

Spring 2022

Syllabus LSBA 3233: Legal and Ethical
Environment of Business

Section 202- TUE/THU 2:30-3:50 p.m. (Room 343)

Section 270- WED 6:00-8:50 p.m. (Room 101)

Instructor: Gant Grimes

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Cell/Text (use judiciously): 940-235-9411

Course Materials

Business Law by Clarkson, Miller, and Cross, 15th edition, Cengage Learning, ISBN 978-0-357-12963-0. I will provide the handouts. I cannot guarantee the usefulness of previous editions of textbooks or handouts.

A webcam for monitoring tests if Covid-19 restrictions require online testing.

Course Description

This is a high level introduction to the American legal system and how it affects almost every aspect of your personal and professional life. We will start by discussing the goals and organization of the legal and ethical systems, the structure and function of the courts, and dispute resolution processes. We will then cover substantive areas including negligence, torts, contracts, and more.

My goal is for you to have an awareness of how the law works, how to think critically and analyze problems, and how to determine likely answers, where to look for those answers, and when you need to hire someone.

Course Prerequisites

POLS 1333 and POLS 1433 plus junior standing.

Course Policies

- Grades: You will have a short (~10 questions) quiz on D2L every week that will cover the topic we discuss that week. These quizzes are open book/open note. You will have an assigned chapter, handouts, cases, and topic list well in advance in your class. The quizzes will be weighted evenly, and all of them will count. If you miss a quiz without a valid reason *ahead of time* (if reasonably possible), you will receive a zero.
 - There will be an optional cumulative final exam worth 20% of your course grade.
- Grade scale and profile:
 - A (85-100). This student reads and considers material before class, attends class, listens actively, participates in discussions, and asks questions. ~3-4+ hours outside of class.;
 - B (75-84). This student skims the material before class, attends most classes, listens passively, and does not engage or ask questions. ~1.5-3 hours outside of class.;
 - C (65-74) and D (55-64). This student does not prepare beforehand, misses some class, and does not listen actively or participate. <1.5 hours outside of class.
 - F (<54). This student does not try.

- Attendance and Preparation: This material is best learned through discussion rather than lecture. Meaningful discussions require that a number of students show up prepared. If you are absent on a day I take attendance, or you are unprepared when called on, you will have five points deducted from that week's quiz grade. The second time this happens, you will have six points deducted. The third time, seven, and so on. Also, the quiz questions come from the distinctions I make in class.
- Zoom Attendance and Policy: Unless you are subscribed via distance learning, you are expected to be in class. But, life happens. If you are ill, if you have a significant personal issue, or if you are exhausted from work and need to sit behind a screen in comfortable clothes with a drink, I understand. Let me know what is going on—ahead of time, if possible—and that will be fine.
- Makeup grade: There will be opportunities to do in-court observation, focus groups, or other activities that will allow you to replace your lowest quiz grade with your highest quiz grade. If your lowest grade is a zero because you missed it, you can only bring that quiz to a 50. But, a 50 is far better than a zero.
- Academic integrity: If you want to cheat in an ethics class, there is something wrong with you. D2L makes it very simple to identify cheaters. If I suspect this is going on, quizzes will become closed book and use the lockdown browser.
- Everything else: You are an adult pursuing a college degree. I am going to assume that you are intellectually curious, hard-working, and interested in succeeding. If you need help with an issue and you give me reasonable notice, we can deal with it. The items not covered by this brief syllabus may be addressed in the student handbook, by common sense, or cleared up with a question to me. It's ok to not know; it's not ok to not know and not ask. I look forward to working with you this semester.