



Peru State College

BUS 251 – Legal Environment and Contract Law

Syllabus – Fall 2010

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Text book: **Business Law: Text and Cases**
Clarkson/Jentz/Cross/Miller 11th Ed.

Course Summary and Strategies for Success

This course is the study of the legal system and basic law that impacts individuals and organizations. Class sessions will include lecture, discussions on the assigned material, case studies, interactive scenarios, role-playing, classroom activities, audio-visual presentations, and student presentations. Attendance and participation are vital to the learning experience. Please come to class on time and ready to participate in the scheduled discussions and exercises. It will be helpful for you to consider both sides of an issue and be able to argue or defend either side. The quizzes, homework assignments and exams will focus on major concepts and broad themes, not on small details. It is more important for you to “get the big picture” than to memorize details.

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

Expectations & Instructional Approach

In order to foster a climate conducive to learning, please join me in treating your classmates with respect. I encourage you to ask questions and seek assistance anytime you have difficulty. I am available before and after class and by appointment.

Grading Policy and Scale

You will have the opportunity to earn a total of 500 points. Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you earn as noted below.

Quizzes	(Top 10 scores)	100 points
Homework Assignments	(Three assignments)	150 points
Midterm Exam		100 points
Final Exam		150 points

<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
450 - 500	(90-100%)	A
425 - 449	(85-89%)	B+
400 - 424	(80-84%)	B
375 - 399	(75-79%)	C+
350 - 374	(70-74%)	C
325 - 349	(65-69%)	D+
300 - 324	(60-64%)	D
below 300	(below 60%)	F

Quizzes

There will be at least eleven unannounced 10-point quizzes during the semester. Your top ten scores will be totaled for up to 100 points. There will be no make-up quizzes allowed except in extraordinary circumstances. Any student who misses class on a day when a quiz is given will earn a zero for the missed quiz.

Homework Assignments

There will be three 50-point homework assignments. Each assignment will be given at least one full week before the due date noted in the Course Schedule below. Unless you are directed otherwise, homework assignments are to be completed independently and without assistance from other persons or collaboration with other students.

Assignments Submitted After the Due Dates

The due date associated with each assignment and examination is definitive and will not be waived or excused unless there is evidence of extraordinary circumstances. Assignments will be accepted up to 2 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 2 days late will not be accepted unless there is evidence of 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 session, you may complete your work ahead. You may also request that an examination or homework assignment be made available to you earlier than the scheduled date.

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 and/or failure for the course.

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 engage in scholarly discussions and to evaluate and critique the reasoning of others in a mature, thoughtful and respectful manner.

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.

Standard College Policies

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.

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 students for two semesters 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.

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).

Modification of Course Syllabus and Course Schedule

The instructor reserves to 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.



Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Activities and Assignments</u> Read noted chapters before start of class
August 23, 25	Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning	Chapter 1
Aug 30, Sept 1	Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution Court Procedures	Chapters 2 & 3
September 6, 8	No Class September 6 - Labor Day Holiday Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business	Chapter 4
September 13, 15	Ethics and Business Decision Making	Chapter 5 Homework Assignment 1 is due Monday, September 13
September 20, 22	Intentional Torts Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapters 6 & 7
September 27, 29	Intellectual Property and Internet Law	Chapter 8
October 4, 6	Criminal Law and Cyber Crime The Midterm Exam will be handed out Monday, October 4, and will be due back on Monday, October 11 at the start of class	Chapter 9 The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-9
October 11, 13	Midterm Exam Due Monday, October 11 Nature and Terminology of Contracts	Chapter 10
October 18, 20	No Class Oct 18 – Midterm Break Agreement	Chapter 11

October 25, 27	Consideration Capacity and Legality	Chapters 12 & 13 Homework Assignment 2 is due Wednesday, October 27
November 1, 3	Mistakes, Fraud and Voluntary Consent The Statute of Frauds – Writing Requirement	Chapters 14 & 15
November 8, 10	Third Party Rights Performance and Discharge	Chapters 16 & 17
November 15, 17	Breach of Contract and Remedies E-Contracts and E-Signatures	Chapters 18 & 19 Homework Assignment 3 is due Wednesday, November 17
November 22, 24	Agency Formation and Duties No Class November 24 – Fall Break	Chapter 20
Nov 29, Dec 1	Liability to Third Parties and Termination Employment and Labor Law	Chapters 21 & 22
December 6, 8	Employment Discrimination Final Exam Review The take-home portion of Final Exam will be handed out on Wednesday, December 8 and due back on Wednesday, December 15 at the start of our Final Exam Period	Chapter 23
Exam Week December 13-17	Final Exam – Wednesday, December 15 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	The Final Exam will cover chapters 10 through 23

