

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
MGT. 3500 (FKA 350) - SEC. 10559

J. PAUL SUGAMELI - INSTRUCTOR

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BLENDED - AFC

PREREQUISITES :

ECN 201 or ECN 210 and “major” standing

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL:

Cheeseman, Henry R. The Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce
Eighth Edition (Prentice Hall, Copyright 2016)

REQUIREMENT ON MOODLE:

As a blended course, the class contains components of both a traditional, instructor-led course as well as an online course. For the live classes, you will be required to attend each class. For the online component, you will need to make a constant effort to complete the online course lectures, complete assignments contained within those lectures, and participate in the class discussion forums. That work is to be completed by Friday at 5:00 p.m. of the week they are assigned in order to be considered for grading purposes. **TO RECEIVE A GRADE FOR FORUM ACTIVITIES, YOU MUST COMPLETE THEM BY THE DUE DATE. ACTIVITY SUBMITTED AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** There will also be a WebEx webinar conducted by the instructor as part of the online component which all students will be required to participate in similar to a live class. WebEx participation is accessible through the Moodle class page.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE

The objective in an online forum discussion is to be collaborative, not combative. Please, proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Various discussions on the integration of legal principles and business applications. Course material along with discussion of current business issues provide an introduction to the legal system and a survey of government regulations of business, legal, ethical and political issues dealing with employment, contracts, torts, consumer protection, administrative law, securities, labor, environmental, debtor/creditor relations, product liability and business associations. There will be a special lecture on Negotiation Techniques. The goal of the Instructor is to instill certain fundamental legal and non-legal principles that will aid the student's personal academic and business life.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To review the various schools of thought of ethics and social responsibility;
- To enrich student understanding of legal topics essential to business through presentation as well as participation in critical thinking and analysis;
- To acquaint each student with methods that they may adopt to resolve management or workplace issues in an ethical manner and as a business strategy;
- To equip each student with the basic knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment affecting business so as to be able to identify, avoid, and manage legal issues they will encounter in business;
- To encourage students to develop personal values and standards and engage in creating a credo for professional life;
- To connect the course material to situations students will face in the workplace through practical examples of ethical dilemmas and the legal consequences of poor as well as good management decision-making.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. The class is a blended course. This means it both meets live and has an online component as well. The class will meet each Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. at AFC from January 4, 2018 through February 17, 2018. In addition to the live class sessions, there will be online, Moodle based, assignments each week as well. The course assignments are divided into both the live classes meeting each Thursday and the online work to be completed each week. Both components are mandatory and critical to understanding the course material sufficient to achieve success in the course.
2. The final exam is Thursday, February 15, 2018. The final will be made available online via Moodle.
3. Class attendance is mandatory. There are no exceptions. As this is a blended course, there will only be a limited number of live classes. Consequently, each class is critical to your understanding of course material. Except in extraordinary circumstances, final grade will be affected if a student misses more than one (1) class. Attendance will be taken after the break each class. If you are not in class after the break, then you are considered absent. Being late and leaving early is being rude and you will not accomplish what you

need to if you are not with us. Absolutely no cell phones will be permitted in use during class. Instructor reserves the right to restrict or otherwise ban use of laptops or other computers during class as well.

4. **Learning Assurance Process:** The learning assurance process is an SBA initiative to continuously assess and improve the quality of the SBA's undergraduate and graduate programs. The SBA has identified a set of learning goals and objectives for its undergraduate programs (each learning goal has between 1 and 5 learning objectives). These goals will be assessed on a two-year cycle. MGT 350 (Legal Environment of Business) has been identified as an undergraduate course that will be used for assessment of one of these goals. The learning assurance process will be overseen by the Learning Assurance Committee (LAC), which is an SBA standing committee.

Ethics Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize basic concepts related to business ethics.
2. Apply an ethical decision making process to an ethical dilemma presented to them.

These skills will be incorporated into the assignments discussed below.

4. Class preparation is mandatory.

Live Classes: For all live classes, you will be called upon at random early and often to answer questions and comment on topics that you should have prepared for in advance of the class. Be ready. Staring straight down when I ask for a volunteer is a dead giveaway that you want to be called on. Be warned. Standing assignments for each class shall be as follows:

A. Read assigned chapters and emphasize the cases and questions. Be ready to discuss the cases. It will be very easy to tell if you have not read the material therefore I urge you to come prepared;

B. Chapter problems. Students may be assigned chapter problems for preparation and turning in. Write answers to problems on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on the paper which you will hand in at the front desk as you enter class. Problems will not be returned to students so if you want a record, keep a copy for yourself. Credit will be given for well reasoned responses and opinions. I will know if you have faked it or are guessing so don't try it. If you read the chapter, you should be able to come up with a reasoned response as the questions are not overly onerous. Remember, in the legal field, the right answer is only correct if you can provide a reasoned argument to support it. Sometimes a good explanation can sell a unique conclusion;

C. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you are unable to attend class, email answers to me. Date of sending cannot be after assignment is due;

Online Classes: For the online class component, you will be expected, as part of your grade, to participate in forum discussions up to and including commenting on other student views and even leading discussions if appropriate. The topics will be provided each week and, in some cases, in advance weeks, however it will be up to the students to participate in the discussion. Intelligent, reasoned views, opinions and conclusions, much like attorneys provide to their clients in the “real world”, will receive full credit. Note: please do not attempt to present views either without preparation of the course material for that discussion or in an attempt to undermine other participants. This is not a contest to see who “wins” but rather a way to open up possibilities to conclusions perhaps you have not thought of. Standing assignments for each class shall be as follows:

A. Read assigned chapters and emphasize the cases and questions.

B. Read the course lectures for each week. Note that the course lectures will differ, in whole or in part, from the assigned chapters. You will need to read each and study each in order to be prepared for the quiz and exams. All information in assigned chapters and course lectures will be used for exams.

C. Each course lecture will have various questions/comments/cases (“Topic”) in **CAPITALIZED AND/OR BOLD** script. These are my questions/topics to you that I will expect you to respond to via the discussion forums. Please rewrite the Topic as well as your response. Otherwise, the format is of your choosing however each student should have a minimum of a discussion section with responses to each Topic and participation in discussion relative to the posts of other students. Simply copying another student’s post will not be acceptable to receive credit though students can certainly come to like conclusions and in like manners or by like reasoning. Weekly discussion forum posts are due by no later than Friday at 5:00 p.m. for the week that the topics are assigned for.

D. Alternatively, some lessons may have assigned problems from the end of the chapter that must be submitted using the same deadline as discussion forum responses. If you read the chapter, you should be able to come up with a reasoned response as the questions are not overly onerous. Remember, in the legal field, the right answer is only correct if you can provide a reasoned argument to support it. Sometimes a good explanation can sell a unique conclusion. Good faith effort and proper reasoning will result in full credit.

E. Late assignments will not be accepted. Each forum discussion post or assigned problem must be completed by the due date listed.

*** Additional or different assignments may be given at any time by the Instructor. Deficiency in completing assignments will affect grades.

CONSULTATION WITH INSTRUCTOR:

Instructor will be available for appointments and for consultation before and after each class. Instructor will always be 15-20 minutes early for each class so feel free to approach and chat. Other times may be scheduled by appointment. Please do not hesitate to

contact the Instructor by telephone or email.

GRADING	PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE
Quiz (T/F, MC and possibly 1 Essay)	20%
Midterm Examination (T/F, MC & Short Answer)	32%
Final Examination (T/F, MC & Short Answer *)	33%
Discussion Forum and Class Participation	15%
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	100%

NO MAKE UP FOR ANY EXAMINATION

Also, extra credit will be awarded if the student turns in proof of Instructor Evaluation on or before the day of the final examination. Instructor reserves the right to make further extra credit available.

GRADE SCALE

The following percentage/point grade scale will be used for this course:

99-100=4.0	79=2.9	68=1.8
97-98=3.9	78=2.8	67=1.7
95-96=3.8	77=2.7	66=1.6
93-94=3.7	76=2.6	65=1.5
91-92=3.6	75=2.5	64=1.4
90=3.5	74=2.4	63=1.3
88-89=3.4	73=2.3	62=1.2
86-87=3.3	72=2.2	61=1.1
84-85=3.2	71=2.1	60=1.0
82-83=3.1	70=2.0	Below 60=0.0
80-81=3.0	69=1.9	

MISCELLANEOUS CONTENT:

- You will get out of the course what you put into it which means your time, attention, enthusiasm and questions/discussions will greatly affect your enjoyment level. You are attending an evening course and some or most of you may be attending after a long day of work. I understand this is difficult and tiring however you will find it easier to manage if you get involved in the lecture;

- Ask questions!! If an unfamiliar word/term is used (an occupational hazard in the legal field), or if something is ambiguous, you are strongly encouraged to ask questions;

- You will be called on during class to discuss certain parts of the chapter, to answer chapter problems or simply to participate. If this bothers you, get over it quickly. The Instructor's teaching philosophy is that education is best achieved when questions are asked, not when answers are given, so speak up;

- Get involved!! This may be one of the best business courses you will ever take. I'll be giving it my best shot to reach that level but I need your help. You need to read the materials in advance of class, ask questions and participate. My goal is to provide you with information that you will actually be able to use for the rest of your life;
- Please complete an on-line Instructor Evaluation at the end of the semester to let me know how I did and if you got as much out of the course as I hope you did.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

You will be expected to adhere to the Academic Conduct Policy regarding cheating on examinations and plagiarizing the work of others. ***Plagiarism is stealing the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own.*** Unintentional or intentional, plagiarizing is a serious offense. Students suspected of cheating on an assignment, exam, or on a paper will be reported to the Dean of Students. Possible consequences for being proved a plagiarist or a cheater include an academic disciplinary warning, academic probation, suspension or expulsion (dismissal) from the university, and/or a course grade of 0.0.

Unauthorized Collaboration . According to the Academic Conduct Policy, collaboration on course work is presumed unauthorized, and a violation of the Policy, unless the Instructor specifically indicates otherwise. For this class, collaboration on take-home assignments which will be graded and your ethics paper is unauthorized. Studying with another classmate for exams does not constitute collaboration. If you have any questions, please be sure to speak with me.

Class Schedule - MGT 3500

<i>Week</i>	<i>Subject Matter</i>	<i>Chapter(s)</i>
1/4/18 OL	Legal Heritage & the Digital Age	1
	Ethics of Managers & Soc. Resp	2
1/4/18 LV	Courts, Jurisdiction & Admin. Agencies	3
	Judicial, Alternative, and E-Dispute Resolution	4
1/11/18 OL	Constitutional Law for Business & E-Commerce	5
	Criminal law and Cyber Crimes	7
1/11/18 LV	Credit, Secured Transactions & Bankruptcy	13
	Agency Law	18
1/18/18 OL	Quiz	
1/18/18 LV	Torts & Strict Liability	6
1/25/18 LV	Contracts	9
		10
1/25/18 OL	Contracts - Continued	11
		12
2/1/18 OL	Mid-Term Exam (Moodle)	
2/1/18 LV	Intellectual Property & Cyber Piracy	8
	Small Business & General & Limited Partnerships	14
	LLC's, LLP's and Special Forms of Business	15
2/8/18 OL	Corporations & Sarbanes-Oxley	16
	Employment Law and Worker Protection	20
	Labor Law and Immigration Law	21
2/8/18 OL	Equal Opportunities in Employment	19
WebEx	Real Property	25
2/15/18 OL	Final Exam	

*LV denotes a Live class

*OL denotes an Online class