



BUS-COL-BUSFIN 3500
The Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2026 Session 1

Instructor: Ivan C. Smith
Senior Lecturer, The Ohio State University
smith.1214@osu.edu
Office: Fisher 314
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:15 pm and by appointment

Class Meeting Schedule:

MWF 8:00-8:55 am	Section 3829	Schoenbaum 320
MWF 9:10-10:05 am	Section 3832	Schoenbaum 320
MWF 10:20-11:15 am	Section 4576	Schoenbaum 320

Course Description: An introduction to American legal institutions and sources of law and an analysis of basic concepts of public and private law related to business decisions. 1.5 credit hours.

Course Objectives: The primary course objectives are to give students: a) an understanding of the legal framework in which American business operates, b) an introduction to basic concepts of public and private law relevant to business decisions, and c) experience in legal analysis.

Course Materials: The book for the course is Dynamic Business Law by Nancy Kubasek, 6th edition. You are also required to have access to Connect (see below) so you can complete required reading-based homework assignments. The book and Connect access are part of the CarmenBooks program, so your access is already available through your course fees. The required course materials are accessed directly through Carmen, and assignments will be available by the first class meeting. You may also choose to download McGraw Hill's free ReadAnywhere app, which enables you to read the book offline. The app will also read the book to you. Additional required readings will be posted as Files on Carmen throughout the term.

Powerpoint presentations will be posted before each class session so students can use the presentation as an aid to taking notes. The presentations will be posted as Files on Carmen, and they will be named according to the book chapter they cover.

Communication: I will post informational updates as Carmen Announcements, and you are expected to regularly monitor Carmen. Email at the address above (not the Carmen messaging function) is the way to get messages to me. I do not see messages in the Carmen messaging function. Any message to me must include in the re line: your course section number and the meeting time (for example: 8 am, 3829). I enjoy the course's subject matter and working to help students understand it, and I will gladly meet with students during office hours or during other scheduled meeting times. I strongly encourage early and regular communication, especially if you find yourself struggling with course content.

How This Course Works:

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a **1.5-credit-hour course**. According to University policy, students should expect to spend around an average of 3 hours per week on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example).

Engagement requirements: Class discussion and participation will be an important part of this class and obviously cannot occur without attendance. Attendance is required, and missing class will make your engagement score go down. Missing class repeatedly will result in a zero engagement score (out of the maximum 10 available engagement points). You are expected to read the assigned material before each session and be prepared to discuss it in class.

If you will be absent and believe your absence qualifies as excused, you must notify me before the class you will miss. Likewise, if you have a job interview that cannot be scheduled at a non-conflicting time, please communicate with me.

Seating Chart and Information Cards: On the first day of class, we will complete a seating chart, and your seat on Day 1 will be your seat for the rest of the term. Also on the first day, you will pick up a 3x5 card from me, and I'll direct you to write some information on it and return it to me at the end of the class period. You will repeat that process with your individualized card at each class session.

Grading: The course grade will be comprised of:

midterm exam	40%
final exam	45%
homework assignments	5%
engagement	10%

Satisfactory and on-time completion of the five required Connect homework assignments as discussed below will get you the full five percent. Completing four assignments gets you four percent, three gets you three percent, and so on.

Grade ranges:

A 100% - 93%	C+ 79.9% - 77%
A- 92.9% - 90%	C 76.9% - 73%
B+ 89.9% - 87%	C- 72.9% - 70%
B 86.9% - 83%	D+ 69.9% - 67%
B- 82.9% - 80%	D 66.9% - 60%
	E Below 60%

In keeping with Fisher College policy, the target class GPA is 2.7-3.0.

Course Schedule:

Week	Day	Date	Assignment
1	M	1/12/25	Ch 1 Introduction
	W	1/14	Ch 3 U.S. Legal System
	F	1/16	Ch 3 U.S. Legal System <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
2	M	1/19	No Class
	W	1/21	Ch 5 Constitution
	F	1/23	Ch 5 Constitution

3	M	1/26	Ch 8 Tort Law <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	W	1/28	Ch 8 Tort Law
	F	1/30	Ch 9 Negligence
4	M	2/2	Ch 9 Negligence <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	W	2/4	Ch 42 Employment Law
	F	2/6	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
5	M	2/9	Ch 13 Contracts (Intro) & Ch 14 Contracts (Agreement)
	W	2/11	Ch 14 Contracts (Agreement)
	F	2/13	Ch 14 Contracts (Agreement)
6	M	2/16	Ch 15 Contracts (Consideration) <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	W	2/18	Ch 16 Contracts (Capacity & Legality)
	F	2/20	Ch 17 Contracts (Legal Assent) <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
7	M	2/23	Ch 17 Contracts (Legal Assent)
	W	2/25	Ch 20 Contracts (Discharge & Remedies)
	F	2/27	Ch 35 Forms of Business Organizations
8	M	2/24	<i>Final Exam</i>

The schedule will shift throughout the term depending on how long it takes to cover particular subjects. It is your responsibility to be aware of communications on schedule adjustments.

Final Exam Schedule: The final exam will be during the regular class period on the date noted above.

Homework: There are five required Connect assignments, and they are due before class on the noted day. There will be no make-up or late submission opportunity. There will be additional optional Connect assignments; these are not required but past students have appreciated completing them as they can help test comprehension of the required readings and can be helpful in exam preparation. You will access the Connect assignments on Carmen through the McGraw Hill Connect book link.

Connect registration instructions:

- Go to Carmen
- Go to the McGraw Hill tab and click on the link
- Sign into Connect:
 - If you already have a Connect account created from previous courses, use the same log in credentials
 - If you do not already have an account, click 'create account' and follow the steps
 - You now have access to your materials and can automatically enter Connect

Technical support is available at (800) 331-5094.

Electronic devices: The absence of unnecessary distractions and interruptions is essential for an effective learning environment. Laptops may be used to access the book, follow my powerpoint, or take notes. Use of other devices, including cell/smart phones, in the classroom is always prohibited, as is leaving the room to answer or make a call. A student violating these rules will be subject to confiscation of the device for the remainder of the class period and/or dismissal from the class for the day of the offense. Violations will negatively impact the student's engagement grade.

Academic integrity:

Policies for this course:

- Exams: You must complete the midterm and final exam yourself, without any external information, resources, help or communication. The exams have a time limit, and you will not have time to seek external help or consult any resources. All questions and answers are randomized, so every student will take a different exam.
- If you choose to submit extra credit memos, they must be your own original work.
- Reusing past work: In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it.

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 (<https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>) and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct (<https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-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 exam. For purposes of this course, any use of artificial intelligence for any aspect of any graded assignment constitutes academic misconduct. 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 and, specifically, the sections addressing academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, University rules require me to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. Please contact me with any questions about these policies or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course.

Mental Health Counseling & Consultation Services

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may hinder academic performance or diminish 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 such 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. CCS is located on the 4th floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Disability Services

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. Students may request accommodations 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 we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may ask 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 timely. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Students with the following exam accommodations may schedule to take their exams at SLDS:

- Accessible formats (e.g. braille, large print, screen-free)
- Assistive technology (e.g. JAWS, CCTV)
- Private testing room accommodation
- Test assistant (reader or scribe)

For more information on operational changes, visit the [SLDS website](#).

If you are isolating while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, please let me know immediately. Those testing positive for COVID-19 should refer to the Safe and Healthy Buckeyes site for resources. Beyond five days of the required COVID-19 isolation period, I may rely on SLDS to establish further reasonable accommodations.

Religious Accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement and the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the Office of Institutional Equity.

Sexual Misconduct/Relationship Violence

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>.

Disenrollment

Fisher College University Rule 3335-8-33 provides that a student may be disenrolled after the third instructional day of the quarter, the first Friday of the quarter, or the student's second class session of the course, whichever occurs first, if the student fails to attend the scheduled course without giving prior notification to the instructor.

Grievances and Solving Problems

According to University policies, if you have a problem with this course, you should seek to resolve the grievance by speaking first with me. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, associate dean for programs in the college, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-7-23. Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to me, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Course technology: For help with your password, University email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Baseline technical skills

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen: for questions about specific functionality, see the [Canvas Student Guide](#)

Required equipment

- Computer: current PC (Windows 7+) or Mac (OS X) with high-speed internet connection
- Must be able to access Proctorio to enable quiz, midterm and final examinations
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) or landline to use for authentication

Required software

- **Microsoft Office 365:** All Ohio State students are eligible for free Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus through Microsoft's Student Advantage program. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

Carmen access

You will need to use multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device.

- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the [**Duo Mobile application**](#) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357 (HELP), and IT support staff will work with you to develop a solution.