

“If you are a student with a documented physical or mental impairment that will substantially limit a major life activity, please contact the Disability Resource Center on the main campus. The Center Coordinator and staff will assist you in analyzing your eligibility for services. If you are deemed eligible, reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability will be assigned. If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact the Center at 652-7516; we are located in the Student Services Center, Room #201 of the Edith Whitehead Building.”

OPER 3030 – BUSINESS LAW
Professor Keith A. Maxwell, J.D.

OFFICE HOURS: Online—Go to Blackboard for hours available

LOCATION: Online.

CONTACT: (Phone) 435-703-3968; (e-mail) Use **Blackboard Mail** only.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Beatty and Samuelson, *Legal Environment*, 4th Edition (2010). Purchase individual “eChapters” on line at:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ISBN/9780324786545?cid=APL1#bdBodyFocus>

(In the “Digital” section of the above site, select eChapters and click View. We will likely cover 12 chapters for a total cost of \$95.88. Of course, you can purchase the entire textbook in print or digital format, if you wish.)

NOTE: Purchase the chapters on a “just-in-time” basis only. That way, you will avoid purchasing a chapter that might be omitted because of a schedule change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the legal environment for business majors or students with interest in business law. It covers the legal system including dispute resolution, property, crimes, fundamental principles of tort liability, government regulation of enterprise and individuals, contracts, agency, business organizations, and employment law.

This course will introduce students to the two primary constraints that society places on business and personal behavior. The first and most formal constraint is law in its various forms: case law from courts, statutory law from legislatures, and regulations from government agencies. However, in addition to law, there are the informal, but extremely powerful constraints imposed by generally accepted norms of ethical behavior. In this course, students will explore the relationship between legal and ethical standards to critically analyze and evaluate social issues, and the behavior of business owners, managers, and employees.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course:

- Students will have learned some of the most important basic legal principles of constitutional law, tort law, contract law, agency law, employment law.
- Students will have examined and analyzed the most common and important legal and ethical issues arising in the conduct and government regulation of economic activity.

- Students will have a sound knowledge of various ethical approaches to making ethical choices.
- Students will have developed skills in both legal and ethical reasoning.

COURSE TOPICS

- **Unit I – Introduction to Law and Ethics (Chapters 1, 3, 4):** This unit will be an overview of the most basic legal and ethical principles. This will provide the necessary background for the more in-depth coverage of the following topics.
- **Legal Concepts and Legal Reasoning In-depth, Chapters 6, 9 – 12:** This unit is an introduction to the common law principles of torts and contracts; learning to use precedent-, rule-, and policy-based legal reasoning.
- **Law and Ethics Applied to Issues in the Workplace, Chapters 14-15, 17-18:** The issues might include such things as whistle blowing, product liability, employment discrimination, and sexual harassment. Issues relating to starting a business are also covered.
- **In-depth Legal and Ethical Reasoning Paper:** Stay tuned for further details.

"Work like you're not getting paid;

Love like you've never been hurt;

Dance like no one's watching."

GRADING:

You will receive a grade based on your performance in the following areas:

Grade Components	%
Short Papers and Case Briefs	20
Discussions and Blogs	15
In-depth Legal Reasoning Paper	15
Reading Quizzes	15
Midterm Exam (Testing Center)	15
Final Exam (Open Book)	20
TOTAL	100%

GRADING STANDARDS: I do not grade on a curve; instead, I assess your work as shown in the following table. (I grade exams and assignments on the basis of points earned. To find out your letter grade use the percentages below.)

- A - 90-100% (Excellence in content, organization, writing and presentation, originality, analysis and understanding.)
- B - 80-89% (Excellence in some, but not all of the above categories.)
- C - 70-79% (Satisfactory completion of the content and structure of the assignment.)
- D - 60-69% (I can tell you at least tried a little bit.)
- F - Below 60% (I'm embarrassed, and you should be too.)

The plus (+) / minus (-) system is as follows:

Grade	Percent Earned	Grade	Percent Earned
A	94-100	C	74- 76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	0-59

(Fractional scores of .5% or above are rounded up to the next full percent.)

"Dark clouds may hang o'er me sometimes, but I'll work it out..."

--Dave Matthews Band, "Dancing Nancies"

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. – Eleanor Roosevelt

"Our behavior implies consent." – KM

LATE WORK POLICY

On Due Date, but late:	25% Penalty
After Due Date, but within 24 hours:	50% Penalty
After 24 hours, or if "No Grace" (NG):	No Credit