



Peru State College

BUS 252 – Commercial Law

Syllabus – Fall 2011 Term 2

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Course Summary and Strategies for Success

This course is the study of the law governing commercial transactions including the Uniform Commercial Code, negotiable instruments, property rights and business organizations. Course activities include 7 weekly assignments, a Group Study Project and a final exam. There are no quizzes and no multiple choice or true/false test questions. Your work will consist mostly of discussing legal principles, debating controversial issues, and applying legal concepts to “real life” case scenarios. I recommend that you read the materials thoroughly and pay attention to the broad principles and major themes. Your ability to write well is critical. You should proofread carefully every posting and assignment that you submit in this course. Finally, you cannot earn an A without participating fully in the Group Study Project.

Course Description & Objectives

This course examines the sources and origins of law and the legal system, legal processes, and fundamental legal principles, with an emphasis on the obligations of parties to a contract. At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the College’s and School’s mission and goals.

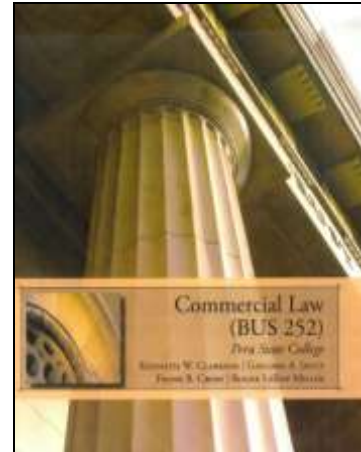
Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Understand and articulate the fundamental principles of law governing sales contracts and the authority of the Uniform Commercial Code;
2. Understand and articulate the fundamental principles of law governing the making and transferability of negotiable instruments, including “holder in due course” concepts;
3. Understand and articulate the fundamental principles of law governing property ownership (both real and personal property) and bailments;
4. Understand and articulate the fundamental principles of law governing sole proprietorships, franchises, partnerships, and limited liability business forms;
5. Understand and articulate the fundamental principles of law governing the formation and operation of corporations, including acquisitions and terminations;
6. Apply principles learned in the course to analyze and resolve hypothetical cases;
7. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills and evaluate and critique the reasoning of others in a mature, thoughtful and respectful manner.

Text Book Information

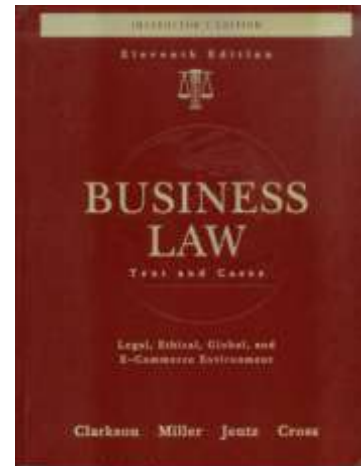
Option A – Purchase the Custom Textbook Created for Peru State College and this specific course (paper bound, contains only 19 selected chapters)

Title: Commercial Law (BUS 252)
Peru State College (2009)
Customized Textbook for PSC
Taken from: Business Law, Text and Cases
Authors: Clarkson, Jentz, Cross, and Miller
Publisher: Southwestern Cengage Learning
ISBN: 978-1-424-08338-1



Option B – Purchase the Full Textbook generally available to public

Title: Business Law, Text and Cases,
Edition: 11th (2009)
Authors: Clarkson, Jentz, Cross, and Miller
Publisher: Southwestern Cengage Learning
ISBN 13: 978-0-324-65522-3
ISBN 10: 0-324-65522-3
May use 10th or 9th edition, if desired
Available from many used book dealers



Option C – Purchase the whole book or selected chapters in electronic format from iChapters.com

Title: Business Law, Text and Cases, Edition: 11th (2009)
Authors: Clarkson, Jentz, Cross, and Miller
Publisher: Southwestern Cengage Learning
ISBN 13: 978-0-324-65522-3
ISBN 10: 0-324-65522-3
Order from this link:
<http://www.cengagebrain.com/tl1/en/US/storefront/ichapters?cmd=catProductDetail&ISBN=978-0-324-65522-3&echapterView=true>

Weekly Assignments

Because this is an eight-week accelerated course, we will move very quickly through a lot of material. Each week you will be assigned the following tasks:



Readings

Assigned chapters from the text book - In addition to the reading, you might be assigned a PowerPoint presentation, pod cast, video, or web site to review



Discussion Board

Discuss the answers to one or more questions and post your discussion on the Main Discussion Board (*worth up to 15 points each week*); Post a reply to at least one classmate on the Main Discussion Board (*worth up to 5 points each week*).



Individual Homework Assignment

Complete an individual homework assignment related to the material (*worth up to 30 points each week*); Turn in via Assignment Page

Unless otherwise noted, weekly assignments are due on Mondays at midnight.

Group Study Project

Every student will be required to participate in a Group Study Project. The project will be worth 100 points and will require special readings and discussions about a commercial law topic. In order to work with your group, you will need to access the "Group Study" tab of the course site. Your Group Study Project grade will be assessed based on your individual participation and contribution to your group. More information about the group projects will be posted on the course site.

Final Examination

In addition to the weekly assignments, there will be a comprehensive Final Examination. The examination is in "take home" format so you may print it out and work on it over a ten day period. The exam includes case analyses requiring that you be able to apply legal principles to factual situations.

Grading Policy and Scale

You will have the opportunity to earn a total of 600 points. Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you earn as noted below.

		<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Weekly Assignments (7 weeks @ 50 points each)	350 pts.	540 – 600	(90-100%)	A
		510 – 539	(85-89%)	B+
Group Study Project	100 pts.]	480 – 509	(80-84%)	B
		450 – 479	(75-79%)	C+
Final Examination	150 pts.	420 – 449	(70-74%)	C
		390 – 419	(65-69%)	D+
Total Points	600 pts.	360 – 389	(60-64%)	D
		Below 360	(below 60%)	F

Academic Honesty

Unless directed otherwise, students are expected to do their own work on assignments and examinations. Academic dishonesty will result in actions in accordance with the college's disciplinary policy and may result in loss of credit for the assignment and/or failure of the course. I maintain assignments turned in by students in previous semesters for comparison purposes. Please do your own work! If you do not, you are cheating yourself and wasting your tuition money.

Course Decorum

In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. A part of your grade will be based on your demonstrated ability to evaluate and critique the reasoning of others in a mature, thoughtful and respectful manner.

Announcements and Student Questions

I have created a special discussion board forum for announcements and student questions. It is the first one on the discussion board page and it is titled: "Announcements and Student Questions." This is where I will post comments about the course materials and weekly assignments. My preference is that you post your questions to this forum, so that all students see your questions and the answers I have provided. However, if you prefer to email me your question privately, you may do so and I will respond to you by private email. I would recommend that you review your assignments for the coming week before Friday, so that you can contact me on Friday if you have any questions about the material or assignments. I will respond to all emailed and posted questions within 24 hours following your correspondence, unless your correspondence occurs after noon on Friday. All postings after noon on Friday will be answered no later than noon on Monday. Please print this syllabus so you can contact me in the event that Blackboard is down.

Permission to Post Your Papers

I have found that posting the best student work for other students to see is a helpful learning tool. In the event that your paper is selected for posting, I will notify you of my intention to post your paper and will assume that I have your permission to post your paper in the "Announcements and Student Questions" discussion forum. If you prefer that your papers not be posted, please notify me at the start of the course and I will refrain from posting your papers.

How to Submit Course Work

All weekly assignments are located in the "Assignments" tab of the course site. All discussion board answers and replies should be posted to the Discussion Board. Your weekly homework should be submitted via the submission instructions located on the page of the assignment. You must observe all due dates in order to be successful in this course. Please keep a copy of all of your course work, just in case there is a technical problem that requires you to re-submit an assignment or posting. Also, please print out this syllabus so that you have contact information for me in case you lose access to Blackboard or the Internet.

Assignments Submitted After the Due Dates

The due date associated with each assignment examination, or project is definitive and will not be waived or excused except in extraordinary circumstances. Assignments will be accepted up to 3 days late with a one-half credit penalty (the most you may earn on the assignment is one-half of the otherwise available points). Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted unless there are extraordinary circumstances. It is therefore critical that you keep up with your reading and course work. If you anticipate being unavailable for some portion of the semester, you may complete your work ahead or request an extension. You may also request that an examination be made available to you earlier than the scheduled date.

Student Assistance and Reasonable Accommodations

Students with special needs are encouraged to make them known to the instructor at the beginning of the course. In accordance with law and the policies of the college, reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities.

College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

Title IX Compliance Notice

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230. Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

Check Your Acornmail Often!

All of my private correspondence with you will be via PSC Acornmail. You must have an account created for you and check it often. I will send you notes about your course performance and comments about your work via Acornmail.

Modification of Course Syllabus and Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to modify any part of this course syllabus and course schedule. Any such modifications will be communicated to students in advance of becoming effective.

College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend for two semesters students found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.



Course Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignment Due Dates</u>
October 24-31 Chapters 15, 16 Alternate text: 47, 48	Personal Property and Bailments Real Property and Landlord-Tenant Relationships	Week 1 Assignments Due October 31
November 1-7 Chapters 5, 6 Alternate text: 24, 25	The Function and Creation of Negotiable Instruments Transferability and Holder in Due Course	Week 2 Assignments Due Nov 7
November 8-14 Chapters 7, 8 Alternate text: 26, 27	Liability, Defenses and Discharge Checks and Banking in the Digital Age	Week 3 Assignments Due Nov 14
November 15-21 Chapters 9, 10, 11 Alternate text: 47, 48	Sole Proprietorships and Franchises Partnerships and Limited Liability Partnerships Limited Liability Companies & Special Business Forms	Week 4 Assignments Due Nov 21
November 22-28 Chapters 12, 13, 14 Alternate text: 35, 36, 37	Corporations – Formation and Financing Corporations – Directors, Officers and Shareholders Corporations – Merger, Consolidation, and Termination	Week 5 Assignments Due Nov 28
Nov 29 - Dec 5 Chapters 1, 4 Alternate text: 20, 23	The Formation of Sales and Lease Contracts Warranties and Product Liability	Week 6 Assignments Due Dec 5
December 6-12 Chapters 17, 18, 19 Alternate text: 44, 45, 50	Consumer Law Environmental Law Will and Trusts	Week 7 Assignments Due Dec 12 Choose two chapters to study
Final Exam Due Thursday, Dec 15	The Examination will be posted on Sunday, December 4	Final Examination is due on Thursday, December 15