



## **BUSINESS LAW**

**- BUSN 260 -**

**Course Syllabus**

Spring 2017

Course: Business Law

Credit Hours: 3 hrs

Catalog Number: BUSN 260

Meeting Time: Mondays, 6:00pm-9:05pm

Location: Hague 203

Instructor: Joseph Gousse, Esq.

Contact: [jgousse@smccME.edu](mailto:jgousse@smccME.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to, and working knowledge of, the central tenants of American law that impact the operation of business enterprises, namely: tort, property, contract, agency and employment law, negotiable instruments, and corporations. Students will actively engage course materials via the problem method of learning by applying “real world” fact patterns to the law and deriving legal conclusions. By participating in this course, students will be equipped to identify, understand and navigate the legal landscape that governs American business.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.) Understand the structure of the American legal system and sources of law;
- 2.) Anticipate and identify legal issues that arise in the context of business administration;
- 3.) Apply appropriate legal analyses for avoiding, mitigating and resolving legal risk; and
- 4.) Recall central legal tenants and doctrines when entering into or planning business contracts or relations.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be expected to attend class regularly, and be attentive during lessons. Students will be expected to participate in class discussion of materials through the problem method of learning. In addition to regular attendance and participation, students must complete assigned readings and homework, as well as three examinations over the course of the semester.

### REQUIRED TEXT

The following title is the required text for this course:

**Beatty, Samuelson, & Abril, *Introduction to Business Law (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) (Cengage Learning).***  
**ISBN: 978-1285860398**

### STUDENT EVALUATION & GRADING

Your final course grade will be calculated based on the following components:

**40%**- Final Examination

**30%**- Two Examinations during the semester

**20%**- Class Participation and Attendance

**10%**- Assigned Homework

Per SMCC's grading policy, the following table represents numeric-letter grade values:

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	<63

### HOMEWORK

All homework **must** be handed in at the **beginning** of class, when the instructor collects it. If you are unable to attend class, you should email your typed answers to the homework to the instructor before the class begins. **Homework handed in late (after the beginning of class) will not receive any credit. No exceptions.**

### COURSE EVALUATION

In order to be granted access to final course grades, students **must** complete evaluations for each course they attend at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal webpage. Students may access the course evaluation two weeks prior to the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations is 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. The instructor will announce when the online course evaluation is available.

### ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As you know, I am an attorney by trade. I am also your professor. While I am honored for the opportunity to be your professor, please keep in mind that the nature of our interactions is strictly academic—*i.e.* I am not your personal lawyer. I share this with you not to discourage you from asking questions about the materials, law, and the legal system (I am *always* happy to answer those!), but to make you aware of the concurrent ethical obligations I maintain as an attorney and professor. If you ask me for personal legal assistance, my answer will always be that you should consult another attorney.

### ATTENDANCE, ELECTRONICS, & "MAKEUP" POLICY

- Attendance in this course is required. **If you are going to miss class, notification is required**, or you will be given an unexcused absence. Failure to arrive to class on time will adversely affect your attendance & participation grade.
- **Makeup exams are not given, and late work is not accepted, absent a documented medical emergency. No exceptions.**
- Extra credit is not given.
- All electronic devices must be turned off or on silent during class hours. Texting, emailing, or instant messaging during class is strictly prohibited. Students who refuse to comply with this policy will be removed from class.
- **During examinations, all electronic devices must be turned off and put away.**
- Students who miss three consecutive classes may be given an Administrative Failure ("AF") grade. Similarly, any student who misses more than four classes may be given an "AF" grade.
- **Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated, and will result in an automatic failing grade for the course.**

### OFFICE HOURS, CONTACT, & SEEKING HELP

If you have a question that arises on a day where there is no class, you should contact your instructor via email. Therefore, it is *crucial* that ***if you have questions for which you would like an in-person answer that you come early or stay after class to ask them.*** Office hours are held on an as-needed basis *via email*. Your instructor is always happy to answer your questions via email, and strives to reply in an expedient manner.

If you find that you are struggling with the material, you should come see your instructor before or after class, and be sure to ask questions during sessions. Chances are that if you have a question about a particular topic, several other people in the room do as well. Because class lessons and discussions are the intended forum for learning the course materials, your instructor will **NOT** give personalized lessons outside of normal class sessions, but is always happy to answer **specific** questions about the material via email.

### TEST TAKING POLICIES

Cheating, in any form, is not tolerated and will result in an automatic zero grade for the exam, and possibly a failing grade for the course. No exceptions.

If you are caught cheating or not complying with test-taking instructions in any way, the instructor reserves the right to collect your exam and dismiss you from the room with a zero grade.

During an exam, cell phones must be turned off, or placed on the instructor's desk.

***If you have a question about material on an upcoming test, you must email it to your instructor by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the day before the exam.*** For example, if your exam falls on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, you **must** email your question to your instructor by 12:00 p.m (noon) on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>. This deadline will be **strictly** enforced, and questions submitted after this deadline will be left unanswered.

**SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS \***

\*\*\* Students are expected to have prepared assignments for the corresponding date listed \*\*\*

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>
Monday Jan. 23 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Intro. to the American Legal System & Legal Analysis	Pgs. 4-9; 57-61; 66-71; 78-83; and page 100-01 (6-1a-d)
Monday Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Contracts & Sales	Pgs. 174-88; 194-210
Monday Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Contracts & Sales	Pgs. 217-32; 239-52
Monday Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Contracts & Sales	Pgs. 258-69; prep. for review
<i>Monday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017</i>	<i>Presidents' Day</i>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Monday Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	-	<b>In-Class Examination</b>
Monday Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Torts	Pgs. 120-29; 135-48; 162-63
<i>Monday Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Monday Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Law of Property	Pgs. 546-60; 567-77; 528-41
Monday Mar. 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Negotiable Instruments & Secured Transactions	Pgs. 275-85; 292-306
Monday Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017	-	<b>In-Class Examination</b>
Monday Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Agency & Employment	Pgs. 314-26; 333-44
<i>Monday Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017</i>	<i>Patriots' Day</i>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Monday Apr. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Business Organizations	Pgs. 388-402; 407-24
Monday May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	-	<b>Final Examination</b>
Monday May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Course Workshop & Final Review	No assigned readings

*\* This schedule of assignments is subject to change, at the instructor's discretion, with notice.*

## SMCC POLICIES

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207-741-5798. If you have a disabling condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 207-741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodation.

### Student Printing Policy (new)-

This policy identifies the cost per page for black and white, as well as color printing, in varying page sizes. Specifics of the policy are outlined below:

#### Per Page Costs-

Each semester, students receive a \$20.00 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The cost varies depending upon page size and whether printing is done in black and white or color.

- a.) There is a \$0.10 fee per page for standard 8.5" x 11.0" black and white documents
- b.) Printing on the reverse sides of duplex (double-sided) documents is free
- c.) There is a \$0.50 fee per page for standard 8.5" x 11.0" color documents
- d.) There is a \$0.20 fee per page for 8.5" x 14.0" (legal) or 11.0" x 17.0" (tabloid) black and white documents
- e.) There is a \$1.00 fee per page for 8.5" x 14.0" (legal) or 11.0" x 17.0" (tabloid) color documents

#### How Does it Work?-

The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, the Academic Achievement Center, Noisy Lounge, and technology labs). Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the printing balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the Department should contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up.

#### Refunds-

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

#### Why is SMCC charging for printing?-

The pay-for print system is an effort to control escalating printing costs. Charging for printing helps offset the increasing cost of supplies and encourages students to conserve resources. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help Tab on MySMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the HelpDesk at 741-5696 or send an email to [helpdesk@smccME.edu](mailto:helpdesk@smccME.edu).

**\*\*\*Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing to prevent unauthorized access to your account.\*\*\***

#### Add-Drop Policy-

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the Fall and Spring semesters—and the first three days of Summer sessions—receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length (i.e. 15 weeks) has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for nonattendance.

#### Withdrawal Policy-

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters, and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

#### Plagiarism-

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the

*alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct.*