



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

BUS-COL-BUSFIN 3500
The Legal Environment of Business
Autumn 2025 Session 1

Instructor: Ivan C. Smith
Senior Lecturer, The Ohio State University
smith.1214@osu.edu
Office: Fisher 314
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:15-11:00 am and by appointment

Class Meeting Schedule:

MWF, 8:00-8:55 am	Section 2831	Schoenbaum 320
MWF, 9:10-10:05 am	Section 2029	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 Carmen messaging) 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: the course number (3500), the section number, and the class meeting time. 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 cannot occur without attendance. Attendance is required and will affect your engagement score. You are expected to read the assigned material before each session and be prepared to discuss it in class.

If you know you will be absent and believe your absence qualifies as excused, you must notify me **before** the class you will miss.

Information Cards: On the first day of class, 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.

Extra credit is also available. Each week for Weeks 1 through 6 of the term, you may submit a two-paragraph email discussing a current article from a major newspaper or reputable business or legal publication regarding a legal-business news item or event. (You may sometimes hear me refer to these emails as "memos.") The topic could be almost anything involving the types of issues we will cover in the course. For example, the article might address a court decision, a lawsuit filing, a business deal with some legal or regulatory aspect, or a government action enforcing a law. The point of this opportunity is to help you build a habit of continuously consuming business news. If you were to submit one satisfactory email each week of the six weeks, you would earn three percent extra credit. Four emails would earn you two percent extra credit, two emails would earn you one percent extra credit. To qualify, the email must be submitted to me no later than the beginning of the class session on Friday of the applicable week and must cc the course TA: baradesivaji.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu. The email re line must include the course number, section number, meeting time, and indicate it is an extra credit submission. The email must be completely your original work, demonstrate your comprehension of the article's topic, and include a link to the article. This will be the only opportunity for extra credit. This is extra credit, and there will be no modifications or exceptions to any of these requirements.

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	W	8/27	Ch 1 Introduction
	F	8/29	Ch 3 U.S. Legal System
2	M	9/1	No Class
	W	9/3	Ch 3 U.S. Legal System <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	F	9/5	Ch 5 Constitution
3	M	9/8	Ch 5 Constitution
	W	9/10	Ch 8 Tort Law <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	F	9/12	Ch 8 Tort Law
4	M	9/15	Ch 9 Negligence & Strict Liability
	W	9/17	Ch 9 Negligence & Strict Liability <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	F	9/19	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
5	M	9/22	Ch 13 Contracts (Intro) & Ch 14 Contracts (Agreement)
	W	9/24	Ch 14 Contracts (Agreement)
	F	9/26	Ch 15 Contracts (Consideration) <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
6	M	9/29	Ch 16 Contracts (Capacity & Legality)
	W	10/1	Ch 17 Contracts (Legal Assent) <i>Connect Assignment Due</i>
	F	10/3	Ch 17 Contracts (Legal Assent)
7	M	10/6	Ch 20 Contracts (Discharge & Remedies)
	W	10/8	Ch 20 Contracts (Discharge & Remedies)
	F	10/10	Ch 42 Employment Law Ch 43 Employment Discrimination
8	M	10/13	Ch 35 Forms of Business Organization
	W	10/15	<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. 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.

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](http://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.