

The Ohio State University
BusFin 3500
The Legal Environment of Business
Autumn 2022, Session 1

August 23, 2022

Instructor: Professor John David Blackburn
236 Fisher Hall
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Class Meeting Schedule:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| MWF 12:40-1:35 | Section 4318 | Schoenbaum 320 |
| MWF 1:50-2:45 | Section 4402 | Schoenbaum 320 |
| MWF 4:10-5:05 | Section 4317 | Schoenbaum 320 |

Mode of Delivery: 100% in-person, except that CarmenCanvas is used for announcements, posting assignments, and administering quizzes and exams; and office hours are conducted via Zoom.

Attendance Policy: See, Rules of the University Faculty, Rule 3335-9-21, *Absences*, reprinted later in the Appendix of this syllabus.

CarmenCanvas: I post information about the course on CarmenCanvas. Be sure to sign up on CarmenCanvas to receive announcements and other notifications. There's an old saying, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse." Ignorance of posted announcements won't excuse nonperformance of a course requirement. So, don't miss out; sign up for getting announcements in CarmenCanvas.

Office Hours: My office hours are Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 and by appointment via Zoom. We can usually conduct our business in 15 minutes. To see me during office hours, send me an email asking to schedule a meeting, and I'll send you a Zoom meeting invitation that includes the Zoom link for the meeting. If you want to meet outside of my regular Tuesday office hours, send me an email and give me three (3) days and times that are convenient for you. Usually one of those alternatives will work.

Required Course Materials: *Essentials of the Legal Environment of Business: Applications and Ethical Considerations, Third Edition* (ISBN: 978-1-71147-106-8) (XanEdu 2022) by Blackburn and Klayman (hereinafter *B&K*), available at Barnes & Noble-OSU Bookstore. On the inside cover of the hardcopy text is a code that provides you with access to the digital version of the book.

Additional online required reading material will also be assigned periodically. This material is usually about a current event that is relevant to the course. Link(s) to this material will be sent to you through the Announcements function of CarmenCanvas. Check regularly your email and the Announcements section in CarmenCanvas so you won't miss this required reading material, which we will discuss in class.

Course Description: *An introduction to American legal institutions, sources of law, and an analysis of basic concepts of public and private law related to business decisions.*

Course Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a foundation-level knowledge of the characteristics and concepts generally associated with the U.S. legal environment of business. A few examples of, in general, characteristics of U.S. law are: democratic, rationalist, and pragmatic. Some examples of legal concepts are: the requirements of contracts; and, the elements (that is, required proof) of torts, which are those acts that, if carried out and cause harm, make the actor liable for the harm that was done.
- Engage in analysis and problem-solving skills enabling the student to identify and critically assess legal problems facing contemporary businesses.
- Identify and address ethical issues surrounding business decisions.

Course Format: Lecture and discussion. You read that right: **discussion**. Our time together will be spent better if we all come prepared to discuss the assigned material. I welcome your questions and your thoughts about the material. I will call on students (It could be you!) to challenge and develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Communication: The best way to reach me remotely is by email. Include the time your section meets in the subject line of your email if you want me to answer it. If you email me and haven't received a response within 24 hours, assume the email was not received and resend it—and double check to see you have included the time your section meets in the subject line!

Evaluation and Grading: Your course performance will be based on your point score out of a total of 100 points on (1) six homework quizzes (total quiz points possible: 30); (2) a midterm exam (total points possible 30); and (3) a final exam (total points possible: 40).

Each quiz will be on a chapter we cover and any related online material that is also assigned. You can expect about 5 questions per chapter, with each question worth one point. However, some quizzes are shorter or longer than 5 questions. The number of questions on any given quiz usually depends on (1) the number of classes assigned to cover the chapter, (2) the length of the chapter, or (3) the amount of assigned online material reflecting current events. Questions may be of the true-false and/or multiple-choice format.

The midterm exam will have 30 questions, worth one point each and which may be of the true-false and/or multiple-choice format. The final exam will have 40 questions of the same format and worth one point each. The allotted time for the exams will be (a) one hour for the midterm, and (b) two hours for the final.

All quizzes and exams are conducted on CarmenCanvas (It calls both quizzes and exams, "quizzes.") and which I post in the Quizzes section of CarmenCanvas. I will post each homework quiz on CarmenCanvas shortly before we start the discussion of an assigned

chapter. The quiz will be due at 6:00 p.m. ET the class day we end coverage of the chapter. Each quiz is open book, open note, with more than one attempt allowed, and collaborative. You may complete quizzes with others. Because you will have several days to complete each quiz, late submissions for quizzes will not be accepted. Take note of each quiz's due date, as you will not have an opportunity to make up quizzes. The quiz will be locked after the due date, and if the quiz is not complete, you will receive a zero for that quiz. I suggest that you do the assigned reading for a given class, then answer the quiz questions before class. That way you can get a feel for how well you understand the material covered by the questions and know what to ask about in our class sessions; and, I can review the CarmenCanvas statistical report for the quiz, and get a feel for how students are understanding the material before class. All this helps me decide what to focus on in our class discussions.

The midterm and final exams are also conducted on CarmenCanvas. They will be available from 12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on the day the exam is scheduled. They are open book and open note, but you will have only one attempt (one-hour duration for the midterm, and two hours duration for the final), and you cannot collaborate with any other person or thing before or during these exams. The purpose of the midterm is to give you feedback on how you are doing in the course at the midway point; the purpose of the final is to evaluate your knowledge of the course content at its end. (Therefore, the final exam will cover all the material covered in the course from start to finish.) To repeat what was stated earlier, the midterm will have 30 questions, and the final will have 40 questions, the questions on each exam may be of the true-false and/or multiple-choice format, and the questions will be worth one point each.

See the Course Schedule, below for the days the quizzes are due, and for the days the midterm and the final exams are scheduled. (Remember, the deadline for each of the exams will be 11:59 p.m. the day the exam is made available on CarmenCanvas—so be sure to start your exam early enough to allow you the allotted time to take it—one hour for the midterm; two hours for the final.)

The following is grading scale that will be applied to your total point score at the end of the course to determine your course letter grade:

93-100 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
60-66 = D
00-59 = E

Tentative Course Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Required Reading</u> |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 8/24 | Course Introduction | Syllabus |
| 8/26 | Nature of Legal Study | B&K <i>Introduction</i> pp. 1-10 |
| 8/29 - 8/31 | Law & Ethics | B&K, Chapter 1 |
| 8/31 | Ch. 1 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 9/2 - 9/7 | Nature of Law and Legal Reasoning | B&K, Chapter 2 |
| 9/7 | Ch. 2 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 9/9 - 9/12 | American Legal System | B&K, Chapter 3 |
| 9/12 | Ch. 3 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 9/14 | Midterm Exam (covers course from 8/24-9/12) -- no class | |
| 9/16 - 9/23 | Law of Contractual Relations | B&K, Chapter 5 |
| 9/23 | Ch. 5 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 9/26 – 9/30 | Law of Injuries (Tort Law) | B&K, Chapter 6 |
| 9/30 | Ch. 6 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 10/3 – 10/10 | Equal Employment Opportunity | B&K Chapter 8 |
| 10/10 | Ch. 2 quiz due @ 6:00 p.m. | |
| 10/12 | Final Exam (covers entire course from 8/24 – 10/10)—no class | |

APPENDIX

STATEMENTS CONCERNING UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

Ohio State’s Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty.

Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.” The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335–23–04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination.

Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct, so you should review the Code of Student Conduct (<https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>) and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct (<https://trustees.osu.edu/code-student-conduct/3335-23-04>).

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) for your reference are:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct (<https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (<https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct/student-misconduct#Ten-Suggestions>)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (<https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies-procedures/academic-integrity/cardinal-rules.html>)

Attendance Policy: University Faculty Rule 3335-9-21, entitled, *Absences*, states:

Each department or school may make its own rules relative to occasional absences by students from scheduled activities. If, however, a student is absent from a course to such an extent as to imperil his or her credit, or is notably irregular in attendance, it shall be the duty of the instructor concerned to report the facts promptly to the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled. The dean may take such action as deemed appropriate.

Commitment to a Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environment: The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Mental Health Services Available at OSU: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling [614-292--5766](tel:6142925766). CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Yountkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at [614-292--5766](tel:6142925766) and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Statement on Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Requesting Accommodations, Including Student COVID-related Accommodation

Process: The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's [request process](#), managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Statement on Title IX: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu