

Instructor: Professor McCabe

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Morgan Page: <http://morgan.wells.edu/faculty/mmccabe/BUS305.htm>

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the legal system and its impact on business. Students will learn about the basics of the legal system, along with aspects of civil law, criminal law, and contracts. The course also provides students with an overview of how the legal system influences everyday situations and governs business and personal transactions.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the legal system.
- Critically analyze statutory and case law and how statutory and case law applies to business and personal situations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contracts and how contracts are used in business and personal situations.
- Evaluate the legal and ethical ramifications of business activities.
- Apply information learned to prepare written analyses of the legal implications of business actions and situations.
- Demonstrate the ability to present findings in writing.

Textbook: *The Legal Environment of Business*, 7th edition, by Kubasek, Brennan, and Browne

Class Session	Date	Book Chapter	Topic & Review of Assigned Problems	Problems & Other Assignments
1	8/31/2015	1 - 2	Course Introduction; How to Read a Case ( <i>Ostrum v. Educational Credit Management</i> ); "Critical Thinking and Legal Reasoning;" "Introduction to Law and the Legal Environment of Business"	Read Chapters 1-3
2	9/7/2015	3	Select cases from Chapters 3 & 4 to present in class next week; "The American Legal System"	Read Chapter 4, <b>Research and prepare brief write-up on selected case</b>
3	9/14/2015	4	<b>Discuss Cases</b> ; "Alternative Tools of Dispute Resolution"	Read chapter 5
4	9/21/2015	5	"Constitutional Principles"	Read chapters 7 and 10-11
5	9/28/2015	7 and 10	"White Collar Crime and the Business Community;" "The Law of Contracts and Sales"	<b>Take home Test 1 : Chapters 1 - 5 and 7</b> (Grading point for 1st 7 weeks), due 10/5
6	10/5/2015	10 - 11	<b>Test 1 Due</b> ; "The Law of Contracts and Sales"	Read chapter 12
	10/12/2015		<b>Fall Break - No Class</b>	
7	10/19/2015	12	"The Law of Torts"	Read chapter 13
8	10/26/2015	13	"Product and Service Liability Law"	Work on outline/draft of paper; Read chapter 19
9	11/2/2015	19	"The Law of Administrative Agencies"	Work on Outline/draft of paper; Read chapters 16 and 20

				<b>Take Home Test 2: Chapters 10-13, 19 Due 11/6</b>
10	11/9/2015	16	<b>Turn in outline/draft of paper</b> ; "Agency Law"	Chapter 20; Work on Paper
11	11/16/2015	20	<b>Take Home Test 2 Due</b> ; "The Employment Relationship"	Read Chapter 21; Work on Paper and Group Project
12	11/23/2015	21	<b>Paper Due</b> ; "Laws Governing Labor-Management Relations"	Read Chapter 22; Work on group project
13	11/30/2015	22	<b>Paper Due</b> ; "Employment Discrimination"	Work on group project
13	12/7/2015		Group presentations , Final Review	Final exams handed out, due 12/14/15; May be emailed, forwarded by campus mail, mailed, or slid under office door

### Grading & Course Policies

#### 1 Final Course Grade

Class participation	20%
2 Tests	30%
Quizes, Paper Draft	5%
Paper	15%
Group Project	10%
Final Exam	20%
	100%

Class participation is graded from 0 to 3 as follows:

- 0: Absent from class
  - 1: In class - little or no participation
  - 2: In class - good participation but with limited insight into topic of discussion
  - 3: In class - outstanding contribution to topic discussion
- Two lowest class participation grades are dropped from average for excused and unexcused absences, no grade given for 1st class

Final grade scores (see above) will be converted to final letter grades using grading as explained on page 45 of the 2013-2014 College Catalog.

#### 2 Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment. Please email me to set up a time to meet.

#### 3 Late assignments

Late assignments will be marked down 1 whole letter grade for each day late. Late assignments will not be accepted more than 3 business days late and the grade on them will be a zero.

#### 4 Excel & PowerPoint Use

Homework problems and the group project require use of Excel spreadsheet and PowerPoint presentation software. If you do not know how to use standard business software, contact Molly Brown @ molly.brown@wells.edu, X3354 as soon as possible to arrange to take the Library workshop in Excel.

#### 5 Electronics in the classroom

Cell phones, music players and other devices are to be turned off during class. There is to be no usage, including texting, during the class session. The only exception is the use of laptop computers for note taking and problem solving.

#### 6 Honor Code

Community Honor shall be the basis of student government at Wells College. The principle of Community Honor is based upon the pledge of each member of the student body to be honest and trustworthy in the conduct of her or his collegiate life as it is defined or encompassed by the Collegiate Rules. Wells College students are under community obligation and pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, deceive or conceal in the conduct of their collegiate life as defined or encompassed by the Collegiate Rules. Each student is obligated to report violations of community honor involving herself or himself to a member of the faculty or member of the appropriate judicial body within 24 hours. A member of the student body, member of the faculty, or member of the administration or staff who is a witness to a violation (or an admission of a violation) of community honor has responsibility to urge the offender to report herself or himself. If the offender fails to do so, the obligation falls to the witness.

#### 7 Students with Disabilities

Wells College makes reasonable accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a learning disability, a chronic illness, physical or mental health disability that may have some impact on your work for this class and for which you may need accommodations, please notify the Office of Student Achievement, located in the Learning Commons, Long Library by calling x3432 or emailing [studentachievement@wells.edu](mailto:studentachievement@wells.edu).

#### 8 Group Project Presentation

Form groups in class to complete a project to be assigned later. Your team will be in charge of researching the legal issues surrounding a case scenario. Your team will prepare a legal checklist of issues that should be considered, discuss your findings, and present recommendations. Review all of the subject areas covered in class, with a discussion of the implications and ramifications of each area of law. Please consider all topics covered in the course for incorporation into your presentation. The project will be completed as a team and everyone on the team will have joint and several liability for the final presentation. Grading will be based upon your team's ability to address each of the areas of law covered in class and the application of these factors. In addition to the quality of the analysis, the project is intended to help improve presentation and PowerPoint skills. Each team member must present part of the solution. The team will be assessed as a whole. This assignment is also intended to teach class participants how organizations may create ad hoc teams for certain projects, as well as group dynamics.

#### 9 Paper

##### **FORMAT**

Legal Question: (What is the legal question in this matter)

Brief Answer: (Summarize your findings -- leave this blank until you are finished -- should be a sentence or two)

Statement of the Facts: (What happened)

Discussion: (The longest part, talk about the legal tests used and how the facts apply to each part of the legal tests)