

Business 18 COURSE SYLLABUS
Bus 18 – Summer 2025

Instructor: Michael Gough

Contact:

Office: Zoom
Email: goughmichael@fhda.edu
Office Hours: Zoom Mondays 5PM

Class Type: Online through Canvas

Course Description:

An introduction to the American legal system with a focus on laws applicable to business. Topics include sources of law, law and ethics, the structure of the federal and state court systems, the litigation process, alternative dispute resolution methods, contracts, torts, agency law, intellectual property law, criminal law and process, legal research methods, and forms of business organization.

Strategic Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of basic legal terminology and basic tort, constitutional, criminal, administrative and contract law.

- Identify ethical issues in a business law context and evaluate factually simple contract issues using basic common law or UCC rules

Course Objectives:

- A. Explain and describe the basic structure and components of the American legal system and the fundamentals of civil and criminal procedure, and master the associated vocabulary.
- B. Identify the similarities and differences, and describe the relationship between the state and federal legal systems. Explain what jurisdiction is and how it is divided both within and between the federal and state systems. Explain the role and value of alternative dispute resolution in the civil litigation process.
- C. Describe the purposes, powers, and functions of federal and state administrative agencies. Describe important limitations on their powers.
- D. Explain and describe the fundamentals of American Constitutional law.
- E. Identify and describe the fundamentals of contract law.
- F. Describe the requirements for the formation of an agency relationship. Describe the duties of agents to principals and of principals to agents. Explain the liabilities of agents and principals to third parties under both contract and tort law.
- G. Perform legal research, including evaluating and interpreting a court citation and locating a court case on an assigned topic. Demonstrate the ability to effectively use the Internet to perform legal research and research legal issues.
- H. Describe the common forms of business organization, their chief advantages and disadvantages, and the major differences between them. Describe the goals and controls of corporate governance. Identify the most common types of intellectual property found in the business environment, and explain how they are used and protected by their business owners.

Print out this syllabus and make note of the important dates:

Homework (done in Canvas)

Midterm (done in Canvas)

Final Exam – Canvas online –All exams MUST be taken on the scheduled dates at the scheduled time, no exceptions

Access the Canvas website the first day of class (it is not open until then), complete the orientation before Thursday of the first week - this is important because if you do not complete the orientation you will be dropped from the course

Get the book(s) and follow the schedule

Text Essentials of Business Law, Beatty et, al 7th edition – Cengage Publishers – earlier editions acceptable – you may find the chapter sequence out of order – if you have an earlier edition of the book, go by the title of the chapter

Midterm Exam: ONLINE in Canvas:

. The exam will **open at 4 PM and close at 11:59PM**, you will have two hours to take the exam. It is multiple choice. (Exam #1 Covers text chapters 1-10)

Exam #2 (Final) – **ONLINE** it will be open from **4PM to 11:59PM** and you will have two hours to take the exam – it must be started no later than 10PM or you will not have the full two hours for the exam (note -It is multiple choice and comprehensive)

AGREEMENT:

In taking this class you are agreeing to the following:

All work you submit will be your own
You understand that exams must be taken as scheduled
Homework can be submitted early, but no later than the due dates.

The midterm and final exams must be taken at the scheduled times on the scheduled dates, no exceptions.

Final Grades:

Final Grades are assigned as follows: Requirement: Possible

Points:

1 Midterm Exam @ 100	100
3 Web Discussions.....	30
2 Homework Sets.....	40
2 Business Article Summaries.....	20
Orientation and Final Exercise.....	15
Final Exam @120.....	120
Total Points:.....	325

Letter Grade: Points:

A 90%

B 80%

C 70%

D 60%

NOT PASSING less than 60%

Grading Policies:

If you sign up for the course and complete the orientation you are enrolled. If you do not complete the orientation you are dropped as a no-show.

If you do not take the midterm exam, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU DROP THE COURSE WITH A W BECAUSE IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PASS THE COURSE**. Please note, enrollment is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**, **ADD AND DROP DATES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN THE DEANZA SCHEDULE**. Please note DeAnza is very strict with the withdrawal date policy.

Incomplete grades are only available under the following conditions:

The student has done **ALL** of the work in the course and cannot take the final exam because of an emergency (verifiable illness, family death, car accident etc). If the issue arises prior to the date for withdrawal, then the student will take a W. If it occurs after the withdrawal date and all work in the course has been completed and a verifiable emergency has taken place, then an incomplete grade can be given. Please note, these are exceedingly rare.

If you wish to take this course as a pass/no pass option it is entirely your responsibility to sign up for the option within the requisite time outlined on the DeAnza website. The instructor has no authority or ability to change a graded course to a pass/no pass course; it is entirely the responsibility of the student.

Cheating and plagiarism will be handled in accordance with DeAnza Policy (failing grade on the assignment or exam, and it cannot be dropped) and you will be reported to DeAnza Administration.

Assignments and exams must be completed as scheduled – no make-up work for any reason

Note to students with disabilities: If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic accommodations or services in this course, provide (name of Instructor) with a Test Accommodation Verification Form (also known as a TAV form) from Disability Support Services (DSS) or the Educational Diagnostic Center (EDC). Students are expected to give five days notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities can obtain a TAV form from their DSS counselor (864-8753 DSS main number) or EDC advisor (864-8839 EDC main

number)

1. Business 18 Schedule				
Date	Description	Reading	Written Assignments	
Week of:		Text Reading Assignment	Exercises and HW in Canvas	Due Date
6/30	<i>Intro to Law , Classification, Philosophy & Ethics</i>	Ch 1-2		
6/30	<i>Courts, Civil Disputes, Constitution --</i>	Ch 3-4		
7/7	<i>Admin, Torts, Crimes, Intl</i>	Ch 5-7	Web#1	7/7
7/7	<i>Contracts - Agreement</i>	Ch 8-10	HW#1	7/11
7/14	<i>Contracts - Consideration --</i>		Article #1 & Web2	7/14
	Exam through Intro to Contracts In Canvas	7/17		7/17
7/14	<i>Contracts Leg/Cap---</i>	Ch 11-13		
7/21	<i>Contracts - Writing/3rd Party --</i>	T - Ch 14-15, G Ch 11	HW#2	7/25
7/21	Performance	T - Ch 16, G Ch 12	Article#2	7/28
7/28	<i>Remedies/Sales</i>	T- Ch 17-19 G Ch 12-13	Web#3	8/1
7/28	<i>Agency/Employment, Intellectual Property</i>	T - 27-28,33-34 G Ch 14-15		
8/4	Final Exam Comprehensive in Canvas	8/6/25		
<i>Note: Schedule may be changed by instructor - there will always be at least two academic days warning of test date change</i>				
Exams must be taken at scheduled dates, no late work accepted Michael Gough, goughmichael@fhda.edu				