

BA2900 – LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS COURSE SYLLABUS Summer V 2019



*“It is false to assert that, in the state of independence, reason leads us to contribute to the common good through a consideration of our own interests. Far from being allied, private interest and the common good are mutually exclusive in the natural order of things. Social laws are a yoke which every one is very willing to impose on others, but which he does not want to bear himself.” – Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract and Discourses* (1750)*

Class meets:	9:30 a.m. – NOON on Mondays and Wednesdays 410 SSB
Instructor:	Elizabeth Grimm-Howell, J.D.
Email address:	grimmhowelle@umsl.edu You may also contact me at my personal email address: e.grimmhowell@att.net
Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00 – 5:50 p.m. in 513 Tower.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the nature and meaning of law, sources of law, legal process and institutions. The legal environment of business is defined as: the attitude of the government toward business, the historical development of this attitude; current trends of public control in taxation, regulation of commerce and competition; freedom of contract, antitrust legislation and its relationship to marketing, mergers and acquisitions; and labor management relations. We will discuss general principles of contracts, torts, and criminal law against the background of the American legal and judicial system. We will review administrative law and the laws regarding the formation and function of various types of business organizations. We will also cover current issues affecting business, including globalization and international trade, employment relationships, and antitrust regulation

COURSE MATERIALS

Our class has partnered with McGraw Hill Education for this course to ensure all students have “day-one access” to their required course materials at a reduced cost.

Required:

Digital Course materials for *The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice*

Optional:

A loose-leaf print version of the textbook is also available in the bookstore.

Your student account will be charged automatically for the digital course materials. If you opt out, drop or add the course, you may be entitled to a refund, depending on the date you drop. You will be sent an AutoAccess welcome email that will provide additional information on your AutoAccess courses and the opt out process.

GRADES

Student grades will be based on the following:

Exams (3)	300 points (60% of grade)
Homework	120 points (24%)
LearnSmart assignments	<u>80 points (16%)</u>
	500 points (100%)

I use a standard grading scale of **90-100% = A/A-**, **80-89% = B+/B/B-**, etc. If circumstances warrant (*i.e.*, if the class average for that exam is substantially below 75%), I will occasionally curve grades on a particular exam. This does not happen often.

As noted above, you earn your grade in the course by doing homework and LearnSmart assignments and taking exams. Those are the sole opportunities to earn points in this course; I do not give extra credit assignments to help you make up points you failed to earn during the semester. Your final grade will be figured based on homework, LearnSmart assignments, and exam scores alone. I do occasionally make a mistake in entering scores for assignments or exams; please feel free to contact me about your grade if you think I have made a mistake in scoring. However, you should not contact me about extra-credit assignments or free points because you did not like the grade you earned on an assignment or exam.

EXAMS

There will be three exams during the semester. All exams are closed-book, closed-notes exams, and **you will not be permitted to use any electronic devices (including foreign-language dictionaries) during exams.** All material presented or discussed in class, including material which is not in your textbook, may be covered on the mid-semester and final exams. Therefore, your attendance and participation in class are extremely important.

IMPORTANT EXAM POLICIES

Make-up examinations - If you know that you must miss class on a day on which an exam is scheduled, please let me know **AT LEAST ONE WEEK AHEAD OF TIME** so that we may arrange a time for you to take the exam in the Campus Testing Center [JC Penney Building] prior to the regularly-scheduled time. In the interest of fairness, students are expected to make arrangements with me **in advance** if they cannot attend class on a scheduled exam date.

If you do miss an exam due to illness or dire emergency and could not contact me in advance, I will ask you to provide documentation regarding your inability to take the exam. If, in the sole discretion of the Instructor, your absence was unavoidable and could not have been foreseen, you may be allowed to take a make-up exam. ***All such determinations are within the sole discretion of the Instructor.***

ATTENDANCE & HOMEWORK

If you cannot attend a class, you need to check to see if any homework was assigned and make sure it is turned in on time (that is, at the next regularly-scheduled class session). Late homework will not receive full credit; it is eligible for partial credit only. Homework assignments are posted on Canvas – please check the Canvas site for this course to find out what you missed. Homework assignments due on a date you will miss class should be turned **through Canvas prior to the beginning of class** on the date the assignment is due. *Please do not turn in homework via any other method* – if you do so, it may not receive full credit.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course covers a lot of material in eight weeks, so it is important to keep up with the reading and LearnSmart assignments. I expect students to read the assigned material associated with each week of the course **before** coming to class. I also expect students to complete homework assignments on time and to come prepared to discuss those assignments in class. I encourage voluntary participation in class discussions, but I also reserve the right to call on students during class, whether or not they have volunteered to participate. My goal is not to humiliate or embarrass anyone, and there are no “points” earned or subtracted for right or wrong answers. Rather, I want to encourage each student to come prepared to take an active part in discussions and to express his/her thoughts on the subjects covered in this course.

COURTESY

Please turn off all pagers and cell phones during class. Also, **please do not use cellphones, tablets or other electronic devices during class, except for taking notes.** Please refrain from viewing other material, playing games, checking social networking sites, etc., during class. It is a huge distraction to other students.

***DID YOU KNOW?** Taking notes on your laptop or tablet is not as effective as using a pen and paper. Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated this inconvenient fact. See, e.g., <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>*

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Any time a student uses another's work without properly attributing it to the real author, that action constitutes academic dishonesty. Such actions violate the policies of the University of Missouri – St. Louis. I expect my students to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.

In cases of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, it is the duty of faculty to report all cases to the Primary Administrative Officer on campus. View this campus policy here:

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/academic-dishonesty.html>

It is the job of the faculty to evaluate student work. If I determine that a student has cheated on an exam or turned in an assignment on which he/she used work that was not his/her own, ***the student will receive a score of zero on that assignment.***

MANDATORY REPORTING

Under Title IX, all UMSL faculty, as well as staff and administrators (with limited exception), are obligated to report any incidents of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or gender discrimination to the Student Affairs office and/or other University officials. This ensures that all parties are protected from further abuses and that victim(s) are supported by trained counselors and professionals.

Note: There are several offices at UMSL (e.g., Counseling Services, Health Services, Community Psychological Service, Center for Trauma Recovery, and Student Social Services) whose staff are exempt from Title IX mandated reporting, when the information is learned in the course of a confidential communication.

GOALS OF THIS COURSE

My goals in teaching this course are to provide an outline of general legal principles affecting the business world and to teach you to identify certain legal issues arising in business situations and in the news. However, no material in this course is intended to constitute legal advice, and the course is not designed to prepare you to handle legal situations yourself in lieu of obtaining legal representation or to substitute for the assistance of an attorney. *As a faculty member, I am prohibited by professional ethics and university policy from representing any of my students as clients and therefore cannot give anyone specific legal advice.* Please *do not rely* on the information presented in this course in lieu of obtaining a professional legal opinion from an attorney familiar with the facts of your specific situation.

ASSISTANCE

If you need accommodation due to a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. Prior to our meeting, be sure you have met with someone in Disability Access Services (MSC 144 or 314.516.6554). I need to receive a Faculty/Instructor Notification form from DAS in order to make any accommodations to which you are entitled under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If you do not have a disability but are struggling in this course, it is in your best interests to discuss it with me as soon as possible. I want each student to get the most that he/she can from the course and will do my best to help you find a solution to any problems you are having. This may mean referring you to other resources on campus, such as an academic counselor or advisor.

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Reading/LearnSmart Assignments and Exam Dates

For the week of:

Jun. 17 & 19	<u>Introduction + Chapter 1</u>	Legal Foundations
	<u>Chapter 5</u>	Business, Societal and Ethical Contexts of Law
Jun. 24 & 26	<u>Chapter 2</u>	Business and the Constitution
	<u>Chapter 3</u>	The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, and Venue
July 1	<u>Chapter 4</u>	Resolving Disputes: Litigation and ADR Options
*July 3	First exam (covering Chapters 1-5) - first 60 minutes of class	
	<u>Chapter 17</u>	Administrative Law
July 8 & 10	<u>Chapter 6</u>	Overview and Language of Contracts
	<u>Chapter 7</u>	Contract Formation
July 15 & 17	<u>Chapter 8</u>	Contracts for the Sale of Goods
	<u>Chapter 9</u>	Torts and Product Liability
*July 22	Second exam (covering Chapters 6-9 and 17) - first 60 minutes of class	
	<u>Chapter 10</u>	Agency
July 24	<u>Chapter 11</u>	Employment Relationships and Labor Law
	<u>Chapter 12</u>	Employment Discrimination
July 29 & 31	<u>Chapter 12</u> , continued	
	<u>Chapter 13</u>	Choice of Business Entity, Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships
Aug. 5	<u>Chapter 14</u>	Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships
	<u>Chapter 15</u>	Corporations
*August 7	Final exam (covering Chapters 10-15)	

Please note: This schedule is preliminary and may be revised by the Instructor as necessary without the prior notification or consent of students. Any changes will be announced in class.