

BUS 340

Business Law & Ethics

Course Syllabus

Spring 2019

Instructor: Caz McChrystal

OFFICE: Room 430, CPS
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 8:30-10:45am; Thursdays 8:30-10:45am & 3:30-4:30pm; other times by appointment
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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Legal concepts for employees, managers and business owners, Analysis of business ethics scenarios.

B. COURSE GOALS

Businesses owe duties to individuals, other businesses, and to the government. Laws are the mechanisms by which those duties are laid out. This course will enable students to: (a) differentiate between the various bodies of law that lay out those duties; (b) apply legal principles to real-world business scenarios; and (c) analyze scenarios by isolating the key facts and issue, identifying the legal concept that governs the situation, and applying that concept to reach a legal conclusion. In addition, students will be able to analyze an ethical dilemma by applying a framework, identifying dilemma components, and outlining a variety of decisions or action options; students will be able to argue any specific stakeholder position by stating the position, identifying the position tradeoffs, and offering a subjective justification for that position; and students will be able to compare and contrast complementary and contradictory codes of conduct.

C. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course is taught using a combination of lecture, class discussion, and group activities.

D. REQUIRED TEXT

Business Law: Text and Cases, 12ed, by Clarkson, Miller & Cross

E. **ASSESSMENT:** This course will be divided into six units, each covering a distinct area of the law. At the end of each unit, there will be a take home unit test. The tests are of equal weight and the mean average of all six test scores will make up the majority of your grade.

Unit Tests – 95%

Class participation / Event Attendance – 5%

Grading 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

< 60 - F

F. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory. I expect students to contact me **before** absences occur (either by phone or email; there is no need to give me a reason for the absence, just let me know you will not be attending class), or as soon possible after class occurs in cases of emergency.

Provided I receive notice as described above, students will be allowed four absences without any negative effect on their final grade. For the fifth and each subsequent absence, the student's final grade will drop one letter grade (A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, etc.).

G. SBE EVENTS

Several UWSP departments and programs, including the School of Business & Economics, sponsor **Professional Pointer Events** (or **Pro Events**).

Pro Events connect you to:

- *Campus* (e.g., academic coaching, student clubs);
- *Community* (e.g., Rotary, Business Council): and
- *Careers* (e.g., internships, networking).

As an SBE student, you will be able to choose from a wide variety of speakers, workshops and special events. With over 300 events per year on the Pro Events calendar, you will have significant flexibility in selecting your events. Whatever you choose, Pro Events will help you to make the most out of your time as a student and to prepare for transitioning into a successful career.

Visit the Pro Events web site (proevents.uwsp.edu) for announcements of upcoming events. You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: [UWSP School of Business & Economics](https://www.facebook.com/UWSPSchoolofBusiness&Economics)

- Twitter: [@UWSPBusiness](https://twitter.com/UWSPBusiness)

For this course, you must attend **two** official Pro Events. One event must be before the mid-semester cut-off of **Mar. 8**; a second event must be before the end-of-semester cut-off (**May 10**). If you go to extra events before the mid-semester cut-off, those credits will carry over into the second half of the semester. Attendance at each event will count for ___ points towards your final grade.

Typically, when you attend an event, you will sign in with your Point Card and thereby receive your Events credit. Occasionally, there are events requiring that you take along an Events Attendance form and obtain a signature at the event; events requiring an Events Attendance form will be clearly labeled and the form will be available online.

Attendance at Pro Events will be confirmed with automatic emails to you and updated on the Pro Events web site. Please allow a week for confirmation of attendance at events held outside the SBE, such as Career Services events. If you have a question about Pro Events attendance, please email proevents@uwsp.edu.

If you have multiple courses or affiliations with Pro Events requirements, it is your responsibility to make sure you have attended enough events for each course/affiliation. If you have not attended enough events to cover all of your requirements, your attendance will be allocated to your courses in alpha-numeric order followed by any other affiliations.

After the mid-semester cut-off and the end of this semester's events, I will receive reports confirming your attendance. You do not need to do anything else.

- Chapter 14-Student Rights and Responsibilities *see* <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/UWS%2014-1.pdf>
- Disability Services for students *see* <http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/student/Student%20information.aspx>

TOPICS AND READING

(page numbers refer to the Clarkson text)

Unit One: Basics of the American Judicial System

- Introduction to the Law and Legal Reasoning
Required Reading: Chapter 1 - §§1-3 (pp. 2-13), §§5-7 (pp.14-25)
- Structure of the Courts and A.D.R.
Required Reading: Chapter 2 - §1 (pp. 28-29), §§3-4 (pp. 37-45)
- The Life of a Civil Lawsuit
Required Reading: Chapter 3 - All sections (pp. 50-71); however, you may skip Extended Cases 3.1 and 3.2
- Class Actions, Jurisdiction, Venue, and Standing

Required Reading: Chapter 2 - §2 (pp. 29-37)

Recommended Reading: Syllabus of *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*

Unit Two: Business Associations

A. Sole Proprietorships

No Required Reading

B. Partnerships and LLPs

Required Reading: Chapter 37 – All sections (pp. 719-35); however, you may skip Extended Case 37.3

C. Limited Liability Companies

Required Reading: Chapter 38 - §§1-3 (pp. 739-46)

D. Corporations

Required Reading: Chapter 39 – All sections (pp. 753-71), Chapter 40 – All sections (pp. 775-93)

Unit Three: Ethics

Required Reading: Chapter 5 - All sections (pp. 93-106)

Unit Four: The Constitution

Required Reading: Chapter 4 - All sections (pp. 74-90)

Recommended Reading: *Nat'l Fed. of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (pp. 1-6)

Unit Five: Contract Law

A. Introduction to Contract Law

Required Reading: Chapter 10 - §§1-3 (pp. 206-12)

B. Offer and Acceptance

Required Reading: Chapter 11 - §§1-2 (pp. 222-37)

C. Consideration

Recommended Reading: Chapter 12 - §§1-3 (pp. 243-48)

D. Genuine Assent & Capacity

Required Reading: Chapter 13 - §1 (pp. 256-260), Chapter 14 §§1-4 (pp. 274-84)

E. Legality

Required Reading: Chapter 13 - §2

F. Writing Requirement

Required Reading: Chapter 15 - §§1-4 (pp. 289-300); however, you may skip Cases 15.1-15.3

G. Contract Discharge

Required Reading: chapter 17 - §§1-2 (pp. 319-325)

Unit Six: Tort Law

A. Introduction to Tort Law

Required Reading: Chapter 6 - §1 (pp. 116-17), *BMW of North America v. Gore*

B. Intentional Torts

Required Reading: Chapter 6 - §§2-5 (pp. 117-33)

C. Negligence and Strict Liability

Required Reading: Chapter 7 – all sections (pp. 136-48), *Welge v. Planters Lifesavers Co.*

Special Unit (time permitting)

- A. Copyright
No required reading
- B. Trademark
No required reading