

**ECN 332: Business Law** (3 credit hours);

**BUS 430: Legal Environment of International Business** (4 credit hours)

Instructor: Geoff Woodward, J.D.

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Meeting Times: TBA

Semester: Fall

### **Course Description**

Business Law is an undergraduate course for business students, not law students. The course is an overview of legal doctrines that are found in most business contexts such as: contracts, sales & leases, secured transactions, business organizations in general, agency, property, business torts, government regulation, and ethics. The legal principles covered in this course are derived from American law, i.e., constitutional law, case-law, statutes, and regulations. There will be some comparison between American law and Japanese law. However, international legal issues will primarily be addressed within an American legal framework. Students will be expected to make every effort to comprehend and ultimately apply the relevant rule of law to actual case problems.

### **Course Objectives**

Business law is an inherent part of all business transactions, and an understanding of such is essential for anyone entering the business world today. Course objectives are:

- A fundamental understanding of relevant legal issues encountered in a business context.
- A fundamental understanding of relevant legal rules and practices applicable in a business context.
- The ability to analyze a US appellate court opinion, in order to identify the issue, the rule, the courts application of the rule to the facts of a case, and the court's decision..
- The ability to identify legal issues and apply the correct law to various factual situations in a business context.
- A fundamental understanding of the differences between US law and Japanese law concerning basic business transactions.
- A greater understanding of and appreciation for the role ethics plays in business law.

### **Required Textbook**

Ashcroft, Janet E. *Law for Business*. Thompson, 2005.

### **Reference material and other readings in addition to the textbook.**

The course instructor will supplement readings in the textbook with additional US court opinions and written commentary concerning Japanese business law. The course textbook also includes useful internet sites that may be accessed by students for further legal research.

### **Grading**

Quizzes-20 points

Case Analysis/Presentation-20 points

Mid-Term Exam-20 points

Final Exam (cumulative)-30 points

Participation-10 points

**A:** 90-100 points

**B:** 80-89 points

**C:** 70-79 points

**D:** 60-69 points

**F:** 59 points and below

Quizzes- There will be weekly quizzes given on the assigned readings, both from the textbook and any additional readings assigned.

Case Analysis/Presentation- Students will be required to analyze one US Appellate Court opinion concerning an area of the law covered in class. Students will be evaluated based on the IRAC method of legal analysis.

Exams- There will be a mid-term exam and a cumulative final exam. Material relevant to both exams will include anything discussed in class, all reading material covered in the textbook, and any additional readings assigned.

Participation- Students will be expected to come to every class prepared, having read all assigned material, ready and willing to contribute to in class discussions.

Students enrolled in BUS 430 will be required to write an additional paper. BUS 430 students will receive 10 points for their case analysis presentation and 10 points for an additional (5) page paper concerning a relevant aspect of business law.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>The Legal System and the Legal Environment of Business</b> Chapters 1, 2, IRAC introduction,
<b>Week 2</b>	Chapters 3, 4
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Contracts</b> Chapters 5, 6
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapters 7, 8
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapters 9, 10
<b>Week 6</b>	Chapters 11, 12
<b>Week 7</b>	Chapter 13, Review
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Sales</b> Mid-Term Exam, Chapter 16
<b>Week 9</b>	Chapters 16, 17
<b>Week 10</b>	Chapters 18, 19
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Agency</b> Chapters 26, 27
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Business Organizations</b> Chapters 31, 32
<b>Week 13</b>	Chapters 33, 34
<b>Week 14</b>	Chapters 35, 36

**Week 15**      **Security Devices**  
Chapter 39

**Finals Week**      Final Exam

There will be additional readings assigned by way of US Appellate Court opinions, Japanese law articles, and if time permits actual provisions from the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

*The course instructor reserves the right to amend this schedule concerning time allotment and specific reading materials assigned.*