



## **BUSFIN 3500-Legal Environment of Business**

### **Syllabus**

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**Instructor: Joseph R. Irvine CPA, M.S., J.D.**

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**Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00 & 3:00-3:30, F 12:00-1:00 and by apt.**

**Meeting Time: MWF 10:20-11:15, Schoenbaum 320 (4198)**

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#### **Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the U.S. legal system and sources of law and an analysis of basic legal concepts related to business decisions. Primary areas covered include torts, contracts and employment law. It will involve discussion, questions and answers on the materials, and case study. Class participation will be expected. Students will be expected to discuss the cases and problems in each chapter covered. Unannounced quizzes may be given and homework may be required. 1.5 credit hours.

#### **Required Text:**

Kubasek, Nancy. Dynamic Business Law. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2020. Fifth Edition. See below for the options on where to get the book. The fourth addition does not contain all of the cases we will cover. Additional material will be posted on Carmen.

#### **Goals:**

The primary objectives of this course are to provide students with: a) an understanding of the legal framework within which American business operates, b) an introduction to basic legal concepts relevant to business decisions, c) experience in legal analysis, and d) an opportunity to improve communication skills.

#### **Academic Conduct:**

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, submitting the same or similar work for credit in more than one class, 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 I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If a student is suspected of or reported to have committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to COAM. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. It is my policy to pursue the most severe penalties available in cases of academic dishonesty. **Having a cell phone or other electronic device in the testing area during an exam is considered academic misconduct – no exceptions.**

**Requirements:**

In addition to the class participation mentioned above, homework questions will be posted on Carmen. Homework questions may be discussed in class, but written responses will not be required to be turned in without prior notice. Notice may be provided in class or via e mail. Students are responsible for information covered in class and may not use a class absence (excused or unexcused) as an excuse for failing to be aware of an assignment or other class requirement.

**Workload Expectation:**

The university and college expectation is that students spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Since this course meets 3 hours per week, you should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of class on course-related work.

**Resources:**

There are various online sites that contain useful information on the topics we will be covering in class. Nearly all of the cases in the text and in the homework problems can be located online using a basic Google search. They are also available on Lexis (a database available through the OSU Library).

**Evaluation:**

Midterm	30%
Final	45%
Class participation (includes quizzes and homework)	25%.

**Grading Scale:**

<b>A</b> = 93 – 100%	<b>C</b> = 73 – 76.9%
<b>A -</b> = 90 – 92.9%	<b>C -</b> = 70 – 72.9%
<b>B +</b> = 87 – 89.9%	<b>D+</b> = 67 – 69.9%
<b>B</b> = 83 – 86.9%	<b>D</b> = 60 – 66.9%
<b>B -</b> = 80 – 82.9%	<b>E</b> = below 60%
<b>C +</b> = 77 – 79.9%	

**Attendance Policy:**

Any student who fails to attend without giving prior notification to me may be dis-enrolled after the third instructional day of the term, the first Friday of the term, or the second scheduled class meeting of the course, whichever occurs first.

Class discussion and participation will be an important part of this class and cannot occur without attendance. Attendance is not required (except as noted above regarding dis-enrollment), but will affect your participation grade. If you know you will be absent and believe your absence qualifies as an excused absence (determinations will be made by me on a case by case basis), you must notify me by e mail (see below) **prior to the class you will miss**. If you have a job interview that cannot be scheduled at a time that will not conflict with class, please provide the name of the employer and name, e mail address and phone number for a contact person at the employer. You should attend another section of the class if it does not conflict with your schedule. Missing an exam without notifying me prior to the exam may result in a zero for the exam grade.

**Examination Policy:**

There are no make-ups for quizzes. Missed quizzes will be recorded as a “0.” Missed exams can only be made-up in extreme cases (e.g., death of family member, personal hospitalization, etc.) with proper documentation (e.g., a physician’s note, ER paperwork, obituary, etc.). Each decision of potentially allowing a make-up exam is made on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, you **MUST** contact me as soon as you know of a potential problem or conflict with an exam date. Alternative methods (e.g., oral exam, essay) of testing may be used for make-up exams. If you are experiencing an extreme situation or emergency, please attempt to notify me by e mail ASAP. Failure to show up for an exam without prior notice will result in a zero for the exam.

**Communication:**

The best way to reach me is by e mail. If you would like to notify me regarding an absence it should be by e mail. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee that I will remember everything I am told before or after class, especially when I have two class in a row so that is why I require an e mail. **Your e mail should contain both the course number and time of class in the subject line so that it gets to the proper mailbox.** E mails not containing the course number and time may be disregarded. If you e mail me and have not received a response within 24 hours, assume the e mail was not received and either resend or contact me by phone.

**Electronic devices:**

The absence of unnecessary distractions and interruptions is essential for an effective learning environment. Each and every student must adhere to the following rules regarding the use of electronic devices in the classroom. Your receipt and acceptance of this syllabus shall constitute acceptance of these rules. Electronic device includes cell phones (including smart phones), computers (laptops, notebooks, net books, and handhelds), mp3 and other digital audio and video players (including watches and DVD players), and analog and digital audio and video recording devices (still and movie cameras). A student may not use an electronic device in the classroom without my express permission. Use of cell/smart phones in the classroom is always prohibited, as is leaving the room to answer or make a call.

A student violating the above rules on the use of electronic devices in the classroom shall be subject to confiscation of the device for the remainder of the class period or dismissal from the class for the day on which the offense occurs and a deduction of 20 participation points. If confiscation would be disruptive to class there will be a deduction of 20 participation points without confiscation. Additional offenses will result in a deduction of 30 participation points for each offense.

**Accommodations:**

Students that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and you should inform me as soon as possible of your needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave. 614-292-3307; <https://slds.osu.edu/>.

Mental Health: a broad range of confidential mental health services is available on campus via the Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](https://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 1030 Lincoln Tower, Cannon Drive. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National 24/7 Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

**Book Options:**

There are several options for purchasing the book. Please be sure to check the ISBN. There is another book with a similar name but with a different ISBN and is not the correct book for this class. We are only covering a portion of the book. The book is also used for BUSFIN 4510. Options include:

1. Purchase loose leaf print version at publisher's website. ISBN: 9781264062744. Price is \$75.  
URL: <http://shop.mheducation.com/mhshop/productDetails?isbn=9781264062744>

2. Purchase e book at publisher's website. Price is \$70. URL: [www.mheducation.com](http://www.mheducation.com) (search for Kubasek, follow steps and click on print/ebook tab (buy loose leaf version at link in 1. above)

You do not need an access code. Also, be sure to buy the 5th edition.

3. Purchase or rent book online at various websites (ISBN: 9781260247893) or buy at the bookstore (may be higher price).

Several copies of the book are on reserve at the Eighteen Avenue Library.

### **Carmen:**

Information regarding class may be posted as an Announcement on Carmen or sent via a Carmen e mail. You are responsible for signing up on Carmen for notifications. You may not claim lack of knowledge of information posted on Carmen or sent through a Carmen e mail as an excuse for failure to comply with a class requirement.

If you believe that a score posted on Carmen is not accurate you must notify me by e mail within ten (10) days of the date that it was posted. If you fail to notify me within the ten (10) day period you agree that the score posted is accurate and give up all rights to contest the score.

### **Course Schedule:**

#### Material Covered:

W	2/26	Ch 1 Introduction	F	3/27	Ch 14 Contracts
F	2/28	Ch 5 Constitution	M	3/30	Ch 15 Contracts
M	3/2	Ch 3 the U.S. Legal System	W	4/1	Ch 16 Contracts
W	3/4	Ch 3 The U.S. Legal System	F	4/3	Ch 17 Contracts
F	3/6	Ch 8 Tort Law	M	4/6	Ch 20 Contracts
	3/9	Break week	W	4/8	Ch 20 Cont., Ch 42 Emp Law
M	3/16	Ch 8 Tort Law	F	4/10	Ch 42 Employment Law
W	3/18	Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability	M	4/13	Ch 42/43 Employment Law
F	3/20	Ch 9 Neg. and Strict Liability	W	4/15	Ch 43 Employment Law
M	3/23	Midterm*	F	4/17	Ch 43 Emp., 35 Business Organizations
W	3/25	Ch 13 Contracts	M	4/20	Ch 35 Bus. Organizations

\* (DATE OF MIDTERM SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON PROGRESS)

**FINAL 4/23 10:00 a.m.**