



Peru State College
**BUS 251 – Legal Environment and
Contract Law**

Syllabus – Fall 2009 (Term 2 Online)

Instructor: Christy L. Hutchison, JD
Telephone: (800) 742-4412 (Main Campus in Peru)
Email: chutchison@peru.edu

Course Summary and Strategies for Success

This course is the study of the legal system and basic law that impacts individuals and 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. Prerequisites: None

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

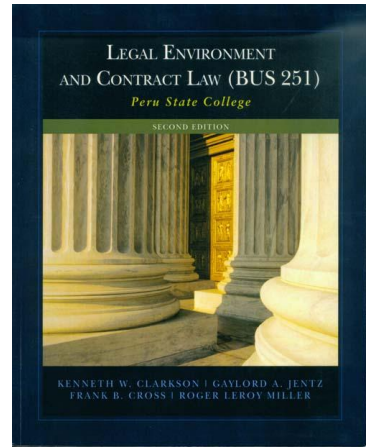
1. Discuss the nature of law and legal reasoning and identify the sources of American Law;
2. Describe the federal and state court systems and the alternatives to dispute resolution in the courts;
3. Identify the constitutional authority to regulate business and examples of how business is regulated by federal and state governments;
4. Discuss the nature of torts and crimes and the differences between them;
5. Identify the elements of a legally binding contract and describe the nature of each element;
6. Discuss the obligations of parties to a contract, enforceability of agreements and remedies for breach;
7. Apply principles learned in the course to analyze and resolve hypothetical cases;
8. Demonstrate effective 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 23 selected chapters covered in our course)

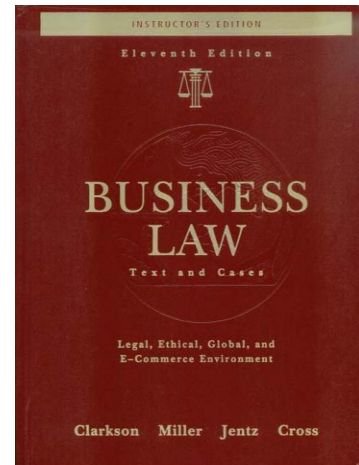
Title: Legal Environment and Contract Law (BUS 251) Peru State College (2009)
Taken from: Business Law, Text and Cases
Authors: Clarkson, Jentz, Cross, and Miller
Publisher: Southwestern Cengage Learning
ISBN 13: 978-1-424-08338-1
ISBN 10: 1-424-08338-9

Available from PSC Bookstore for \$130.75



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
Available for \$107.99 for whole book or \$2.99 per chapter.
Order from this link: <http://www.ichapters.com/market/index.html>

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:



Read:

Two or three assigned chapters from the text book. In addition to the reading, you might be assigned a pod cast, video, or web site to review



Review Chapter Summaries (optional):

This is optional but may help you to understand the material in the chapters; the summaries are located in the "Chapter Summaries" tab of the course site



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 a 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

All weekly assignments are due on Mondays at midnight (11:59 pm.)

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 constitutional topic. In order to work with your group, you will need to access the "Group Study" tab of the course site. You will be allowed to choose your study topic at the start of the second week of the course. 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.

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 also result in loss of credit for the assignment. 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.

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.

Weekly Assignments	(7 weeks @ 50 points each)	350 pts.
Group Study Project		100 pts.
Final Examination		150 pts.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
540 – 600	(90-100%)	A
510 – 539	(85-89%)	B+
480 – 509	(80-84%)	B
450 – 479	(75-79%)	C+
420 – 449	(70-74%)	C
390 – 419	(65-69%)	D+
360 – 389	(60-64%)	D
Below 360	(below 60%)	F

How to Submit Course Work

All weekly assignments are located in the “Weekly Assignments” tab of the course site. All discussion board answers and replies should be posted to the Main Discussion Board. Your weekly homework should be submitted via the submission instructions located on the page of the assignment. Group Study Projects will be discussed on the Group Discussion Board located in the “Group Study” tab of the course site. 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 have computer problems.

Assignments Submitted After the Due Dates

The due date associated with each assignment and examination 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.

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.

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.

Check Your Acornmail Often!

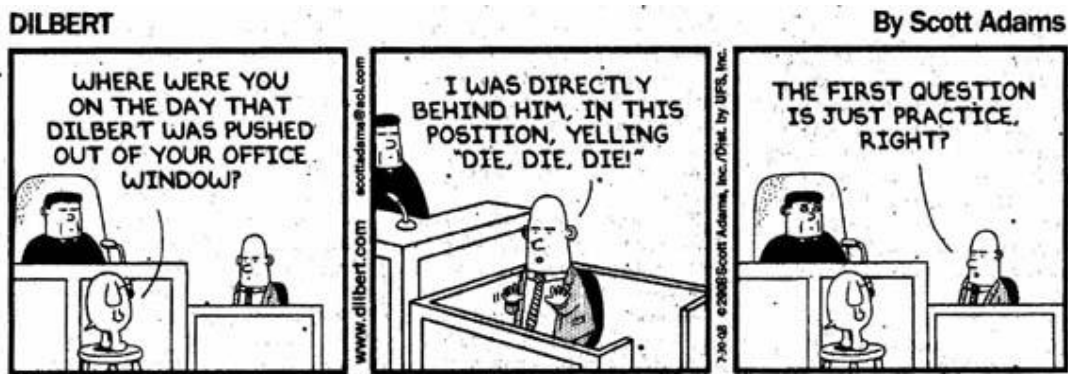
All of my private correspondence with you will be via PSC Acornmail. You must have an account created for you and check it often. I will send you notes about your course performance and comments about your work via Acornmail.

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.

Posting of Student 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. If you do not object to my posting of your paper, I 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.



Course Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assignment Due Dates</u>
October 26 – November 2 Chapters 1, 2	Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution	Week 1 Assignments Due November 2
November 3-9 Chapters 3, 4 (skip chapter 5)	Court Procedures Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business	Week 2 Assignments Due November 9 Students choose topic for Group Study Project
November 10-16 Chapters 6, 7	Intentional Torts Negligence and Strict Liability	Week 3 Assignments Due November 16
November 17-23 Chapters 8, 9	Intellectual Property and Internet Law Criminal Law and Cyber Crime	Week 4 Assignments Due November 23
November 24 – 30 Chapters 10, 11, 12	Nature and Terminology of Contracts Agreement Consideration	Week 5 Assignments Due November 30
December 1-7 Chapters 13, 14, 15	Capacity and Legality Mistakes, Fraud, and Voluntary Consent The Statute of Frauds – Writing Requirement	Week 6 Assignments Due December 7 Final Posting of Group Study Project is Due
December 8-14 Chapters 16, 17, 18	Third Party Rights Performance and Discharge Breach of Contract and Remedies	Week 7 Assignments Due December 14
Final Exam Due Thursday, December 17	Covers Chapters 1-18 (excluding 5) The Examination will be posted on Monday, December 7	Final Examination is due by 11:59 PM on Thursday, December 17 Note: This is a Thursday due date.