

**Huntingdon College  
Adult Degree Completion Program**

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**COURSE NUMBER: BUS322  
COURSE NAME: Legal Environment in Business  
Spring 2009, Session III, Brewton**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: TBA**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The philosophy and evolution of law is examined. The first part of the course focuses on the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals under and before the law: torts, property, contracts, and agency. The second part of the course focuses on the legal rights and responsibilities of the businessman and the firm: negotiable instruments, partnership, and corporation law, equity, and related subjects. This course also examines many basic legal issues that pertain to the operation of a business in the United States.

**PREREQUISITE: None**

**TEXT REQUIRED:** Miller, Roger, and Gaylord Jentz, Business Law Today: The Essentials; West Legal Studies in Business, Thomson/West (**see Huntingdon College booklist for edition and ISBN**)

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:** At the completion of this course, students are expected to competently:

- Articulate legal issues that arise in the business environment with an appreciation of the larger context of the American legal system.
- Analyze legal concepts and apply them to circumstances that commonly arise in business.
- Evaluate legal risk in the realms of tort, contract and criminal law.
- Identify and articulate ethical issues that arise in the contexts of law and of business.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA:** There will be a weekly writing assignment and self-test to be completed by student before class and turned in at each class. Students will be required to participate in classroom discussion based on the week's reading assignment. **Writing assignments** will be graded for clarity of thought and organization of ideas as well as grammar and punctuation. Each writing assignment should be typed, and double-spaced. Writing assignments are due on the night specified on the student course module at the beginning of class; late assignments will not be accepted.

**Self-tests** should be completed for each of the assigned chapters. Students may access self-tests at [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students must complete each self-test and bring the results to class. Self-tests will be collected by the instructor at the end of each class and account for 10% of the student's final grade. Self-tests will be used to facilitate class activities and discussion.

<b>Grading Elements</b>	<b>Percentage:</b>
Weekly writing assignments	50%
Weekly self-tests	10%

Final project	20%
Oral presentation	10%
Class participation	10%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS** - Describe the point range for each letter grade.

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59-below

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Absences and Tardiness – All students are required to attend the first session.** Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

**Participation** –Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

**Late Assignments** – Explain whether late assignments will be accepted and what penalty might be imposed if the assignment is late. Also specify what assignments can be turned in late. This will allow the student to make informed decisions.

**Accommodation of Special Needs-** Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik, will notify your professor(s) of the committee's decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4432 or e-mail at [disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu).

**Academic Honesty** –Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas *which are not your own creation* is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe

penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

## **First Night Assignment - \*A FIRST CLASS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE WEEK ONE**

### **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

#### **Week 1:**

#### **Reading Assignment**

Chapter 1: The Historical and Constitutional Foundations  
Chapter 3: Traditional and Online Dispute Resolution  
Chapter 20: Corporations

#### **Writing Assignment Writing assignment (5% of writing assignment grade)**

Prepare two short essays for submission for the first class. Each essay should be 2 pages, typed and double-spaced. The essays will be graded for clarity of thought and presentation as well as grammar and punctuation.

##### *Essay Topics*

1. How do the duty of care and the duty of loyalty govern the conduct of directors and officers in a corporation?
2. What are the steps in the process by which a corporation is dissolved and liquidated?

#### **Presentation Assignment**

Review the first ten amendments to the Constitution (The Bill of Rights) in Chapter 1 of Miller & Jenz and the referenced Appendix. Students should ask themselves whether they would support the adoption of these rights if they were presented today as amendments to the Constitution. Come to class prepared to support or argue against the adoption of any one of these amendments in an open class discussion.

#### **Self-Test**

See [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students should complete the quiz provided for each of the assigned chapters and bring the results to class. These self-tests will be used in class discussions and activities. The completion of these exercises is required preparation for each class and will count toward class participation grade.

#### **Week 2:**

#### **Reading Assignment**

Chapter 2: Ethics and Social Responsibility  
Chapter 4 & 5: Torts, Intellectual Property, and Internet Law  
Chapter 6: Criminal Law

#### **Writing Assignment Writing assignment (15% of writing assignment grade)**

Describe in a 3-4 page, typed, double-spaced, paper, the ways in which criminal law differs significantly from civil law.

#### **Presentation Assignment**

Be prepared to participate in a role playing activity using the information set forth in Miller & Jentz, Chapter 2: Ethics and Social Responsibility.

### **Self-Test**

See [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students should complete the quiz provided for each of the assigned chapters and bring the results to class. These self-tests will be used in class discussions and activities. The completion of these exercises is required preparation for each class and will count toward class participation grade.

### **Week 3:**

#### **Reading Assignment**

Chapter 7: Contracts: Nature, Classification, Agreement, and Consideration

Chapter 8: Contracts: Capacity, Legality, Assent and Form

Chapter 9: Contracts: Third Party Rights, Discharge, Breach and Remedies

Chapter 10: E-Contracts

#### **Writing Assignment (15% of writing assignment grade)**

Prepare a short response paper, 1 - 2 pages, typed and double-spaced, answering all of the questions below. Papers will be graded for clarity of thought and presentation as well as grammar and punctuation.

1. What are the basic elements of a contract?
2. What is an offer? What are the elements for an effective offer?
3. Which parties are afforded special protection under the law relating to contractual capacity, and what protections are they afforded?
4. What is required of a writing to satisfy the writing requirement of the Statute of Frauds?
5. What is a material breach of contract? What effect does a material breach and a non-material breach have on the non-breaching party?
6. What are damages designed to do in a breach of contract situation?
7. What are the characteristics of E-contracts?

#### **Presentation Assignment**

Be prepared to present and apply the assigned reading, self-test and paper to class activities and discussion.

### **Self-Test**

See [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students should complete the quiz provided for each of the assigned chapters and bring the results to class. These self-tests will be used in class discussions and activities. The completion of these exercises is required preparation for each class and will count toward class participation grade.

### **Week 4:**

#### **Reading Assignment**

Chapter 11: Sales and Leases: Formation, Title and Risk

Chapter 12: Sales and Leases: Performance and Breach

Chapter 13: Warranties, Product Liability and Consumer Law

Chapter 14: Negotiable Instruments

Chapter 17: Agency and Employment

Chapter 18: Employment Discrimination

#### **Writing Assignment Writing assignment (15% of writing assignment grade)**

Write a 1-2 page typed and double-spaced briefing on a current Employment Law topic which your instructor will assign. Papers will be graded for clarity of thought and presentation as well as grammar and punctuation.

### **Presentation Assignment**

Be prepared to present and apply assignments to class activities and discussion.

### **Self-Test**

See [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students should complete the quiz provided for each of the assigned chapters and bring the results to class. These self-tests will be used in class discussions and activities. The completion of these exercises is required preparation for each class and will count toward class participation grade.

### **Week 5:**

### **Reading Assignment**

Chapter 25: International Law in a Global Economy

### **Writing Assignment: Final Project (20% of final grade)**

Final Project: Prepare a 10 - 12 page final paper on a topic that is addressed in the text that student wishes to research in more detail. Much research for this project can be conducted on the Internet using the tools provided in the Miller & Jentz guide to Online Legal Research.

*Examples for Final Project topics*

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- The Law of Defamation
- Misappropriation of Trade Secrets
- Computer Crime; Email and Privacy Issues
- Contracts Contrary to Public Policy
- Promissory Estoppel and Detrimental Reliance
- Derivative Suits
- Fiduciary Duties of Board Members
- Respondeat Superior; Affirmative Action
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Discrimination and Harassment

### **Presentation Assignment**

Conduct a formal presentation of your final project using visual aids like PowerPoint, overheads or handouts. It should be 10 to 15 minutes, with time for questions and answers, at the end of your presentation.

### **Self-Test**

See [www.westbuslaw.com](http://www.westbuslaw.com). Students should complete the quiz provided for each of the assigned chapters and bring the results to class. These self-tests will be used in class discussions and activities. The completion of these exercises is required preparation for each class and will count toward class participation grade.