



School of Business

SPRING 2024 SYLLABUS DRAFT

<u>Course:</u>	Legal Environment of Business, BULE 303-K01
<u>Prerequisite:</u>	Sophomore standing
<u>Professor:</u>	Kent Zimmerman, J.D.
<u>Email:</u>	dzimmer2@gmu.edu <small>primary contact method</small>
<u>Class Location:</u>	G301
<u>Time:</u>	MW, 3:30pm – 4:45pm
<u>Office Location:</u>	Zoom
<u>Office Hours:</u>	By appointment
<u>Syllabus Version:</u>	draft

Course Description: This course surveys the legal environment of business, emphasizing legal concepts and legal reasoning to prepare students to recognize legal problems and formulate appropriate responses. Topics include business ethics, torts, crimes, and contracts. This course uses a combination of lectures, discussions, and case studies.

School of Business Undergraduate Program Learning Goals:

- (1) Our students will demonstrate an understanding of the social, global, ethical, and legal contexts of business and will be able to reflect on the role of the individual in business.
- (2) Our students will demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge of professional skills necessary for success in business including effective business writing.
- (3) Our students will demonstrate technical and analytic skills appropriate for success in business.
- (4) Our students will demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to apply knowledge of core business disciplines including accounting, finance, information systems, management, marketing, and operations management.
- (5) Our students will demonstrate knowledge and skills appropriate for specialization in their majors.

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- (6) Our students will demonstrate an understanding of how research in the business disciplines contributes to knowledge and how such research is conducted.

School of Business Course Learning Goals:

- (1) Our students will understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.
- (2) Our students will be knowledgeable about the legal environment of business.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- (1) Identify and explain fundamental legal concepts from a variety of subject areas of the legal environment of business.
- (2) Apply fundamental legal concepts through legal reasoning to resolve business related legal disputes.
- (3) Identify ethical issues and understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.
- (4) Apply ethical analysis and reasoning to resolve business related ethical dilemmas.
- (5) Understand the impact of law on business and the role of business in shaping the legal and regulatory environment.

Approach to Learning: Lecture, discussion of lecture material, and student analysis of cases, readings, and hypothetical scenarios.

Diversity and Inclusivity: This course embodies the perspective that we all have differing views and ideas and we each deserve the opportunity to share our thoughts. Therefore, we will conduct our discussions with respect for those differences. For further information on the university's policy on diversity and inclusivity, please visit: <https://diversity.gmu.edu/>.

Required Material: Miller and Cross, "The Legal Environment Today," 10th (not 8th or 9th) edition (Cengage 2022). ISBN: 9780357635551. The electronic edition and the physical edition are both sufficient.

Course Website: Many course materials (e.g., lecture slides) and grades will be made available on Blackboard.

Communications: Any announcements will be made through your Mason email account. Please check your email regularly. If you are emailing the professor with an administrative question, please email the professor only if the answer to your question is not in this syllabus.

Student Responsibilities: (1) Regular class attendance; (2) preparation of assignments prior to class; (3) participation in discussions/critical analysis of assignments and lectures; (4)

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completion of all assessments; and (5) in-class conduct which respects the rights and opinions of classmates and the professor.

Methods of Student Evaluation: Five exams and participation. A final exam is required (per University policy) to be given during the published final exam date and time.

(1) Exams:

- a. *Standard Exam:* There will be 4 Standard Exams worth 100 points each. 50 points are typically derived from a combination of 20 – 30 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and the remaining 50 points from 1 – 2 essay questions.
- b. *Bonus Exam:* There will be 1 “Bonus” Exam offered immediately after Standard Exam 4 (i.e., after Exam IV in the calendar). The Bonus Exam will replace your lowest Standard Exam score if the Bonus Exam score is higher than that Standard Exam score. Otherwise, the Bonus Exam has no effect on your grade. The Bonus Exam structure will resemble a Standard Exam, but will be entirely cumulative and may include content from any chapter covered by the first three exams.

For each in-person exam, you must bring your GMU photo identification. You cannot take an exam without your GMU photo identification. If your cell phone rings or vibrates during an in-person exam, you will lose 5 points on the respective exam. Once you begin an in-person exam, you may not leave the room until you are finished with that exam.

- (2) Participation Points:** You start with 100 participation points (“PP”) from the first class. You are responsible for answering a question if the professor calls on you to answer, and each failure to make a reasonable effort to answer a question (e.g., “I don’t know”) will result in losing 5 PP.

- (3) Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities may or may not arise. However, you must finish the semester with at least 80 PP to benefit from otherwise-earned extra credit.

Grading:

Standard Exam 1	100 points	(20%)
Standard Exam 2	100 points	(20%)
Standard Exam 3	100 points	(20%)
Standard Exam 4	100 points	(20%)
Bonus Exam	100 points	
Participation	100 points	(20%)
Total	500 points	

Grading Scale:

Percentage	Points	Grade
Professor’s discretion		A+
92 – 100%	458+	A

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90 – 91%	448 – 457	A-
88 – 89%	438 – 447	B+
82 – 87 %	408 – 437	B
80 – 81%	398 – 407	B-
78 – 79%	388 – 397	C+
70 – 77%	348 – 387	C
66 – 69%	328 – 347	D
Below 66%	327 or less	F

Course Repeat Policy: This course requires a minimum grade of a C to satisfy School of Business degree requirements, and students will not be permitted to make more than three attempts to achieve a C or higher in this course. Effective Fall 2010, registration in this course will be prohibited beyond three attempts that resulted in a grade lower than C.

Disabilities: The professor is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact the professor if you have any questions or concerns.

Honor Code: Mason Korea's Honor Code prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the Mason Korea Honor Code and follow it at all times. As a reminder, the exams are to be your individual work. It is a violation of the Honor Code to discuss an exam with students who have not taken the exam yet. **No collaboration is permitted on exams, essays, assignments, or MindTap exercises unless directed to do so by the professor.** All work must be completed solely by the student, without help from any other person or resource—including online resources, apps, or AI (such as ChatGPT). Any violation of this policy will result in a 0 for the final score, and referral to the GMU Office of Academic Integrity for an honor code violation. More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found on the Committee of Academic Integrity's website at <https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/cai>.

Class Protocols:

- (1) **Electronics:** Please turn off your phone before class. Laptops are allowed only for utilizing the e-book or class notes.
- (2) **Food and Drinks:** Common courtesy is generally expected. Do not open noisy snack bags or eat obnoxiously loud, crunchy food. If you bring a drink to class, please ensure that it has a lid. If you bring something to eat or drink, and you do not clean up after yourself, you will lose 5 participation points per instance.
- (3) **Recording:** You are not allowed to record class lectures without the professor's explicit permission. If you receive the professor's permission to record, recordings are for your personal use only. You are not allowed to take photos of any class slides. Any violation of these recording rules will result in an Honor Code violation referral.

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Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
2.19	Course Introduction; Syllabus	
2.21	Law and Legal Reasoning	Chapter 1
2.26 (Last day to add)	Admin Agencies	Chapter 20
2.28	Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolutions I	Chapter 2
3.4 (Last day to drop, 100%)	Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolutions II	Chapter 2
3.6	Constitutional Law I	Chapter 4
3.11 (Last day to drop, 50%)	Constitutional Law II	Chapter 4
3.13	Exam I	Covers chapters 1, 2, 4, and 20
3.18	Tort Law I	Chapter 5
3.20	Tort Law II	Chapter 5
3.25 (Last day to drop, 0%)	Criminal Law I	Chapter 6
3.27	Criminal Law II	Chapter 6
4.1	Contract Law I	Chapter 10
4.3	Contract Law II; Contract Law III	Chapter 10; Chapter 11
4.15	Contract Law IV	Chapter 11
4.17	Exam II	Covers chapters 5 – 6 and 10 – 11
4.22	Business Organizations I	Chapter 17
4.24	Business Organizations II	Chapter 17
4.29	Corporations I	Chapter 18
4.30	Corporations II	Chapter 18
5.8	Agency Law I	Chapter 14

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5.13	Agency Law II	Chapter 14
5.16	Exam III	Covers chapters 14 and 17 – 18
5.20	Ethics	Chapter 3
5.22	Employment Relationships I	Chapter 15
5.27	Employment Relationships II	Chapter 15
5.29	Employment Discrimination I	Chapter 16
6.3	Employment Discrimination II	Chapter 16
6.12 (12:30pm – 3:15pm)	Exam IV	Covers chapters 3 and 15 – 16

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