



SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

MADRID CAMPUS

BLE 214 M1– PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS LAW

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Eduardo Tous Granda

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Course Information:

Catalog Description: This course is designed to present an overview of the American legal system and especially of the substantive law of contracts. Corporations will also be analyzed, paying special attention to Corporate Social Responsibility. Contracts are the basis of many of our daily activities. They provide the means for individuals and businesses to sell and otherwise transfer property, services, and other rights. Without enforceable contracts, commerce would collapse. On the other hand, corporations are the major form of business organization. This course will help students understand that there are a number of financial and legal advantages gained by operating an organization in corporate form.

Instructor's Additional Course Description: The course aims to enable students to understand the fundamental principles of law relating to business transactions and commercial institutions. It will provide students with basic legal knowledge for making sound business decisions in a very complex market place in which international considerations play a fundamental role.

Prerequisites: None

Credit Hours: 3

This course follows the US Federal Government's Credit Hour definition: "An amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutional established equivalence that reasonably approximates no less than:

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."

For full up-to-date statement:

https://cihe.neasc.org/sites/cihe.neasc.org/files/downloads/POLICIES/Pp111_Policy_On_Credits-And-Degrees.pdf

Textbook/Course Materials:

Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law (latest edition)

Course Goals & Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will know/understand:	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the basic legal principles involved in business and commercial contractual transactions • Comprehend and appreciate the sources and nature of legal rules and the impact of Law generally on individuals, organizations organizations and other such interest groups. • Reliably and consistently engage in rational thinking involving complex issues in a complex and increasingly international environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand basic legal principles involved in business, whether in the national or international environment. • Based on legal arguments and principles and through the evaluation of jurisprudence, statutes and sources of international law, rationalise and form informed conclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Jurisprudence • Mandatory class discussions • Writing assignments • Presentations • Group Projects • In class-writing prompts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the principles of contract formation and the legal requirements for its validity • Identify the legal elements of various areas of the law—ranging from Tort Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Litigation and Intellectual Property. • Recognize and understand issues related to Human Rights and Human Dignity within the context of law and business. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop writing skills and draft a contract. • Develop legal reasoning skills. • Develop critical thinking abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Class discussions • Assignments • Presentations • Review of jurisprudence

Assignments/Exams/Papers/Projects:

Grading will be based on a mid-term exam (35%), a final exam (35%) and class participation (30%). **Class participation** includes **in-class participation, writing assignments, and presentations**. Students are expected to arrive prepared to discuss the assigned readings and to actively participate in class.

Grading/Evaluation:

Midterm exam: 35%

Final exam: 35%

Class Participation: 30%

Course and Classroom Policies:

Students should participate actively. Their questions, and even the doubts a few of them hold about the relevance of law to their futures, fuel my teaching. Materials and instructions relating to the class assignments will be discussed in class. You are responsible for all of the assigned readings whether or not we actually discuss them in class. The readings and cases will provide the information necessary to participate in class discussions in a meaningful way, to prepare the class assignments, and to effectively answer exam questions.

There exists a certain etiquette that applies to classroom situations, particularly at the college level. Entering the classroom after the instructor’s presentation has started can be distracting both to the instructor as well as to other students, therefore students arriving more than 15 minutes late to class will be allowed to enter the classroom but such late arrival will count as half an absence. Students should refrain from other activity which can be distracting *either to the instructor or to other students*. The use of cell phones is not allowed,

but the use of laptops in class is permitted, as long as it does not become a distraction for the student using them or to other students.

Participation/Attendance Policy:

The SUMC Student Handbook states the following:

Once a student is registered for a course, attendance at every meeting of every class is expected, including those held in the first week of the semester. A maximum of two unjustified absences is permitted. Each additional absence will cause the final course grade to be lowered by one-third of a letter grade, i.e., from A to A-; A- to B+; B+ to B, etc.

Excessive absences in a course will have a negative effect on the final grade. When a student is absent, the quality of his or her work in a course will deteriorate since material missed in class sessions can rarely be made up satisfactorily, even though the student remains responsible for that work.

Please note that even when a student has a justified reason for missing class, such as illness, the negative academic impact on learning will be the same as if the absence were for spurious reasons.

In this course, any absence due to illness should be justified by a note from the student's physician or other health professional confirming the day(s) on which the student was unable to attend class. A written excuse from a student's host parent or residence supervisor is also acceptable.

In the event that a class meeting is unexpectedly cancelled, students will be expected to continue with readings or other assignments as originally scheduled. Any assignments due or class activities (e.g., a quiz, exam or presentation) planned for the cancelled class are due at the next class meeting unless other instructions are communicated.

Disability Statement:

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please ask for an appointment with me and we will discuss ways to ensure your full participation in my classroom.

If formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at the main Campus in Boston so that I am notified of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. Check the ODS web site at www.suffolk.edu/disability for information on accommodations.

Student Resources:

SUMC provides a range of student services, both academic and personal. To learn more about course-related tutorials and academic workshops, refer to the SUMC Student Handbook, Section 2 "Academic Policies and Services". Section 5, "Living in Madrid", contains information on the medical and mental health resources, including an English-speaking therapist, available to you.

Midterm Review:

At midterm, around week 6, you will be given a midterm grade based on your progress to date and performance on assignments, class participation and midterm exam. Midterm grades of C- or below will be reported to the Madrid Campus Academic Standing Committee, with an explanation of what contributed to that grade: excessive absences, poor time management or study skills, lack of effort, difficulty with the course material, etc. The Academic Standing Committee or I may contact you to suggest strategies for addressing these difficulties. I strongly encourage you to meet with me so we may discuss how you can be successful in this class.

Academic Misconduct:

www.suffolk.edu/about/mission-history/policies-procedures/academic-misconduct-policy

Suffolk University expects all students to be responsible individuals with high standards of conduct. Students are expected to practice ethical behavior in all learning environments and scenarios, including classrooms and laboratories, internships and practica, and study groups and academic teams. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, use of unauthorized electronic devices, self-plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, and other types of academic misconduct are treated as serious offenses that initiate a formal process of inquiry, one that may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

Student work will be thoroughly examined for academic integrity and may be scanned using plagiarism detection software. A faculty member suspecting academic misconduct will contact the student using the Suffolk email address to schedule a meeting and will make all effort to do so within five business days of detecting the incident. During the meeting, the faculty member will present the documentation that led to suspected academic misconduct. Resolution of the incident will be according to the procedures outlined in the SUMC Student Handbook.

Academic Grievances Policy:

www.suffolk.edu/student-life/student-services/student-handbook/university-policies-for-student-cas-sbs/grievances-academics.

Course Schedule:

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.

Week	General topic of lesson	Readings
1	Introduction to Business Law	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
2	The U.S. Legal System Constitutional Principles	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
3	International and Comparative law Alternative Dispute Resolution	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
4	Tort Law Negligence and Strict liability	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
5	Product Liability	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
6	Intellectual Property	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
7	Introduction to Contracts Agreement	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
8	Midterm Exam Consideration	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
9	Capacity and legality to contract Legal assent	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
10	Contracts in Writing Third-Party Rights to contracts	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
11	Discharge and remedies Major forms of business organizations	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
12	Corporations: formation and financing Directors, officers and shareholders	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
13	Business Ethics/Corporate Responsibility	Kubasek, Dynamic Business Law
14	Review Session Final Exam	