

Accounting
Course Number: 29:010:319
Course Title: Business Law I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general understanding of legal issues in a business environment. Students learn the basic principles of business law and gain familiarity with legal terminology and are introduced to critical thinking. In this survey course, we cover varied material on a range of topics (e.g., our judicial court system, constitutional law, tort and negligence law), providing business/accounting students with a solid foundation. Basic legal principles are discussed with a backdrop of social responsibility and ethical implications in a business setting. The course is presented primarily in lecture format, although student participation is **absolutely required** (particularly in the discussion of the cases and problems in the chapters).

Please note: I will expect all students to be prepared to discuss the assigned chapters every week. A one-time excuse will be granted, please send me an email or see me before class if you will not be prepared for class.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TEACHING STYLE

REQUIRED TEXT: **Business Law, 10th Edition** By: Henry Cheeseman

Option 1: MyBLawLab access code (all digital option)	with e-text	9780134728933
Option 2: MyBLawLab access code + Loose-leaf package	with e-text	9780134831442
Option 3: MyBLawLab access code + Bound text package	with e-text	9780134832289

NOTE: An older edition of the textbook is **NOT** acceptable as it is not updated for the most recent cases in the various chapters

Please check Canvas and your official Rutgers email account regularly as additional material/articles may be posted from time to time.

The teaching style will be a combination of **lecture and active class discussion** – legal issues rarely have a “black-and-white” answer. PowerPoint slides for each chapter are available on Canvas. The slides are simply to guide our discussion (the slides are NOT a substitute for actually reading the chapters in

their entirety, including case examples and textboxes BEFORE each class session). We will review cases, text boxes, and examples included in the text book as well as any other assigned material in order to better understand important legal concepts.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course is, in part, designed to prepare students for the business law portion of CPA exam. The goal is not to become complete subject-matter experts in the various legal topics but to identify the key legal issues in a business setting. Students who complete this course will demonstrate the following:

- Ability to digest a good deal of information/terminology and then synthesize and apply the knowledge gained (Note: Helpful *glossary* included in the back of the text book)
- Application of text book concepts to real-world scenarios
- Appreciation and respect for opposing viewpoints on important legal issues
- An understanding of how legal decisions and actions often involve balancing competing business interests and demands

Among others, students will develop skills in the following areas:

- Effectively work in small groups to do a class presentation
 - Improve writing skills by working individually to complete a paper on an assigned topic (typically involving current legal developments)
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ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION POLICY

I expect you to attend all class sessions. The course covers a lot of material – thus, attendance is key. -I will take attendance during each class. Attendance will be taken at random times during class, sometimes at the end of each class.

**** IMPORTANT:** There will be a **penalty for each unexcused absence** (one absence = 1% penalty; two absences = 2% penalty; three absences = 4% penalty; four absences = 8% penalty; five absences = 16% penalty; six absences = 32% penalty). Thus, if a student has five unexcused absences, he or she would lose a total of 16% of the total available points in the class (i.e., 100%). A documented reason for your absence (e.g., illness, religious observance) along with supporting documentation must be provided to avoid the penalty.

Please arrive on time to class. If you need to leave early, you must see me before class. If I am to be absent, I will send an email as far in advance as possible. For weather emergencies, consult the campus home page. If we have inclement weather, be sure to check your email before coming to class.

Expect me to prepare properly for each class session. I expect the same of you. Complete all background reading and assignments. **Be prepared to discuss cases/examples/text boxes from the chapter readings.** If you are unprepared, that will result in a deduction from your grade (up to 10% of your grade is for regular class participation—see below under “EARNING YOUR GRADE”). You cannot learn if you are not prepared!

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Turn off all electronic devices (no texting during class)

- Laptops ONLY permitted for class-related purposes (surfing the web is not acceptable)
 - Stay focused and involved -- you cannot learn if you are not paying attention.
 - Regardless of how tired you may be, sleeping during class is NOT acceptable!
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EXAM DATES AND GRADING POLICIES

- **Midterm and Final Exam**

- The midterm exam is scheduled close to the halfway mark; the final exam is not cumulative. Both will consist of multiple choice questions

- **Please arrive on time on the day of the exam**

- No cell phones or other electronics are allowed on the desk
- Alternate seating -- please sit one seat apart from the next student
- Use the bathroom prior to the exam start

- **Pearson's MyBLawLab (Quizzes):**

- MyBLawLab is a required component of the course. All students must purchase and use this feature
 - Students must complete and pass all quizzes on the MyBLawLab website for this course. You must score **70 or above** to be deemed to have passed a quiz
 - Instructions for registering for MyBLawLab are found in the course instructions on Canvas. **Failure to complete or pass a quiz will result in a reduction from your final grade (up to -5 points)**
 - Note that quizzes should ideally be completed during the week that the chapters are covered in class. In order to receive credit, you must complete the quizzes for all chapters covered before the midterm exam by the end of the weekend of the midterm exam. Similarly, you must complete the quizzes for the chapters related to the final exam before the end of the weekend of the final exam. Quizzes are automatically graded on MyBLawLab upon completion
 - Please make sure you have a reliable Internet connection when taking quizzes. If you lose connection while taking a quiz, your grade will be automatically submitted by the system
 - ***You are solely responsible for keeping track of and meeting all deadlines***
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I do NOT tolerate cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the RU Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>)

I will strongly enforce this Policy and pursue all violations. On all examinations and assignments, students must sign the RU Honor Pledge, which states, "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination or assignment." I will screen all written assignments through SafeAssign or Turnitin, plagiarism detection services that compare the work against a large database of past work. Don't let cheating destroy your hard-earned opportunity to learn. See business.rutgers.edu/ai for more details.

GRADING POLICY

Course grades are determined as follows:

Midterm and Final Exams (in class, closed books/notes) 30% each [Total 70%]

Homework for all chapters covered (complete in MyBLawLab) 15%

Regular class participation 15%

Case Presentation 10%

***NOTE: This is a law class and I will call on students in every class -- you MUST be prepared having read the cases/examples. If you will not be prepared to participate in class, please send me an email the day before class explaining the reason why and asking to be excused from class participation. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Letter Grades Guideline: "A" = 90-100; "B+" = 85-89.9; "B" = 80-84.99; "C+" = 75-79.99;
"C" = 70-74.99; "D" = 60-69.99; "F" = 59.99 and below
(NO A+ or minus grades)

- There is no extra credit assignment nor is there any curving
- Exam grades will be posted on Canvas in a prompt fashion. You will have the opportunity to review your midterm exam at the next class session
- Your final grade is **NOT** subject to negotiation. You earn your own grade based on objective criteria. If you feel I have made an error, I will gladly review and correct it. But I will adjust grades only if I have made an error. Please understand that I cannot and will not adjust grades based on individual circumstances. That is simply not fair to the other students

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Required Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Ch. 1 (Cases 1.1 ; 1.2) Ch. 2 (Cases 2.1 ; 2.2.)	<i>Introduction to course</i> Legal Heritage and the Digital Age Courts and Jurisdiction
Ch. 3 (Cases 3.1 ; 3.2) Ch. 4 (Cases 4.1 ; 4.2)	Judicial, Alternative, and E-Dispute Resolution Constitutional Law for Business and E-Commerce
Ch. 5 (Cases 5.1 ; 5.2) Ch. 6 (Cases 6.1 ; 6.2)	Intentional Torts and Negligence Product and Strict Liability
Ch. 7 (Cases 7.1 ; 7.2) Ch. 8 (Skipped) Ch. 9 (Cases 9.1; 9.2)	Intellectual Property and Information Technology Nature of Traditional and E-Contracts
Ch. 10 (Case 10.1 ; 10.2) Ch. 11 (Cases 11.1 ; 11.2)	Agreement Consideration and Promissory Estoppel
Ch. 12 (Cases 12.1) Ch. 13 (Cases 13.1)	Capacity and Legality Genuineness of Assent and Undue Influence

<i>Case Presentations (Group 1) Review for Midterm Exam</i>	
MIDTERM	** Mid Term Exam (Ch. 1-13; except for Ch.8)
Ch. 14 (Case 14.1)	Statute of Frauds and Equitable Exceptions
Ch. 15 (Case 15.1)	Third-Party Rights and Discharge
Ch. 16 (Case 16.1)	Breach of Contract and Remedies
Ch. 17 (Case 17.1)	Digital Law and E-Commerce
Ch. 18 (Case 18.1)	Formation of Sales and Lease Contracts
Ch. 19 (Case 19.1)	Title to Goods and Risk of Loss
Ch. 20 (Cases 20.1)	Remedies for Breach of Sales and Lease Contracts
Ch. 21 (Case 21.1)	Warranties
<i>Case Presentations (group 2) Review for Final Exam</i>	
Final Exam	

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need accommodation for a **disability**, obtain a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides student-centered and student-inclusive programming in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick ODS phone (848)445-6800 or email dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark ODS phone (973)353-5375 or email ods@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you are **pregnant**, the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Title IX Coordinator phone (848)932-8200 or email jackie.moran@rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance phone (973)353-1906 or email TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you seek ***religious accommodations***, the Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Dean of Students phone (848)932-2300 or email deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers University-Newark Dean of Students phone (973)353-5063 or email DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu]

If you have experienced any form of ***gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment***, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides help and support. More information can be found at <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/>.

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick incident report link: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/concern/>. You may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (848)932-1181]

[Rutgers University-Newark incident report link: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?RutgersUniv&layout_id=7 . You may also contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973)353-1906 or email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does **not** have a reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)353-1918 or email run.vpva@rutgers.edu]

If students who have experienced a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate, you should submit a request via <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu> .

If you are a military **veteran** or are on active military duty, you can obtain support through the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services. <http://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

If you are in need of ***mental health*** services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Counseling and Psychological Services–New Brunswick: <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of ***physical health*** services, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers Health Services – Newark: <http://health.newark.rutgers.edu/>]

[Rutgers Health Services – New Brunswick: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>]

If you are in need of **legal** services, please use our readily available services: <http://rusls.rutgers.edu/>

Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to ***English as a second language (ESL)*** should contact the Program in American Language Studies for supports.

[Rutgers–Newark: PALS@newark.rutgers.edu]

[Rutgers–New Brunswick: eslpals@english.rutgers.edu]

If you are in need of additional **academic assistance**, please use our readily available services.

[Rutgers University-Newark Learning Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rLC>]

[Rutgers University-Newark Writing Center: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>]

[Rutgers University-New Brunswick Learning Center: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>]

[Optional items that many faculty include:

- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand the RU Academic Integrity Policy.
- Students must sign, date, and return a statement declaring that they understand this syllabus.]