu/university-division/academic-skills/tutoring/writers-room)

- **APA Guidelines**
  [http://usi.libguides.com/citingsources](http://usi.libguides.com/citingsources)

- **David L. Rice Library**
  [http://www.usi.edu/library](http://www.usi.edu/library)

- **Research Guides**
  Research assistance, subject guides, and useful resources compiled by your friendly librarians. [http://usi.libguides.com/](http://usi.libguides.com/)

- **Consulting Center**
  [http://www.usi.edu/counselingcenter/](http://www.usi.edu/counselingcenter/)

- **Disability, and ADA Support**
  [http://www.usi.edu/university-division/disabilities](http://www.usi.edu/university-division/disabilities)

- **Student Grievances**
  [https://www.usi.edu/media/3402299/Grievance-and-Complaints-Procedures.pdf](https://www.usi.edu/media/3402299/Grievance-and-Complaints-Procedures.pdf)

- **Exam Proctoring**
  The USI Distance Learning Office offers various exam-proctoring services for distance learning students. For more information, call (812) 228-5124 or visit [http://www.usi.edu/distance/students/current/proctoring](http://www.usi.edu/distance/students/current/proctoring).

- **Student Handbook**
  All other academic and support services are located within the student handbook. Please refer to student handbook at [https://www.usi.edu/deanofstudents/code](https://www.usi.edu/deanofstudents/code) for detailed information regarding advising, registration, financial aid, student and campus life, counseling, career services, list of student organizations, etc.