

Standard Course Outline for CBA Core Courses

BLAW 320

Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business

I. General Information

- 3 units
- Upper division
- Pre-requisite, BLAW 220
- Letter grade only (A-F)

II. Catalog Description

Forms of business organizations, employment law, securities law, environmental law, anti-trust issues, and international transactions. Social, international and economic influences on domestic and multinational corporations. Exploration of the relationship of government to business. Introduction to business ethics.

III. Curriculum Justification

BLAW 320 helps the CBA meet the following Learning Goals for its students.

General Learning Goals-Undergraduate Program

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to demonstrate conceptual learning, critical thinking, and problem solving-skills.

The development of critical thinking skills is at the heart of the curriculum. Students will learn how to accumulate and assess a wide range of socio, political, economic influences on business and then make decisions that are most appropriate for them. Rather than simply teaching the rules, students are taught the skills needed to utilize analysis so that they can engage in better decision making. A good deal of class time is spent on in-class case analysis where students have an opportunity to discuss cases.

- **Ethics:** Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of ethical, social responsibility, and citizenship issues and the ability to apply them in decision making in the local, regional, and global communities.

Ethics has been an important part of this course for many years. The subject is addressed in an entire chapter early in the semester setting the way for discussing ethical considerations in business decision making from then on. As generalists in the CBA curriculum, the legal studies in business faculty is well equipped to effectively teach ethical considerations

across the curriculum. This is a major reason why ethics is a major part of this course at all AACSB schools and why the legal studies in business faculty typically have a major role in coverage of this material. Students learn how to recognize and evaluate the effect of their decisions on various stakeholders and dealing with conflicting interests.

Management-Specific Learning Goals-Undergraduate Program

- **Domestic & Global Environment:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of today's domestic and global business environment (e.g., legal, regulatory, political, cultural, and economic).

Once students have covered the basic legal principles covered in BLAW 220, including comprehensive coverage of contract law and the Uniform Commercial Code, they are able to analyze and appreciate the many forces bearing upon their business decision making. At most if not all class meetings there has been something in the recent news directly relating to that day's material that can be brought into class to demonstrate relevancy and to teach recognition and analysis skills. The generalist nature of the legal studies in business faculty once again facilitates the instruction in this wide ranging material. In addition the course is the only opportunity that CBA graduates will have to interact and discuss these matters on an upper division level with a legal studies in business faculty (attorney at law).

- **International:** Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the impact of internationalization on business.

The international legal and regulatory environment of business has always been an important part of this course. An entire chapter is devoted to these issues and like ethics the international implications of all the subjects covered are addressed throughout the semester.

IV. Course Objectives

- Students will be able to analyze fact situations and determine major legal, ethical, cultural and international issues so that they can make better business decisions.
- Students will cultivate critical thinking skills by utilizing a legal rubric to apply the law to the facts of real and hypothetical cases
- Students will ascertain the pertinent issues and apply the rules of law to determine the appropriate legal decision for these cases
- Students will develop the skills necessary to critically evaluate a decision making situation and identify the ethical ramifications for all relevant stakeholders.



- Students will be able to utilize the learned ethical models from the perspective of each relevant stakeholder.
- Students will be able to assess the international, systemic, corporate and individual factors that affect the ethical dilemma.
- Students will be able to frame business dilemmas in accordance with legal and ethical principles learned in this course in order to make informed and responsible decisions in the workplace.

V. Outline of Subject Matter

Topics covered include the following, each typically using a week of instruction time.

- Business Ethics
- Legal philosophy
- The judicial and court system
- Litigation and alternative dispute resolution
- The Constitution and business
- Business crimes/consumer protection
- Agency, corporate law and business organizations
- Securities regulation
- Employment and Labor law
- Environmental and Pollution control
- Antitrust and Regulation of Competition
- International legal and regulatory environment of business
- Intellectual Property

(See attached addendum for sample semester schedule of topics)

VI. Methods of Instruction

The course is lecture discussion with a good deal of class time devoted to discussion of cases that students have briefed prior to class. Class attendance is essential to the learning process and therefore a significant amount of material on exams will be based upon what is discussed in class. Written case briefs are assigned as appropriate. After initial lectures providing the students with familiarity with the ethical models, and some concrete ways to apply them, the students are invited to delineate the pertinent ethical issues, stakeholders and factors in specific business situations. In the homework, and in class discussion, the students can practice applying the ethical models in increasingly complex cases. The class



is kept current, depending on the current business dilemma (i.e. the failure of the securities industry) that may develop. Class participation and attendance is five per cent of the grade.

Assignments and Evaluations:

Much of the material covered in the exams comes from lectures, so regular class attendance and participation are an important commitment you must make. There will be two midterm examinations and a final examination. Each examination will be comprised of complex multiple-choice questions. Each examination will have one hundred points available. Each midterm will count for thirty percent and your final exam will count for thirty percent of your final grade. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.**

The remaining ten percent of your grade will be based on homework assignments. Late homework will be accepted for partial credit, but you may miss one homework assignment without penalty. Homework will be graded based on effort, not correctness.

Your scores on the exams and homework assignments will be weighted, totaled, and ranked. Final course grades will then be assigned based upon a curve if indicated.

Academic Honesty

Any failure to follow the examination procedures or any dishonesty in the conduct of any student in the class will be pursued through the University disciplinary process.

Required Text and Recommended Readings:

Cross & Miller, The Legal Environment Today, Sixth Edition, 2009.

Selected Chapters for CSULB. (or other Legal Environment of Law texts with emphasis on ethical issues).

VII. Instructional Policies and Other Requirements

This course follows all applicable university policies.

VIII. Disabilities

Students with disabilities are responsible for notifying their instructor as early as possible of their needs for an accommodation of a verified disability. A student with a disability is urged to consult with Disabled Student Services as soon as possible in order to identify possible accommodations to enhance academic success.



Addendum 1

Sample Syllabus Schedule

<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assigned Problems</u>
9/04	Foundations of Law	Chapter 1 Pp6-17	none
9/06	Ethics	Chapter 2 Pp34-54	2, 4
9/11	Ethics		
9/13	Courts & ADR	Chapter 3	6, 9
9/18	Courts & ADR		
9/20	Constitutional Law Heart of Atlanta p. 109	Chapter 4	2, 5& 10
9/25	Constitutional Law		
9/27	Administrative Law	Chapter 16	8, 10
10/02	Administrative Law		



10/04	Guest speaker		
10/09	Exam Review		
10/11	EXAM I		
10/16	Business Organizations partnership handout	Chapter 11	2, 4 & 5
10/18	Business Organizations		
10/23	Equal Employment Opportunities	Chapter 14	7, 8 & 11
10/25	Equal Employment Opportunities		
10/30	Employment Relationships	Chapter 13	5 & 9
11/01	Employment Relationships		
11/06	Antitrust & Promoting Competition	Chapter 20	5, 7 & 9



11/08	Antitrust & Promoting Competition		
11/13	Exam review		
11/15	EXAM II		
11/27	Securities Law & Investor Protection	Chapter 21	1, 3 & 9
11/29	Securities Law		
12/04	Intellectual Property & Internet Law	Chapter 7	2, 8 & 11
12/06	Intellectual Property & Internet Law International Law	Chapter 22	5 & 8 Homework due!
12/11	International Law		
12/13	Exam review		
	Final Exam		Dec. 20 at 10:15-12:15