

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN LUIS OBISPO
ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BUS 207-02 - Legal Responsibilities of Business

Fall 2015 - MW 6:10 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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SYLLABUS

TEXT: Cross and Miller, *The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases*, 9th ed.

OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS: Office: Building 92M, Room C-107.

<http://maps.calpoly.edu/flashmap/map.html?vlist=092-M>

Drop in hours: Mondays 3 - 5 p.m.; Wednesdays 9 - 10 a.m. and 5 - 6 p.m.

By appointment: Please submit an email request for an appointment if you are unavailable during the drop-in hours.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Students successfully completing this course will be able to make business decisions with a better understanding of the possible legal and ethical consequences of their actions. Students will be able to make informed decisions regarding the options and procedures for resolving business disputes including the court system and alternative dispute resolution. The study of law provides students a unique opportunity to improve their ability to think critically, form factually-supported opinions and make sound decisions.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Examination of the American legal system and important legal principles for business operations, such as those involved with contracts, torts, agency, business organizations, and employment. Emphasis on how legal principles help define socially responsible conduct. Case studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Course goals and objectives include:

- A. To obtain an overview perspective on how legal processes and institutions affect business operations.
- B. To develop an understanding of the basic legal vocabulary in which students and businesspersons must have a degree of literacy.

- C. To develop a basic understanding of the state and federal courts of the American legal system; the anatomy of a civil business case and trial; torts; product liability; agency relationships and agency law; contracts; and business organizations and entity formation.
- D. To learn methods of analysis and problem solving applied to business law problems. This includes, but is not limited to, learning how to critically analyze legal disputes by discerning the relevant facts, the legal principles, the result, and the impact on business.
- E. To increase future efficiency in avoiding legal problems, know when to seek preventive qualified legal counsel and advice, and be able to spot legal issues and concerns when they arise in practice and minimize their adverse impacts and maximize their positive potential for the business or firm.
- F. To understand and evaluate some of the social and ethical responsibilities of business and business organizations.

ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students completing the undergraduate business program in the Orfalea College of Business will be able to:

- 1.1 apply knowledge to identify opportunities and solve business problems; and
- 2.1: evaluate the social and ethical responsibilities of business organizations.

METHODS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION: Socratic Method; student analysis of cases and case studies; class discussion; lecture; group activities; and possible guest speakers.

PARTICIPATION & PREPARATION: Your success in this course and understanding of the subject matter is dependent on your regular attendance and lively participation in this course. Private conversations during lecture or class discussions are disruptive to other class members and will not be tolerated. Rude and unprofessional conduct will not be tolerated. Creating any disruption in class or engaging in any unprofessional behavior may result in a reduction of your overall grade by one grade (e.g. a "B" will be lowered to "C") or being dropped from the course. Students are expected to read assignments before class, be prepared to answer questions, and participate in other class activities.

CELL PHONES/COMPUTERS: Students wishing to use personal computers or tablets for note taking may do so on battery power only and will be advised of specific additional requirements on the first day of class. Otherwise, use of any electronic devices during class such as computers, cell phones, tablets, smart phones, audio or visual recording devices, etc. is not permitted except as indicated for specific in-class

assignment or projects. **Text messaging, web surfing, social media participation and similar activities during class are NOT permitted.** Uncorrected or continued violations of this policy may result in a reduction of your overall grade by one grade (e.g. a "B" will be lowered to "C") or being dropped from the course.

POLYLEARN: Documents and information important to your success in this course are located on the course PolyLearn web site including reading assignments, test dates, and various study materials. The examinations may test you on the content of any substantive information posted in PolyLearn.

To learn more about PolyLearn and how to access this website, go to the PolyLearn Support site at <http://www.polylearnsupport.calpoly.edu/>. Click on the Student Support box to access an orientation video and list of Frequently Asked Questions.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Any request to make up or re-schedule a mid-term examination or final examination must be made in writing and received by the instructor prior to the date of the examination. The request must establish a substantial need for an alternative test date and will be granted only in ***the most extreme circumstances*** and in accordance with University policy. No make-up exam will be provided beyond the date grades for that exam are posted on PolyLearn.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All policies contained in CalPoly Catalog in the Student Academic Rights and Responsibilities section, including the policy regarding Cheating and Plagiarism, and the Cal Poly Class Schedule's section on the "Code of Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities," are incorporated into this Syllabus by reference. Any form of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. Should such behavior come to the attention of the instructor, you will be dropped from the course or receive a grade of "F." After completing an examination, students are not to discuss the content of such examination with students in other sections of this course.

COURSE MATERIALS: All course materials prepared by your instructor, whether posted on PolyLearn or distributed in class, are the intellectual property of your instructor. All such materials are for the use of students currently enrolled in the course to complete course requirements. With the exception of sharing materials for the purpose of completing assigned group projects, the course materials are not to be copied, republished, disseminated, or distributed in any manner nor posted on any website.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you must contact both the instructor and the Disability

Resource Center (DRC), Building 124, Room 119, (805) 756-1395 or email drc@calpoly.edu as soon as possible.

STUDENT PRIVACY: If you have chosen to protect your Directory Information (which includes name and email), you must communicate this information to your instructor prior to or on the first day of class because this course may use PolyLearn tools that may display students' names and email addresses.

EVALUATION:

Midterm Exams (3):
Contract Law Project:
Final Examination:
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS:

225 (75 each)
25
75
325

GRADING:

	A:	93-100%	A-:	90-92.99%	
B+:	87-89.99%	B:	83-86.99%	B-:	80-82.99%
C+:	77-79.99%	C:	73-76.99%	C-:	70-72.99%
D+:	67-69.99%	D:	60-66.99%		
F:	0-59.99%				

Ongoing grade totals will be available on PolyLearn. Students are responsible to notify the professor immediately if any errors or omissions are noted in posted grades. With the exception of a few in-class activities or extraordinary circumstances, extra credit is not offered. Inquiries on what you can do to improve exam performance should be made long before the final examination and you are encouraged to attend office hours for this purpose.

The above grading scale is firm and not subject to adjustment or negotiation. After final grades are posted on PolyLearn, do not request to have your grade rounded-up or ask for an extra credit opportunity. Any requests to receive a higher letter grade than the percentage you earned will be denied or ignored.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Scantrons are needed for the Midterm and Final examinations. Exams will consist of True/False and Multiple Choice questions. The examinations will cover content in the textbook, materials posted on PolyLearn and information from lectures and other classroom activities. The scope of each examination is listed in PolyLearn.

W 10/7:	Midterm Exam 1	(75)
M 10/26:	Midterm Exam 2	(75)
T 11/10:	Contract Law Project*	(25)
M 11/16 :	Midterm Exam 3	(75)
F 12/11:	FINAL EXAMINATION	(75)**

* Submit Assignment via PolyLearn

TENTATIVE READING AND LECTURE SCHEDULE:

This schedule is subject to change based on the pace and needs of the class.

PolyLearn will list the most complete and updated information. Read the chapters listed *BEFORE* the class date indicated and be prepared to discuss the topic and cases in class. Read any additional materials posted in PolyLearn.

WEEK 1	9/21 & 9/23	Chapter 1:	<i>Law and Legal Reasoning</i>
WEEK 2	9/28 & 9/30	Chapter 2:	<i>The Court System</i>
		Chapter 3:	<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution</i>
WEEK 3	10/5 & 10/7	Chapter 4:	<i>Business Ethics (Sections 1 and 3)</i>
			MIDTERM EXAM 1 – 10/7
WEEK 4	10/12 & 10/14	Chapter 12:	<i>Torts</i>
		Chapter 13:	<i>Strict Liability and Strict Products Liability</i>
WEEK 5	10/19 & 10/21	Chapter 20:	<i>Agency (Sections 1 and 6)</i>
			Employment Law (see PolyLearn)
WEEK 6	10/26 & 10/28	Chapter 9:	MIDTERM EXAM 2 – 10/26
			<i>Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts</i>
WEEK 7	11/2 & 11/4	Chapter 10:	<i>Contract Performance Breach and Remedies</i>
WEEK 8	11/9	Chapter 20:	<i>Agency (Sections 2-5)</i>
WEEK 9	11/16 & 11/18		MIDTERM EXAM 3 – 11/16
		Chapter 17:	<i>Small Business Organizations</i>
WEEK 10	11/23	Chapter 18:	<i>Limited Liability Business Forms</i>
WEEK 11	11/30 & 12/3	Chapter 19:	<i>Corporations</i>
			Applied Business Ethics (see PolyLearn)
FINAL EXAMINATION		Friday, December 11, 4:10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**	

** Final exam date subject to change. See PolyLearn for updates.