

Instructor

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Office hours

Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-3:30
or by appointment

The Legal Environment of Business

LGLS 211 B | AIC 236 | 9:30 AM

LGLS 211 F | AIC 212 | 11 AM

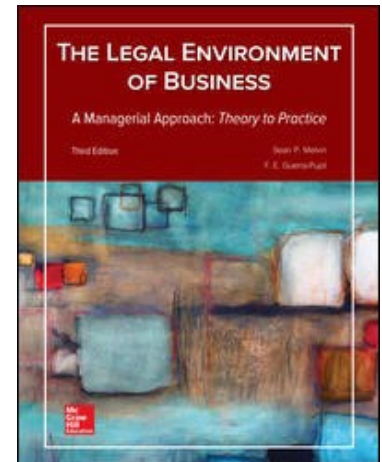
What is this course about?

Students in the Legal Environment of Business learn about the laws that are relevant to the daily and long term planning of a business under the assumption that laws and regulations affect a business strategic decision making.

Students will develop an understanding of the legal system and judicial process throughout the semester by engaging in problem-solving

*knowledge of the law +
application to factual scenarios*

The primary means of assessment of learning are quizzes and tests.



Important dates

Quiz 1	Oct. 5
Quiz 2	Nov. 7
Quiz 3	Dec. 7
Final	12/20 (211 B) 12/19 (211 F)

The 3 Big Questions

What will you learn?

- How the US legal system works
- How key legal provisions affect business
- How to apply legal reasoning to fact patterns
- How to resolve legal problems
- How to make convincing arguments

How will you learn?

- By completing assigned readings and homework before class
- By attending lectures, paying attention, and participating in exercises and discussion
- By working with other students (in class and outside)
- By reflecting on how well you are doing and seeking feedback and help when appropriate

How will you be graded?*

Homework (30%)

Homework is assigned regularly; assignments are posted on Blackboard and an email notice is sent

Homework is graded based on whether you provide the correct answer rather than whether you completed it

Late homework is not accepted: if you do not turn in the assignment by the due date, you receive no credit

Quizzes (30%): Quiz 1 or 2: 15% (best grade of the two) + Quiz 3: 15%

The quizzes are comprised of 15 to 20 questions (true/false and multiple choice), closed-book, open-notes, and non-cumulative

Final Exam (30%): The final is cumulative, closed-book, open-notes.

Class participation (10%): Attendance and participation in discussions and exercises

***Legitimate excuse.** Students with a legitimate excuse are allowed to take a makeup exam. Legitimate excuses include attending a Bryant-sponsored event, military duty, jury duty, illness or injury sufficient to prevent class attendance, or death or serious illnesses in the family. If you anticipate missing an assignment or quiz because of a legitimate excuse, you must contact me in advance (in person, by phone, or by e-mail) so that we can make a plan (extending a deadline, make-up homework). In the event of situations requiring prolonged absences, you must contact the Registrar's Office.

Course materials

Melvin & Guerra-Pujol, *The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice*, 3rd Edition (McGraw-Hill Higher Education).

The book is **mandatory**.

You can choose to buy or rent the physical book or the eBook. You can buy it at the bookstore, from the publisher's website (<http://tinyurl.com/yb4zceh3>), or on any other website (i.e., <https://www.directtextbook.com/isbn/9781259686207>).

Let me know if you decide to purchase a copy of the eBook using **Connect** as I will have to activate the code for you to be able to access it. **Connect is not mandatory**.



Outlines, handouts, slides and other materials are posted on the OneNote.

A note on "notes"!

"Notes" are "notes taken by a student."

Collaboration on taking notes is acceptable, and even encouraged (see the comments under "how will you learn").

Copying charts and figures from the book to the notes is acceptable. Photocopies of the book are not acceptable "notes."

Typed notes should be printed out. On screen reading of notes is not acceptable.

The outlines posted on OneNote are considered "notes." Feel free to copy in your notes or use them as they are.

NO EXTRA CREDIT

I ordinarily do not assign extra credit work.

If you have concerns about your grade, you should talk to me early in the semester.

Two additional but still important questions

How much should I study?

This is a three-hour course. The expectation is 9 hours of preparation outside class each week

The course is structured to require 9 hours of readings and homework per week

The chart to the right will give you a sense of what is expected to you and what grade you are likely to get based on your effort

Should I attend class?

Yes. Needless to say, class preparedness and participation are essential to success in this course, especially because the course relies heavily on active learning, that is, on active participation of students in class.

Also, it is your duty. According to the Bryant University Student Handbook (<http://www.bryant.edu/student-life/student-handbook.htm>), "the academic experience takes priority over all other activities. Accordingly, full attendance and participation in classes are expected of all students and is the responsibility of all students."

Finally, attendance is graded. I keep a record of attendance and use it as a basis for grading "class participation." Students who are not in class on the day I take attendance receive no credit, obviously.

For absences, see the "legitimate excuses" on the proviso page.

Use your laptop wisely (to take notes and access the eBook rather than surfing the web).

grades	
93-100% = A	
90-92% = A-	87-89% = B+
83-86 = B	80-82% = B-
77-79% = C+	73-76% = C
70-72% = C-	67-69% = D+
60-66% = D	59% or less = F

How to take this course

It's not what you "get" in this course, it's how deep you go. Most students take business law because it is "required." think about why someone has decided that learning this material might be essential to your college experience, and what that means for you personally.

It is entirely possible to do well in the class without being transformed. However, this would be a shame.

I'd like to think of this course (any course, for that matter) operates on three levels. Imagine that we are standing on the seashore. The course is the ocean. Enter with me and go as deep as you dare...

	Wading	Snorkeling	Scuba diving
	<p>You need to know the basics of US law, this highlights, the main rules, the surface level-knowledge.</p> <p>You are not particularly concerned with how those rules apply to problems. You don't see the challenge that comes with it.</p> <p>Being a "wader" may work for you. You'll have more time to do other things! However, you will end up with a grade below the average and not liking the law and not learning about important things.</p> <p>Likely grade: C</p>	<p>You go below the surface and have a grasp of the basic. You are ready to resolve legal problems but are not always able to reach the right solution.</p> <p>You understand that law is about knowing the rules, identifying the right facts and applying the rules to those facts.</p> <p>Being a "snorkeler" come with an effort and you are willing to give it a try. You can make legal distinctions because you see how abstract rules may apply differently to various factual scenarios. You get frustrated but you don't just stop at the first "answer" that you reach.</p> <p>Likely grade: B</p>	<p>You want to go even deeper and to learn as much as you can. You want to deploy the cognitive equipment and tools of legal analysis.</p> <p>You are well aware of the rules and how they need to be looked at with critical eyes when you are asked to resolve a legal problem. You always look at different ways to interpret the rules and never stop at the first answer.</p> <p>As a "scuba diver," you are curious and aware, and you explore the "sea of law" independently. You see the gaps in knowledge and strive to fill it. You connect knowledge from different chapters. When you don't "get it right," you try to figure out how you can "get it right" the second time around.</p> <p>Likely grade: A</p>

Tentative content*

* Check OneNote for the latest assignments.

Test 1	<p>Ch. 6 - Overview and Language of Contracts <i>skip: Bilateral versus Unilateral Contracts; Quasi-Contracts; Option Contracts; Partial Performance and Detrimental Reliance; the mailbox rule, preexisting duty rule; Promissory Estoppel</i></p> <p>Ch. 7 - Contract Enforceability and Performance <i>skip: Statute of Frauds; Nature and Effects of Conditions, Contracts Involving Rights of a Third Party</i></p>
Test 2	<p>Ch. 8 - Contracts for the Sale of Goods (<i>skip: Battle of the Forms; Contracts for International Sales of Goods</i>)</p> <p>Ch. 9 - Torts and Products Liability (<i>skip: Strict Liability Torts</i>)</p> <p>Ch. 21 - Warranties and Consumer Protection Law (only pp. 667-669)</p> <p>Ch. 22 - Criminal Law and Procedure in Business</p> <p>Ch. 4 - Trial (pp. 120-121)</p> <p>Ch. 11 - Employment Relationships and Labor Law (pp. 354-377)</p>
Test 3	<p>Ch. 10 - Agency</p> <p>Ch. 22 - Criminal law and business entities (pp. 698-699)</p> <p>Ch. 13 - Choice of Business Entity, Sole Proprietorships, and Partnerships (pp. 442-451)</p> <p>Ch. 14 - Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (pp. 468-476)</p> <p>Ch. 15 - Corporations (<i>skip: Preincorporation Activity; Taxation</i>)</p> <p>Ch. 16 - Regulation of Securities, Corporate Governance and Financial Markets</p>
Final	Cumulative but based on the selected issues that are listed on Study Guide to be handled out during the last class