



***BUS 280: Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2023***

Meeting Time/Place: T/Th 12:30-1:45pm
Payson 204

Prerequisites: None

T/Th 2:00-3:15pm
Payson 200

Instructor: Barbara I. Belik, JD, MBA, CPA

Phone: (207) 604-2159 (cell)
No Texts Please!

E-Mail: barbara.belik@maine.edu

Office: n/a

Office Hours: T/Th 12:00-12:30pm
3:15- 3:45pm
and by appointment

Required: 1. Meiners, Ringleb & Edwards, The Legal Environment of Business, 14th ed.
2. *Cengage Infuse* access for online homework/learning platform

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to study the legal environment in which businesses operate as well as various legal issues presented by the operation of a business. In achieving these objectives, students completing this course should:

1. Develop a conceptual and substantive understanding of business law.
2. Understand how the application of business law is a critical consideration in business decision-making.
3. Gain an awareness of the economic, social, political, and ethical reasoning behind various business law provisions.
4. Recognize the legal implications presented in various unstructured fact-based scenarios and apply the applicable substantive legal principles in order to develop defensible conclusions and recommendations.
5. Develop an awareness of the various ethical issues that may arise when operating a business.
6. Strengthen written and oral communication skills.

Homework

All assigned reading and homework should be completed prior to class. Homework assignments will be posted to Brightspace and/or Cengage periodically. **These Homework assignments will constitute a portion of your final course grade.** In order to get credit for a particular assignment, it must be submitted by the due date. **I will not accept late homework.**

You should come to class prepared to participate in our discussions—**your level of engagement in this class constitutes a portion of your final course grade.** I do not believe you can successfully complete this course without completing the assigned material so it is in your best interests to complete the homework assignments not only to get credit towards your final grade but also to give you the practice necessary to understand the material.

Projects/Assignments

During the semester, you will complete the following Projects/Assignments. In order to get credit for a particular assignment, it must be submitted by the due date (see attached Tentative Course Schedule). **Please plan ahead as I will not accept late work.** Specific instructions for each assignment will be distributed to you later in the semester.

- **Legal Analysis Hypothetical:** You will complete a written assignment that will require you to apply business law concepts in the context of a brief hypothetical scenario. Your analysis must be presented using the “IRAC” format (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion--to be discussed in class) for legal analysis. The purpose of this activity is to develop your analytical and critical reasoning skills while also giving you an opportunity to work on your written communication skills. Your grade on this assignment will be based on both content and writing skill.
- **Business Entity Assignment:** You will complete an assignment designed to increase your familiarity with the law surrounding the formation and operation of business entities.

Exams

The course will consist of 2 interim examinations (the last one being administered during the Finals period). **The final exam will not be cumulative.** Exams must be taken during the period when scheduled. Absences from a scheduled exam without prior approval may result in a grade of zero. Approval to be absent from an exam will only be granted in cases of personal emergency or illness. Written verification may be required. Those exams cancelled due to weather or other circumstances will take place at the next scheduled class meeting.

Grading

● Exams (2)	45%
● Written Assignment – Legal Analysis Hypothetical	20%
● Business Entity Assignment	15%
● Homework*	15%
● Engagement**	5%
	<hr/>
	100%

***Homework:** The “Homework” portion of your grade will be calculated as the **average score of the homework assignments that you: (1) completed and (2) submitted by the due date.** Due dates for Homework assignments can be found on Brightspace and/or Cengage. I will drop the 2 lowest homework grades.

****Engagement:** The “Engagement” portion of your grade will be assigned by me as a numerical grade (i.e. 60, 85, 98, etc.) based on your **level of engagement** in this course. Examples of some factors that will be considered include: attendance, asking questions, answering questions, participating in group work, seeking help outside of class, etc. **I expect that you will attend all classes. While I understand that unexpected circumstances might sometimes arise, you can expect to see a significant reduction in your Engagement grade after two absences.** I will provide you with a preliminary midterm assessment of your Engagement grade so that you will know where you stand and you will be able to make modifications going forward.

Grading Scale:

92-100	A	88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+	<60	F
90-91	A-	82-87	B	72-77	C	62-67	D		
		80-81	B-	70-71	C-	60-61	D-		

Add/Drop Period & Withdrawals

Please note the following important dates:

Monday, January 30th – End of Add/Drop period

Friday, March 31st – Deadline to drop for a grade of “W”

Academic Services & Policies

For USM’s most current information on services available to students and academic policies, see [The Academic Services and Policies Overview](#) where you will find specifics on the following:

Services to help you succeed: Access Textbooks and Technology, Plan for Academic Success, Work with a Trained Peer, Access Wellness Resources, Find Community.

University Policies: Academic Integrity, Acceptable Conduct In Class Settings, Course Evaluations, Covid Face Covering Requirement, Dropping/Withdrawal from the Course, Inclement Weather, Online Conduct, Nondiscrimination Policy And Bias Reporting, Statement On Religious Observance For USM Students, and Title IX Statement, and Technology Requirements.



Scan the QR Code to go to the [The Academic Services and Policies Overview](#)

**BUS 280
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE
Spring 2023**

Date	Topic	DUE
Jan. 17	Introductions	
19	Court System/Dispute Resolution	
24	No Class	
26	Constitutional Law & Business	
31	Criminal Law & Business	
Feb. 2	Torts	
7	Torts	
9	Torts	
14	Property Law	
16	Property Law	
21	Property Law	Legal Analysis Hypothetical DUE
23	Intellectual Property	
28	Exam 1	
Mar. 2	Contracts	
7	Contracts	
9	Contracts	
14	NO CLASS - Spring Break	
16	NO CLASS - Spring Break	
21	Ethics	
23	Ethics	
28	Business Organizations	

30	Business Organizations		
Apr. 4	Business Organizations		
6	Credit & Bankruptcy		
11	Credit & Bankruptcy		Business Entity Assignment DUE
13	Credit & Bankruptcy		
18	Agency		
20	Agency		
25	Employment Law		
27	Employment Law		
TBD	Exam 2 (noncumulative) - during Final Exams period		