

Syllabus: Business & the Law*

Professor Jane Harrington

Spring 2025 | MGT 215/415 | 3 units

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Course Description

Overview

This course is designed to give business students fundamental knowledge of the law and background on key legal issues in the business environment. No prior knowledge of the law is required. The course is taught using business cases, contemporary news, and relevant media. Additionally, the approach and concepts in this class are designed to enable business students to have the tools to explore deeper or additional business law issues beyond this class.

Prerequisites

Students must be enrolled in the MBA program. *Current business/law students must have instructor approval to enroll.*

Required Texts, Equipment, Materials

- Emerson, R. W, Barron's Educational Series (2024). *Business Law* (Barron's Business Review) Seventh Edition. ISBN-13: 978-1506296272
- Computer with webcam and microphone
- Canvas

Instructor Contact and Office Hours



Professor: Jane Harrington
Jharring@ucdavis.edu | [LinkedIn](#)

Please email me directly. While I welcome your connection on LinkedIn, please do not message me with *class-related issues* on LinkedIn during the course; I am not monitoring that for class emails.

Office hours are conducted virtually and by appointment. Students can sign-up online with a link provided at the start of the course.

Requirements and Expectations

Attendance and Participation

It is essential that you complete any reading, assignment or case brief before each class.

You are expected to:

- Actively participate in class discussion;
- Prepare your case briefs so that they are of instructional value to other students; and,
- Ensure that your comments are meaningful, timely, and respectful.

The professor and students are expected to create a classroom that is a safe academic environment for us to all learn from each other's insights and experiences.

We may have guest speakers as appropriate. Please show them the utmost respect for giving us their time.

Plan to be actively involved – this means attending class, being intentional about your attention, and participating. Remember:

- Class attendance and participation makeup part of your grade
- You are expected to attend every class
- Attendance ≠ participation
- Arriving on time is a courtesy that you owe your fellow students and your professor, and a necessary skill in business, so perfect it now.

Attendance is required. **Students may have one excused absence.** Students are expected to contact the professor in advance of missing a class when possible, or as soon after, to make arrangements. Attendance will impact your participation grade.

Camera-on is required for attendance.

Assignments

Assignments may include readings, videos, podcasts, activities, case briefs and more. Because the legal concepts build on each other and intersect, it is important to complete all assignments. Late assignments will be marked down for each day they are late.

Examinations

There will be one midterm and one final examination in this course. The examinations will require that students demonstrate and apply their knowledge of the concepts discussed in the course.

Legal Topic Briefing

Students will be assigned 1-2 (depending on class size) legal topics to brief for the class on set class days. The assignment will include more details. The schedule for briefings will be released the first week of class.

Legal Writing

Students will be assigned 2 writing assignments based on legal topics in the news that impact businesses. The purpose of the assignment is to ensure students are proficient in writing. The assignment will include more details.

Grading

The weighting of the different components of the class is:

Topic	% of points
Individual Assignments	15%
In-Class Assignments	5%
Quizzes (6 of 7)	30%
Legal Topic Briefing (1)	5%
Legal Writing (2)	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	5%

Schedule*

Week #	Topics	
1	Introduction Legal Concepts, Sources of Law, Business and the Law	Week 1 Quiz (pass/fail)
2	Torts Intentional & Unintentional; Strict & Product Liability; Crimes	Week 2 Quiz Student Case Briefs
3	Courts & Legal Process Court System, Litigation, Legal Processes, Negotiation, Mediation	Week 3 Quiz Student Case Briefs
4	Employment & Labor Law Agency; Employment Law; Labor Law; Discrimination & Harassment	Week 4 Quiz Student Case Briefs
5	Midterm	Midterm Exam
6	Contracts Formation & Performance, Termination & Discharge, Enforcement	Week 6 Quiz Student Case Briefs
7	Business Organizations Partnerships, Corporations; Antitrust	Week 7 Quiz Student Case Briefs
8	Ethics & Liability Business Ethics, Professional Liability, Criminal Liability	Week 8 Quiz Student Case Briefs
9	Real Property Business Ethics, Professional Liability, Criminal Liability	Week 9 Quiz Student Case Briefs
10	Intellectual Property Copyright, Patents, Trademarks & Trade Secrets	TBD
11	Finals Week TBD	

Use of AI

All work submitted for this course must be your own. All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in the skills associated with this course, from student-based brainstorming to project development, will prepare you for success in your MBA pathway and, ultimately, a competitive career. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact me.

Statement on Accommodation

UC Davis is committed to educational equity in the academic setting, and in serving a diverse student body. All students who are interested in learning about how disabilities are accommodated can visit the [Student Disability Center](#) (SDC). If you are a student who requires academic accommodations, please contact the SDC directly at sdc@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-3184. If you receive an SDC Letter of Accommodation, submit it to your instructor for each course as soon as possible, at least within the first two weeks of a course.

Rights and Responsibilities

All participants in the course, instructor and students, are expected to follow the [UC Davis Principles of Community](#), which includes affirmation of the right of [freedom of expression](#), and rejection of discrimination. The right to express points-of-view without fear of retaliation or censorship is a cornerstone of academic freedom. A diversity of opinions with respectful disagreement and informed debate enriches learning. However, in this course, any expression or disagreement should adhere to the obligations we have toward each other to build and maintain a climate of mutual respect and caring.

You are expected to take [UC Davis's Code of Academic Conduct](#) as seriously as we do. You were given this code of conduct with explicit explanations of violations (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, etc.) and your responsibilities in regard to them during orientation, and you signed a statement affirming that you understand it. Academic conduct violations will not be tolerated, and your instructor will not hesitate to turn violators over to Student Judicial Affairs. If you are uncertain about what constitutes an academic conduct violation, please refer to the code linked above, contact your instructor, or refer to the [Office of Student Judicial Affairs](#).

All material in the course that is not otherwise subject to copyright is the copyright of the course instructor and should be considered the instructor's intellectual property.

Safety & Emergency Preparedness

UC Davis has many resources to help in case of emergency or crisis. While reviewing campus [Emergency Information](#), you may want to register for UC Davis Warn Me and Aggie Alert, which will give you timely information and instructions about emergencies and situations on campus that affect your safety. If there is an emergency in the classroom or in non-Davis locations, follow the instructions of your instructor.

Student Wellness

You deserve respect, and are encouraged to [practice self-care](#) so that you can remain focused and engaged; that might mean getting a drink of water, leaving to use the restroom, taking a moment to stretch, or doing something else you need to do to take care of yourself. Please be respectful of others by minimizing distractions when practicing self-care. College life can be overwhelming at times but know that you are not alone if you're feeling stressed. For many of us, systems of oppression such as racism, sexism, heterosexism or cissexism may cause additional stress. Please remember to practice self-care and reach out for support if and when you need it. You can visit [Virtual UC Davis](#) to find resources related to health and well-being, academics, basic needs (food and housing) and more.

*Disclaimer

Elements of this syllabus may change, including the order of topics for classes. Guest speakers can be a valuable addition to the class, and your instructor works to be flexible to accommodate busy attorneys schedules. Your instructor will keep you informed of any changes.