

The Ohio State University
BusFin 3500
The Legal Environment of Business
Autumn 2025, Session 2

October 21, 2025

Instructor: Professor John David Blackburn 236 Fisher Hall
Students' Office Hours: Tuesday 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Email: blackburn.3@osu.edu

Class Meeting Schedule:

MWF 12:40-1:35	Section 2036	Schoenbaum 320
MWF 1:50-2:45	Section 2117	Schoenbaum 320
MWF 4:10-5:05	Section 2035	Schoenbaum 320

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.

Required Course Materials: *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*), available at Barnes & Noble-OSU Bookstore. Here's a link to order the book directly from the bookstore: <https://ohiostate.bncollege.com/course-material/course-finder>

You can also order the book directly from the publisher, Kendall-Hunt, by using this link: <https://help.kendallhunt.com/>

In addition to the textbook, I periodically assign online reading material. 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.

CarmenCanvas: As indicated in the previous paragraph, 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.

Course Format: Lecture and discussion.

Grading: Your grade is based on the following:

Engagement, including attendance, participation, among other conduct	10%
Homework Quizzes	40%
Midterm	20%
Final	30%

Engagement: You are expected to have read the assigned reading material **before** the scheduled class, then attend class with your book, and be prepared to answer when called on. Attendance is required and will affect your engagement score. Silence your cell phone; and, if you must take a call, politely leave the classroom to momentarily take

the call, then return politely to the classroom. You cannot electronically record in the classroom without my express permission.

Quizzes and Exams:

I will post both the quizzes and the exams in the Quizzes section of CarmenCanvas.

Homework Quizzes. Each quiz covers a chapter and any related online material assigned. Expect from 5-10 true/false and/or multiple-choice questions per quiz, with each question worth one point.

I will post each homework quiz on CarmenCanvas shortly before we start a chapter. The quiz is due at 11:59 p.m. ET the class day we end coverage of the chapter. Each quiz is open book, open note, with unlimited time before the deadline to submit more than one attempt (highest score counts)—and you can collaborate with others **on the homework quizzes** (but all these allowances are **not allowed for the exams**). Because you will have several days to complete each quiz, **late submissions for quizzes will not be accepted.** 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 completed, you will receive a zero for that quiz.

Exams. The midterm exam will have 20 questions, worth one point each and which will be of the true-false and/or multiple-choice format. The final exam will have 30 questions of the same format and worth one point each. The allotted time for the exams will be approximately 55 minutes.

The midterm and final exams are closed-book and conducted in class on CarmenCanvas. You must take and submit the exam while present in the classroom (Schoenbaum 320) during the time your section meets on the day the exam is scheduled. See the *Tentative Course Schedule* below for the dates of the midterm and final exams. (Students certified with the Office of Student Life Disability Services to receive additional time for exams should see me during office hours to arrange taking their exam.) Each exam is scheduled for 55 minutes, starting when your section is scheduled to begin and ending 55 minutes later, during which your exam must be submitted. **You cannot collaborate with any other person or thing during exams.**

The OSU Grade Scale:

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

Fisher College Grading Policy: All Fisher faculty received an email from the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs containing the following: “We have instituted the following expectations for course GPAs for all undergraduate courses. ... **Business Core Classes 2.7 – 3.0.**” [Note: *BUSFIN 3500* is a core class.—JDB]

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
10/20	Course Introduction	Syllabus
10/22	Nature of Legal Study	B&K <i>Introduction</i> pp. 1-10
10/24 & 10/27	Law & Ethics	B&K, Chapter 1
10/27	Ch. 1 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
10/29 & 10/31	Nature of Law/Legal Reasoning	B&K, Chapter 2
10/31	Ch. 2 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
11/3 & 11/5	American Legal System	B&K, Chapter 3
11/5	Ch. 3 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
11/7	Midterm Exam (covers course from 10/22-11/5)—in class <i>The midterm will be available on CarmenCanvas on November 5th for 55 minutes starting when your section is scheduled to begin, during which your exam must be taken and submitted while you are in Schoenbaum 320. The exam requires Respondus LockDown Browser, which <u>must</u> be downloaded on your laptop or i-pad.</i>	
11/10, 11/12, 11/14, 11/17	Law of Contractual Relations	B&K, Chapter 5
11/17	Ch. 5 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
11/19, 11/21, 11/24, 12/1	Law of Injuries (Tort Law)	B&K, Chapter 6
12/1	Ch. 6 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
12/3, 12/5, 12/8	Equal Employment Opportunity	B&K Chapter 8
12/8	Ch. 8 quiz due @ 11:59 p.m.	
12/10	Final Exam (covers course from 11/10 – 12/10)—in class <i>The final exam will be available on CarmenCanvas on December 10th for 55 minutes starting when your section is scheduled to begin, during which your exam must be taken and submitted while you are in Schoenbaum 320. The exam requires Respondus LockDown Browser, which <u>must</u> be downloaded on your laptop or i-pad.</i>	

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.