

The Ohio State University: BUSFIN 3500 Syllabus
The Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2026, Session 1
January 7, 2026

I. Course and Contact Information

| Item | Details |
|-----------------------|--|
| Course | BUSFIN 3500: The Legal Environment of Business |
| Instructor | Professor John David Blackburn |
| Email | blackburn.3@osu.edu |
| Office | 236 Fisher Hall |
| Office Hours | Tuesday, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM |
| Class Location | Schoenbaum 320 |

Class Meeting Schedule:

| Section | Time (MWF) |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 3828 | 12:40 PM - 1:35 PM |
| 3830 | 1:50 PM - 2:45 PM |
| 4258 | 3:00 PM - 3:55 PM |

II. Course Description and Learning Outcomes

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 concepts generally associated with the U.S. legal environment of business.
- Identify and assess legal and ethical issues encountered in business situations.

III. Required Course Materials

Textbook:

Essentials of the Legal Environment of Business: Applications and Ethical Considerations, Third Edition (ISBN: 978-1-71147-106-8) (Kendall-Hunt, 2022) by Blackburn and Klayman (hereinafter B&K).

The textbook is provided via CarmenBooks. Access your materials through the CarmenBooks links in both the global CarmenCanvas menu and the course navigation menu.

- Students needing accessibility accommodations for digital materials should contact the Alternative Media team in Student Life Disability Services at sld-altmedia@osu.edu.
- For general program information, visit the [CarmenBooks](#) website.

Supplemental Readings:

I will periodically assign online reading material, posting links via CarmenCanvas Announcements. Check your email and the Announcements regularly. Ignorance of a posted notice does not excuse a missed requirement. Ensure your CarmenCanvas settings send you immediate notifications.

IV. Course Format and Grading

Course Format: Lecture and discussion.

Grading Breakdown:

| Component | Percentage |
|---|-------------------|
| Engagement (attendance, participation, conduct) | 10% |
| Homework Quizzes | 30% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

Engagement

Read all assigned material before class, and arrive prepared to participate. Attendance is mandatory. To earn the 10% engagement score, you must attend class in body and mind. Silence your cell phone; if you must take a call, step outside and return promptly.

The score is subjective and binary: you earn either full credit or nothing. You will forfeit these ten points if you miss more than two classes or fail to answer adequately when called upon more than once. If you believe an absence or lapse should be excused, you must discuss it with me during my next scheduled office hours.

Quizzes and Exams

I will post assessments in the Quizzes or Assignments section of CarmenCanvas.

- **Homework Quizzes:** Each quiz covers one chapter and any supplemental readings. Quizzes consist of 2-10 true-false or multiple-choice questions. I post each quiz when we begin a chapter; it is due by 11:59 PM ET on the day we finish the chapter. Quizzes are open book and collaborative. You may submit multiple attempts before the deadline. I will record the highest score. Because these remain open for several days, I do not accept late submissions or offer make-ups. A missed quiz results in a zero.
- **Exams:** The midterm (20 questions) and final exam (40 questions) use the same multiple-choice/true-false format. Unlike quizzes, exams are not collaborative. You must submit your exam while present in Schoenbaum 320 during your scheduled class time. Refer to the Tentative Course Schedule for dates.
- *Note:* Students certified with Disability Services for testing accommodations should meet with me during office hours to coordinate.

Grading Scales

The OSU Grade Scale:

| Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|
| A | 93-100% |
| A- | 90-92% |
| B+ | 87-89% |
| B | 83-86% |

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|----|--------|
| B- | 80-82% |
| C+ | 77-79% |
| C | 73-76% |
| C- | 70-72% |
| D+ | 67-69% |
| D | 60-66% |
| E | 00-59% |

Fisher College Grading Policy:

All Business Core Classes, including BUSFIN 3500, are expected to have course GPAs between 2.7 and 3.0.

V. Tentative Course Schedule

| Date | Topic | Required Reading | Notes |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/12 | Course Introduction | Syllabus | |
| 1/14 | Nature of Legal Study | B&K Intro pp. 1-10 | |
| 1/16 & 1/19 | Law & Ethics | B&K, Chapter 1 | Ch. 1 quiz due 1/19 @ 11:59 PM |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1/21 & 1/23 | Nature of Law & Legal Reasoning | B&K, Chapter 2 | Ch. 2 quiz due 1/23 @ 11:59 PM |
| 1/26 & 1/28 | American Legal System | B&K, Chapter 3 | Ch. 3 quiz due 1/28 @ 11:59 PM |
| 1/30 | Midterm Exam— in class | | Exam requires Respondus LockDown Browser; taken in Schoenbaum 320 during class time (55 mins). |
| 2/2, 2/4, 2/6 & 2/9 | Law of Contractual Relations | B&K, Chapter 5 | Ch. 5 quiz due 2/9 @ 11:59 PM |
| 2/11, 2/13, 2/16 & 2/18 | Law of Injuries (Tort Law) | B&K, Chapter 6 | Ch. 6 quiz due 2/18 @ 11:59 PM |
| 2/20, 2/23, 2/25 & 2/27 | Equal Employment Opportunity | B&K Chapter 8 | Ch. 8 quiz due 2/27 @ 11:59 PM |
| 3/2 | Final Exam—in class | | Exam requires Respondus LockDown Browser; taken in Schoenbaum 320 during class time (55 mins). |

APPENDIX

STATEMENTS CONCERNING UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES

Academic Misconduct

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 please review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If an instructor suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, the instructor is obligated by University Rules to report those suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that a student violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in the course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If students have questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, they should contact the instructor.

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite, and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology, but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the Code of Student Conduct to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional

students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship, or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.

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 [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#).

Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

Disability Statement (with Accommodations for Illness)

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If students anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health and medical conditions, whether chronic or temporary), they should let their instructor know immediately so that they can privately discuss options. Students do not need to disclose specific information about a disability to faculty. To establish reasonable accommodations, students may be asked to register with Student Life Disability Services (see below for campus-specific contact information). After registration, students should make arrangements with their instructors as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that accommodations may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If students are ill and need to miss class, including if they are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, they should let their instructor know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations.

Intellectual Diversity

Ohio State is committed to fostering a culture of open inquiry and intellectual diversity within the classroom. This course will cover a range of information and may include discussions or debates about controversial issues, beliefs, or policies. Any such discussions and debates are intended to support understanding of the approved curriculum and relevant course objectives rather than promote any specific point of view. Students will be assessed on principles applicable to the field of study and the content covered in the course. Preparing students for citizenship includes helping them develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to reach their own conclusions regarding complex or controversial matters.

Grievances and Solving Problems

According to University Policies, if you have a problem with this class, you should seek to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, college dean or associate dean, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-23. Grievances against graduate,

research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a welcoming community. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Office (CRCO):

Online reporting form: <http://civilrights.osu.edu/>

Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605

civilrights@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Civil Rights Compliance Office to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.