

MGT 200-700: LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
Web Course (CRN 39053)
Fall 2019

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Office Hours: As an adjunct instructor, I am only on campus when I teach. If you need to meet with me in person, you need to make an appointment in advance. Besides in-person meetings, I hold virtual office hours will be Tuesdays and Thursdays and strive to respond to communications from students particularly on those days. If you leave a voicemail message for me, I will typically respond by e-mail. Please allow at least 24-48 hours for Blackboard and e-mail responses during weekdays.

Textbook: *The Legal Environment of Business – A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice* by Sean P. Melvin & F.E. Guerra-Pujol (3rd ed. 2018). In addition, we will be using McGraw-Hill Connect in this course.

Please note that this course participates in the WKU Store's Day One Access program. Under this program, you will automatically have access to the ebook version of the required textbook and McGraw-Hill Connect, and will be billed for these items unless you opt-out of the program by following the instructions you receive in an e-mail message from the WKU Store. If you opt-out, you will be responsible for purchasing the required textbook and McGraw-Hill Connect on your own. Participants in this program can also purchase a reduced-cost copy of the book from the WKU Store.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the American public law system and the use of law to achieve economic and social goals. It considers the elements of our legal system from the perspective of business manager. The course reviews constitutional and structural underpinnings of our legal system and examines the nature of legal concepts that include ethics, contracts, torts, property, criminal, and business structures. Consideration may be also given to the Uniform Commercial Code, social forces, governmental regulations, administrative agencies, consumer protection and environmental law.

The course learning outcomes are the following:

1. You will learn foundational legal principles and concepts that affect business transactions and are applicable in the business world today.
2. You will develop the skill to identify the key (root) issues in disputes and succinctly focus the correct issue statement.
3. You will become proficient at utilizing critical thinking skills by analyzing, answering and discussing issues raised in legal cases.
4. You will learn how to effectively apply legal principles to realistic fact situations by working through case scenarios and participating in online and class assignments.

CLASS INFORMATION

A copy of this syllabus is posted in the Syllabus folder. Additional readings, videos, and handouts for selected chapters are posted in the Course Content folder.

Late submissions for assignments or exams will not be accepted. With an online class, there are bound to be issues with technology (e.g., your computer or Blackboard is not working). However, you are given ample notice of assignments, quizzes, and exams, and I have too many students to individually investigate each situation and pass judgment as to whether I feel an excuse is valid or acceptable. For these reasons and to be fair and consistent to everyone, all students must adhere to the same policies, and **no** exceptions will be made.

While this class meets online, it is just as rigorous as a face-to-face course without having to attend class at a scheduled time. You should expect to devote significant time to completing the assignments, reading, and viewing the weekly materials. If you were registered for this class in a face-to-face format, you would spend approximately 3 hours per week in class. As a general rule of thumb, you should also devote approximately 2-3 hours of study time per credit hour to your classes. Please keep this in mind when balancing your class responsibilities with work, family, and personal obligations.

I reserve the right to amend the syllabus and the course outline as necessary throughout the semester and will make any updated version available on Blackboard. These documents shall not be construed as a contract between you and me.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

While this is an online course, the course material is **not** available on demand. Like a face-to-face class, you will read one or two chapters each week, as listed in course outline. You are expected to read each assigned chapter and any additional material I have posted on Blackboard. There are posted lectures for each chapter. Be sure to check Blackboard on a regular basis for class announcements and any changes to the course outline.

LEARNSMART & HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

For each chapter, you will be assigned a LearnSmart assignment and a homework assignment through McGraw-Hill Connect, which count towards your final grade in the course. These assignments are intended to increase your comprehension of the material, and you may complete these assignments an unlimited number of times before the due date. The highest grade you receive on any attempt will count towards your final grade. These assignments will be due at 11:59 PM CT on Sunday of the assigned week.

DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

There will be six discussion board assignments. After completing the necessary reading(s) for each assignment, you will post your detailed answers to a series of questions. You will then reply to two of your classmates' answers and will explain in detail why you agree or disagree with his or her answers. Each assignment has specific instructions (including a grading rubric) to follow in completing the assignment, which will be posted on Blackboard.

QUIZZES

There will be six covering two weeks' worth of material. You may complete a quiz twice, and the higher of the two grades will count towards your final grade in this course. The dates of the quizzes and the content covered are listed on the course outline. The quizzes will be due by 11:59 PM CT on Sunday of the assigned week.

EXAMS

You will also take three exams, including the final exam. The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams will be closed-book, closed-note exams. You must register with the Distance Learning Testing Centers (dltesting@wku.edu or 270-745-5122) prior to taking each exam. To register for an exam, follow the instructions in the email message you received from the Distance Learning Testing Centers at the beginning of the semester. To avoid scheduling difficulties, I strongly encourage you to register early. For this semester, the exams must be taken on one of the following dates:

Exam 1	Sept. 26, 27, or 28, 2019
Exam 2	Oct. 31, Nov. 1, or Nov. 2, 2019
Final Exam	Dec. 10, 11, or 12, 2019

If you will miss an exam, you **must** contact me in advance, if possible. At my discretion, you may make up the missed exam. You will **not** be permitted to make up an exam if you fail to schedule the exam in advance or miss your scheduled appointment for an exam. While the final exam is not cumulative and will not test any material previously covered, you are still expected to retain the material covered earlier in the course.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

At Western Kentucky University, academic integrity is extremely important. In this course, plagiarism or any other form of cheating (which includes giving a false reason for requesting to make up missed course work) will not be tolerated. No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by me in taking an exam, or assignment that is submitted for purposes of grade determination. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty may receive a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in this course without possibility of withdrawal. The Student Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.wku.edu/judicialaffairs/student-code-of-conduct.php>.

FINAL GRADES

Your final grade will be determined on a weighted average as follows:

LearnSmart Assignments (18)	15%
Homework Assignments (18)	15%
Discussion Board Assignments	15%
Quizzes (6)	10%
Exams (3)	45%
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

Grades on all items will be posted on Blackboard and available under My Grades as soon as the grades are available. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

I do not round your final percentage.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic adjustments and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) in the Downing Student Union (DSU), A-200. The telephone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the SARC.

TITLE IX SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/ASSAULT POLICY

Western Kentucky University is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070)¹ and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040).² Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited.

If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429, or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

¹ <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>

² https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 1 (Legal Foundations)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment (due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 1, 2019**), homework assignment (due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 1, 2019**), syllabus quiz (due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 3, 2019**), and introductory discussion assignment (due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 3, 2019**)

Week 2: Sept. 2-8, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 5 (Business, Societal, & Ethical Contexts of Law)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment, homework assignment, and quiz covering Chapters 1 & 5 - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 8, 2019**

Week 3: Sept. 9-15, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 2 (Business & the Constitution)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment, homework assignment, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 15, 2019**

Week 4: Sept. 16-22, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 3 (The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, & Venue) & Chapter 17 (Administrative Law)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for chapter, a homework assignment for each chapter, and quiz covering Chapters 2, 3, & 17 - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Sept. 22, 2019**

Week 5: Sept. 26-28, 2019 - Exam 1 (covering Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, & 17) – you must schedule an appointment in advance and take the exam at Distance Learning Testing Centers on **Sept. 26, 27, or 28, 2019**

Week 6: Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 9 (Torts & Products Liability) & Chapter 10 (Agency)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for each chapter, a homework assignment for each chapter, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Oct. 6, 2019**

Week 7: Oct. 7-13, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 24 (Intellectual Property)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment, homework assignment, quiz covering Chapters 22 & 24, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Oct. 13, 2019**

Week 8: Oct. 14-20, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 19 (Antitrust & Regulation of Competition)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment, and homework assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Oct. 20, 2019**

Week 9: Oct. 21-27, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 22 (Criminal Law & Procedure in Business)

Assigned Work: LearnSmart assignment, homework assignment, quiz covering Chapters 19 & 22, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Oct. 27, 2019**

Week 10: Oct. 31, Nov. 1, or Nov. 2, 2019

Exam 2 (covering Chapters 9, 10, 19, 22, & 24) – you must schedule an appointment in advance and take the exam at Distance Learning Testing Centers on **Oct. 31, Nov. 1, or Nov. 2, 2019**

Week 11: Nov. 4-10, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 6 (Overview & Formation of Contracts) & Chapter 7 (Contract Enforceability & Performance)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for each chapter, a homework assignment for each chapter, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Nov. 10, 2019**

Week 12: Nov. 11-17, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 13 (Choice of Business Entity, Sole Proprietorships, & Partnerships) & Chapter 14 (Limited Liability Companies & Limited Liability Partnerships)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for each chapter, a homework assignment for each chapter, and quiz covering Chapters 6, 7, 13, & 14 - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Nov. 17, 2019**

Week 13: Nov. 18-24, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 15 (Corporations) & Chapter 16 (Regulation of Securities, Corporate Governance, & Financial Markets)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for each chapter, and a homework assignment for each chapter - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Nov. 24, 2019**

Week 14: Nov. 25-Dec. 1, 2019

No Class - Thanksgiving

Week 15: Dec. 2-8, 2019

Assigned Reading: Chapter 11 (Employment Relationships & Labor Law) & Chapter 12 (Employment Discrimination)

Assigned Work: a LearnSmart assignment for each chapter, a homework assignment for each chapter, quiz covering Chapters 11, 12, 15, & 16, and discussion board assignment - all due by **11:59 PM CT on Dec. 8, 2019**

Week 16: Dec. 10-12, 2019

Final Exam (covering Chapters 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16) – you must schedule an appointment in advance and take the exam at Distance Learning Testing Centers on **Dec. 10, 11, or 12, 2019**

The Course Outline is subject to change, and any revisions will be announced on Blackboard.