

**Syllabus
BA-2900
Section -
The Legal Environment of Business
Fall, 2019**

This is an Asynchronous On-Line Course

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On-Line Office Hours: An Optional On-Line Q & A Session is scheduled from 5:30 – 6:30pm on each Tuesday prior to the Module Exam. The On-Line Session may be attended by clicking the ‘Zoom’ button on the Canvas Course Site on your computer. You may need to set up the Zoom feature before joining the session.

An on-line or in person session may be arranged with the instructor by sending an e-mail [costellom@umsl.edu] to arrange a mutually convenient time and date to meet.

Textbook: Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice, Third Edition, by Melvin and Katz published by McGrawHill an e-book. **This is an e-book that is automatically added to your student account. You do not need to purchase from bookstore.**

Course Tools: regular access to internet, UMSL Canvas access, video camera and microphone [to create Voicethread introduction] and a Voicethread account.

Voicethread is a video and audio tool for creating a narrated powerpoint presentation. A Voicethread account will be enabled under an UMSL license for each student enrolled in this course. Separate instructions will be provided for accessing and creating a voicethread presentation.

Course Objectives:

- Understand and be able to apply basic legal principles in an ethical context;
- Understand the sources of the law (e.g. Constitution, statutes, regulations, and court decisions), their interaction and contribution to the development of the law; and

- Understand and be able to apply legal principles to the business environment [torts, contracts, agency, business organizations, intellectual property, property, securities regulation and other forms of governmental regulation of business].

Grades: Course grades will be assigned based on total points accumulated.

The grade breaks are based on a total of 1000 points. However, the course structure provides for a student to earn 1200 points.

A	=	1000 - 925
A-	=	924 - 900
B+	=	899 - 875
B	=	874 - 825
B-	=	824 - 800
C+	=	799 - 785
C	=	784 - 725
C -	=	724 - 700
D+	=	699 - 685
D	=	684 - 625
F	=	600 - 0

There is no rounding up nor extra time given to complete the Modules. You may start and complete Modules before **but not after the due date.**

Review the Course Structure Detail for how points are accumulated in each Module and for details as to the optional final exam.

Voicethread Introduction: Each student is required to create and post a Voicethread introduction to the Course Discussion Board by midnight, Wednesday, August 21st. Each student is required to review and comment in the course discussion board on at least three [3] of your classmates introductions by midnight Sunday, August 25th.

Court Visit [50 points]: Visit a local court of your choice [a county associate or circuit or state appeals court or any federal court [district, bankruptcy or appellate] **BUT NOT A MUNICIPAL or TRAFFIC COURT**] for at least one [1] hour and prepare a one [1] typewritten page summary of what you learned that you didn't previously know about court from your experience of court on television.

Have an official in the courtroom sign or stamp the form posted in the course document section of the course website as evidence of which court you visited.

Post a copy of your court visit report and Court Visit Form to the forum in the course discussion board by midnight on Sunday, September 15th. Review and comment in

the course discussion board on at least three [3] of your classmates' reports by not later than midnight on Wednesday, September 18th.

Course Modules: The course is divided into eight [8] two week sessions. Each Module must be completed by midnight of the end of the second week. Each Module contains:

- a. several Voicethread narrated lectures by the instructor,
- b. Chapter readings from the textbook,
- c. Quizzes pertaining to the Chapters read and/or an exercise,
- d. A Module exam consisting of two [2] short essay problems to test application of the material to practical issues. Each Module exam has a fixed time limit of sixty [60] minutes from the moment you open the Module exam.
- e. Optional final exam.

See Course Structure Detail for specific informational about items in each Module and points available. Students may choose how to earn sufficient points to secure the grade desired in this course.

Participation: Participation is expected in the on-line discussion boards. Discussion consists of thoughtful comments respectfully shared with the class.

On-line learning limits the opportunity to connect and build a relationship with the University and for networking among your classmates. Use the Voicethread Introduction and Review of Court Visit Reports to establish a minimal connection with one another.

Participation in the course is measured by two [2] criteria.

- A. The first criterion is timely submission of original thoughts of a substantive nature which in a courteous manner encourage discussion of materials posted to the course discussion boards.

Timely means within one [1] week of the original posting;

Original means the author's thought after contemplation and reflection on the topic;

Substantive means materially adds to the course of the discussion; and

Courteous means in a manner intended to encourage discussion without demeaning or belittling another participant.

- B. The second criterion is meaningful participation as a member of the group activities.

Each student will be asked to submit a review of:

- a. Three [3] of your classmates Voicethread Introductions by midnight on Wednesday, August 21st.
- b. Three (3) of your classmates Court Visit Reports by midnight on Wednesday, September 18th;

English Language: Law and Business requires an ability to communicate clearly and succinctly. Consequently, an integral part of any written assignment for this course will require attention to correct spelling, grammar, sentence structure, paragraph and other requirements for formal communication. Abbreviations and text message style writing is unacceptable. Note the requirement on the Module Exams for well written one [1] paragraph answers.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Participation in campus life is a part of the academic experience of a university and a networking opportunity. Periodically the instructor may offer students an opportunity to participate in a campus event for extra credit. Each student desiring extra credit will be required to attend the selected event and to write and submit via the on-line submission tool to the instructor a one [1] page typewritten paper about what they learned by participating in the event.

All extra credit papers are required to be submitted within two [2] weeks for full credit and prior to the last day of class to be entitled to credit less a penalty for tardy submission. Extra credit does not count towards course participation.

All extra credit points will be included in the Canvas course gradebook but will only be supplemental to your grade not in setting the minimum number of points necessary for grades in the course.