

Framingham State University

MGMT 215 Legal Environment of Business

2019 Syllabus

General Information

Class day and time: Monday-Friday 15:20-17:20

Instructor: Jim Freedman

Instructor Office: TBA

Instructor email: TBA

Course Materials:

Cheeseman, H., **Legal Environment of Business**, 8th Edition, Pearson (2016).

Other Materials:

Blackboard account

Course Description:

A study of the interrelationships among business, government, and society as reflected in the legal system in which firms operate. In addition to examining specific laws and legal issues, such as business transactions, employer-employee relations, government regulation and consumer law, students become familiar with the way in which laws develop and change. Special emphasis is on the social and ethical issues which arise in business law.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- Describe three theories of ethics and their relationships to business and US law
- Describe US legal concepts, with emphasis on contract and business law
- Apply US legal concepts to specific situation using legal reasoning
- Develop written communication skills
- Develop oral communication skills, specific to business presentations
- Develop teamwork skills

Course Content Sequence:

Textbook Section	Topics and Textbook Chapters	Approximate Dates
Part 1	Legal and ethical environment (chapters 1 - 4)	7/8-7/12
Part 2	Constitution and public law (chapters 5 – 8, 23 - 24)	7/8-7/12
Part 3	Contracts, commercial law and ecommerce (chapters 9, 10, 11, 13)	7/15-7/22
	Midterm exam	7/23
Part 4	Business organizations, corporate governance and investor protection (chapters 14 – 17)	7/24-7/29
Part 5	Agency, employment and labor law (chapters 18 – 19)	7/29-7/31
Part 6	Government regulation (chapters 22 and 25)	8/1-8/9
Part 7	Global law (chapter 26)	8/1-8/9
	Final exam	8/9

Grade Components

Component	Description	Points
Presentation		10
Reference list	List of reliable references for Ethics Paper	5
Company description	Short paper describing company to be used in Ethics Paper	10
Court Visit	Complete court visit assignment describing your visit to a courthouse	5
Mid-term exam	Questions from Chapters 1 - 11	25
Paper	Analysis of specific social or ethical issue in business law	10 20
Participation	Punctual attendance at each class meeting; positive contribution to class activities	10
Group Assignments	Group assignments have both in-class and BB components	10

Final Exam	Comprehensive – questions from all assigned chapters	25
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Assignment Information

Presentation Assignment:

You are paired with another student in the class for the presentation assignment. Together you will choose a law or regulation from those described in Chapters 23 and 24, and present information about the law to the class. As an **individual assignment**, you will write about the same law for your Paper 1 assignment.

The presentation does not represent a major portion of your final grade, but it provides a good opportunity to develop and demonstrate oral communication skills in a business context. See Blackboard for information about “signing out” your preferred law or regulation.

One goal of the assignment is to highlight teamwork skills, such as providing constructive feedback. During our course, you are assigned to small teams, but we also function, as a class, as a large team. Your teammate obligations extend to everyone in the class, including presenters on different teams.

On the days students make their presentations, I will use a random number generator to assign each of you to provide feedback for one presenter. I will not share your feedback with the student presenter, but I will evaluate it for its usefulness and tone. When you are a member of a team, your presence and listening skills are very important. The grade for this assignment requires that you function as a good team member of the class as a whole. If you are absent for another team’s presentation, or if you appear distracted during someone’s presentation, your grade for the assignment will be reduced. Please give every speaker your full attention, not only because it affects your grade, but because it is a nice thing to do!

Presentation Checklist

1. Content (1 pt)

Accurately describes law or regulation	
Provides example of how law applied	

2. Platform Skills (2 pts)

<i>Based on Pair:</i>	
Welcome	
Introductions	
Transitions (from one speaker to next)	
Closing	
Time management (begins and ends on time)	

Provides handouts or supplemental material, as appropriate	
<i>Based on Individual:</i>	
Voice: volume, inflection	
Appearance: professional dress, posture and mannerisms (e.g., no hands in pockets, doesn't lean on podium)	
Vocabulary and word choice (e.g., avoids highly technical terms)	
Demonstrates enthusiasm and energy in voice, face and body language	

3. Participation/ Team Skills (1 pts)

Question and feedback reflecting active listening	
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4. Slides (1 pt)

Appropriate number of slides for time allotted (assume 2 minutes/slide)	
Date and slide numbers on slide master	
Title slide identifies presentation title and presenters	
Appropriate/professional background design and color choices	
Font is large enough to be seen in back of room	
Use of white space ("Rule of 6")	
Correct spelling	
Slide Consistency	
Same slide master (design and colors)	
Same font and font size on all slides	
Same bullet style on all slides	
First bullet begins in same spot on all slides	
Same spacing used on all slides (e.g., between lines)	
Bullets on same slide follow same pattern (e.g., verb – object“- Design webpage”)	
Bullets use same verb form (e.g., “to design”, “design”, “designing” are different verb forms)	
No extraneous punctuation (e.g., periods at end of bullets)	
Consistent use of numerals or units	

5. **Penalty** (-2 pts per absence, distraction)

Absent for other presentations; not giving full attention to other presentations

Writing Requirements:

Instructions for the Ethics Paper and Company Description will be posted on Blackboard. You will provide a reference list and use citations for both assignments. If you have not completed the Expository Writing course, or are not sure about rules for references and citations, please see me.

All written assignments, except quizzes and emails, must meet the following requirements:

- a) the document uses a header and a footer, with the following information: (a) header includes description of document (title), centered
- (b) footer includes names of author(s) on left, date created on right, page number in center
- b) text format is Calibri, 12,
- c) document has no spelling or grammatical errors,
- d) document contains only original work, or if document incorporates work that is not original, it provides proper paraphrasing or direct quotation (with page number), and citation - NOTE: work that you created for another course is not original work
- e) file name is either *Lastnamexxxx* where *Lastname* is your last name, or *Groupxxxx* where *Group* is your group name, and **xxxx** is a description of the document

It is not necessary to use double spacing and you can use whatever line spacing you wish.

To receive the maximum points possible, the document must meet professional writing standards. Please use relevant terms and concepts from the course materials. Please use a writing style that is clear, accurate, logical and relevant. Please take time to revise your written work, as early drafts are unlikely to meet these writing standards.

Policy for Missed or Late Presentations and Assignments:

Late assignments can negatively affect others in the course and impair my ability to provide timely feedback to other students in the course. Unfortunately, I will not accept late assignments.

Class Policies:

Our shared goal is to make our class time as productive as possible, so we can reduce

the time we have to spend doing course work outside of class. We also want to contribute to a respectful environment.

Please arrive on time. You are all preparing to become business professionals. Arriving late to a meeting signals disrespect for your client, your manager and your co-workers.

Cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode, and put out of sight.

Always back up your files by storing them on your storage medium and your network drive. If you lose or corrupt an assignment file, you will need to submit the back-up file. Assignment deadlines will not be extended due to lost or corrupted files.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to understand and comply with the policy for academic honesty published in the *Framingham State College Undergraduate Catalogue* and at the following web site:

<http://www.framingham.edu/wlibrary/instruction/lessons/ethical.htm>

Plagiarism or other instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the appropriate college authorities and will result in a failing grade for the course.

E-mail Policy

In most cases, I prefer to talk with you in class, by phone, or in a meeting to answer your questions. Face to face interaction helps me get to know you better and can improve our learning experience. Please feel free to ask questions in class or stop by my office.

If you send me an email to schedule a meeting, please be sure to sign the message with your full name. I do not always recognize everyone's email address and providing your name in emails is good email etiquette. Also, please include the course name or number in the Subject line.

I do not usually check email on the weekends or holidays, but will do so Monday through Friday.

Grading Policy:

- A: (A- 90-92; A 93-100)
- B: (B- 80-82; B 83-87; B+ 88-89)
- C: (C- 70-72; C 73-77; C+ 78-79)
- D: (D- 60-62; D 63-67; D+ 68-69)
- F: (F 59-0)