



Business Administration | South Portland, Maine 04106

Title: **BUSINESS LAW**

Credit Hours: **3**

Lecture (or Lab): **Brightspace**

Office Hours: **Wednesday & Thursday,
9:30-10:30 a.m.; and by appointment**

Catalog Number: **BUSN 260-01**

Total Contact Hours: **3**

Instructor: **Jane M. Abernethy**

Contact Information:
jabernethy@smccme.edu

**Asynchronous except for 3 Zoom Classes:

Thursdays — Sept. 10, Oct. 22 & Nov. 5 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course will provide a foundation for business managers to operate within the legal environment in which all businesses in our society function. It provides an overview of the law and our legal system, covering topics such as Tort Law, contract and sales law, negotiable instrument law, agency and employment law, business organizations and property law.

Prerequisite(s): BUSN-100; Corequisite(s): ENGL-100 or ENGL-101

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the sources of American law and the basic framework of the United States judicial system at both the federal and state level.
2. Describe the basic legal requirements for various types of business contracts, including the requirements for enforcement.
3. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of various forms of business ownership such as sole proprietorships, limited liability companies, and corporations.

4. Describe basic legal concepts involving agency, employment law, and employment discrimination.
5. Have a basic appreciation for the legal issues that arise in tort and property law.

Topical Outline of Instruction

The Legal Environment

Introduction to Law

Constitutional, Statutory, Administrative & Common Law

Dispute Resolution

Crime

Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

The Lifecycle of a Business

Starting a Business, LLCs and Other Options

Corporations

Contracts and the UCC

Forming a Contract

Requirements for a Contract

Performance of a Contract

Practical Contracts

UCC Article 2 — Sales

Torts

Intentional Torts and Business Torts

Negligence, Strict Liability, and Product Liability

Agency and Employment Law

Agency

Employment and Labor Law

Employment Discrimination

Property

Intellectual Property

Real Property & Landlord Tenant Issues

Personal Property

Course Requirements

Business Law requires analysis and application of legal concepts and vocabulary to business scenarios. Each week students are required to read one to two textbook chapters and supplemental materials, use multimedia, actively participate in online discussions, and take a quiz. Over the course of the semester each student must also take four tests, summarize relevant current events periodically, research and write up answers about a corporation and make a brief presentation about it, and apply course concepts to a fictional start-up through a short written or multi-media project. Students are expected to write clearly, succinctly and accurately — as is required in the business community.

**The class only meets together on Zoom three times; otherwise, the course is conducted exclusively online through Brightspace. The class week runs Monday, 12:01 a.m. to Sunday, 11:59 p.m. Readings and lectures, quizzes, and discussion board posts are due weekly. Students are required to participate in discussions at least twice a week (by Thursday and Sunday) and encouraged to participate in discussions more frequently, and must submit weekly quizzes and other assignments by Sunday night.

Student Evaluation and Grading

Weekly quizzes:	10%
Tests (four):	30%
Discussion Board:	25%
Projects (two):	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

SMCC Grading:

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

Text, Tools and / or Supplies

Students must be able to access the Internet frequently during the week. On three occasions during the semester students are required to participate in a Zoom class. Use of a microphone and camera is optimal.

The text is required:

Beatty, Jeffrey F., Samuelson, Susan S., and Abril, Patricia Sánchez. **Introduction to Business Law, 6th Ed.** ISBN: 9781285860398 Cengage Learning, (c) 2019, 2016.

[As of August 2020: You can purchase or rent a (used) physical or electronic copy of this textbook; prices range from \$32.49 for a used physical copy and \$43.81 for an ebook, to \$103.04 for a used physical copy. I looked at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and [chegg.com](https://www.chegg.com).]

Attendance Policy

Attendance is taken through your participation in the Brightspace Discussion Board. Regular participation in the Discussions is expected of all students. The following policies will be followed scrupulously:

- If a student does not introduce themselves in the discussion the first week of class, the student will be reported as a “WN” (no-show) and dropped from the class.
- If a student misses two or more consecutive weeks of participation in the discussions without any explanatory communication between the student and instructor the student will receive a grade of “AF” (Administrative Failure).
- If a student misses an aggregate of more than three weeks of participation in the discussions at any point in the semester the student will receive a grade of “AF” (Administrative Failure).

If a student is unable to engage in the online discussion at any point, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor about the absence and missed course work. Merely casual participation in discussions will result in a significant blow to a student’s final course grade.

End-of-Course Evaluation

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

ADA Statement

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 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 accommodations.

The Learning Commons:

The library, tutoring and writing centers, and reference/research assistance (typically located on the second floor of South Portland’s Campus Center and in the Midcoast’s LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center) will be fully available online during the fall 2020 semester.

Here you can find free academic support through individually scheduled and drop in, online tutoring. You can also find information literacy/research librarians, and professional academic strategy/planning mentoring online. While the physical space of the Learning Commons will not be available at this time, we can also work with you to set up zoom classrooms for small group study. Services are offered by appointment or as drop-in assistance.

To access services:

- Visit My Learning in My Maine Guide or
- Select the “tutoring needed” button if it appears inside your Brightspace course.

Whether On Site or Online, students have consistently reported that the Learning Commons is a friendly, risk-free, and helpful place to seek academic support. It has also been shown that those who make use of the Learning Commons do better in a course than those who do not. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this valuable and enjoyable resource.

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 non-attendance.

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. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts.

Plagiarism Statement

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