



BRIDGEWATER

STATE UNIVERSITY

Bridgewater State University

ACFI 305- Business Law I

Winter, 2020

Dec28- January22, 2020/2021

Professor: Joseph Edward Rizzo, Esquire
Harrington Hall Room 103H
508-531-1395 (Accounting office)
508-531-1880 (office-direct)
508-531-1121 (facsimile)
Email: jrizzo@bridgew.edu
Office Hours: telephone conferences will be made available

Course Credits: 3

I. Course Objectives and Requirements:

- A. TEXT: Mann & Roberts, *Business Law and Regulation, Custom Edition For Bridgewater State University*, 12th Edition 2017, Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1-337-05087-6
- B. COURSE OBJECTIVES & DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on introducing the students to the importance of legal and ethical conduct in both business and personal relationships. Students will gain an understanding of the legal process, court systems, criminal law, constitutional law and administrative law. Considerable attention will be focused on understanding contract law and its vital role in business relationships. Equally important, and a primary goal of the course is the development of the student's ability to identify legal issues and convey this knowledge clearly and effectively in writing.
- C. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS: It is critical that students keep up with the weekly chapter reading assignments as well as preparing weekly written responses to the chapter-ending case problems in order to develop a true understanding and application of the material. I will provide quite a number of emails aimed at providing students with a practical application of the chapter content so, monitoring your BSU email account daily will be important.
- D. EXAMINATIONS: In pursuit of writing excellence the examinations will consist of a midterm and a final examination both of which will be essay in form. Each exam will be weighted equally. Total grade will be determined by homework submissions

and assignments (20%) AND performance on the examinations (40%/40%). Homework will be mandatory, however, assignments will NOT be graded.

- E. **ACADEMIC CONDUCT:** The University views academic dishonesty as one of the most serious offenses that a student can commit while in college and imposes appropriate punitive sanctions on violators. Though the course delivery will be online, all work must be non-collaborative and plagiarism will not be permitted in any form.

II. Basic Outline of Course Material: Specific Reading Assignments will be provided in advance on a weekly basis during course development.

Week One:

Introduction to Law and the Legal Environment: What is law? Function, fairness and sources of law. The court systems and the litigation process. The critical concept of "jurisdiction". What is "case precedent". "Briefing" a case. CHAPTERS 1 & 3 of the Mann Roberts textbook.

Constitutional Law: The basic principles of the United States Constitution. The powers and limitations on government. The Supremacy Clause, Commerce Clause and the Bill of Rights- the relationship between the states and the federal government. CHAPTER 4 of the Mann Roberts textbook.

Week Two:

Criminal Procedure: The "burden of proof" and civil/criminal standards. The role of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Massachusetts Declaration of Rights You have the right to remain silent...or do you? CHAPTERS 6.

Introduction to Contracts: The basic requirements of a contract. Offer and acceptance-the meat and potatoes of contracts. CHAPTERS 10.

Midterm Examination Case Problems: January 11&12, 2021.

Week Three:

Consideration and the "bargained for exchange" requirement: Past Consideration and the Pre-existing duty rule and its substitutes. Can there be contracts without it? CHAPTER 12.

Contractual Capacity: The ability to "disaffirm" a contract-minors, incompetent persons and intoxication. Exceptions for "necessaries" and liability for misrepresentation of age. CHAPTER 14.

Week Four:

Contracts That Must be in Writing: Must I get it in writing? Which contracts must

be in writing and what form must they prescribe to? The Parole Evidence Rule and Its importance in business. CHAPTER 15.

Performance, Breach and Discharge: A party's obligation under a contract. The distinctions between material and non-material breaches of contract. Litigation regarding performance, discharge and breach of contract. CHAPTER 17.

Contract Remedies: What are your options for a breach of contract. Legal remedies, equitable remedies and damages. How are compensatory damages computed. CHAPTER 18.

Final Examination: January 22&23