



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES STATEMENT

COB Vision

Our vision is to be recognized as the business college of choice for undergraduate and masters programs among public business colleges in Arkansas and the region, with national recognition in selected fields or areas.

COB Statement of Mission and Core Values

Our mission is to provide high quality business education to our undergraduate and graduate students through the delivery of a current, responsive, and innovative curriculum that promotes intellectual and professional development. We promote excellence through our scholarly endeavors and service to our stakeholders through strong engagement with the local, regional, national, and global business community.

In carrying out this mission, the College of Business is guided by the following core values:

1. Intellectual Excellence.

- 1.1. Educate students: We promote intellectual and professional development of students by emphasizing communication, critical and analytical thinking, collaboration, information management and a broad exposure to key business disciplines.
- 1.2. Scholarship: We believe that faculty and students should engage in professional development and scholarly endeavors that promote the application and creation of knowledge in business practice and education.
- 1.3. Cultural competence: We maintain and develop current and responsive curriculum that prepares students for the global business environment through broad exposure to key business disciplines.
- 1.4. Physical learning environment: We strive to provide a physical infrastructure with appropriate technology that provides an environment in which our students and faculty can thrive professionally and intellectually.

2. Community.

- 2.1. Collegiality: We encourage transparency in our decision making practice through a process of shared governance based on interactions among faculty, staff, and students.
- 2.2. Service: We pursue collaborative partnerships between our internal and external stakeholders to promote life-long and experiential learning, research, service, and community interaction.

3. Diversity.

- 3.1. We value the opportunity to work, learn, and develop in a community that embraces the diversity of individuals and ideas.

4. Integrity.

- 4.1. Ethics: We are committed to ethical and responsible behavior in our own actions and to developing the same commitment in our students by promoting the awareness of professional ethical responsibilities.

- 4.2. Responsibility: We commit to being responsible and accountable in our operations at all levels, including assessment and continuous improvement of our academic programs and transparency in our fiscal and operational proceedings.

Learning Goals

Our graduates shall possess:

1. Critical Thinking & Analytical Thinking Skills;
2. Awareness of the Global Business Environment;
3. Ethical Reasoning Abilities;
4. Effective Communication Abilities;
5. Effective Collaborative Skills;
6. Effective Information Management Skills;
7. Understanding of a Broad Range of Business Disciplines.

Course Syllabus

Course Information

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| Course Number: | ACCT 2321 |
| Course Name: | Legal Environment of Business I |
| CRNs: | 10173, 10214, 10221 |
| Semester: | Fall 2014 |
| Location: | 10173: College of Business Building 111 10214: College of Business Building 307 10221: College of Business Building 210 |
| Class Hours: | 10173: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. 10214: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. 10221: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. |

Instructor Information

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| Name: | Anthony L. McMullen, J.D. (University of Arkansas 2004) |
| Office Location: | College of Business Building 204G (Accounting Department Suite) |
| Work Email: | amcmullen@uca.edu |
| Phone: | (501) 852-0695 |
| Office Hours: | Monday & Wednesday, 12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. & 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday, 10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. |

Prerequisites: Sophomore status.

Required Textbook and Instructional Materials: Roger LeRoy Miller, *Business Law Today* (10th ed.), with CengageNOW software. Students have two options:

1. Purchase the textbook and software at the bookstore. The textbook at the bookstore will be a customized version containing only the chapters covered in Legal Environment of

Business I. It will be bundled with an access code for the CengageNOW software, necessary for completing the homework assignments. (The access code will also give students to an e-textbook.)

2. Purchase an e-textbook and software online. This is a good option for those (1) who want a less expensive option for obtaining course materials or (2) who are comfortable reading an e-textbook and who do not want to carry a physical textbook. Students may purchase these materials online at <http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/UCAACCT2321>. (Purchase the item at the bottom of the screen.)

Students should not purchase the textbook and the CengageNOW software separately. This will simply result in students spending more money than necessary (without an ability to get any of it back). Students also should not rely on a previous version of the textbook. The law is constantly evolving, and older editions of the textbook may contain outdated law.

Students should enroll in the CengageNOW course as soon as possible. A link to enrolling in the course will be posted on Blackboard.

Finally, students should have reliable online access and become familiar with Blackboard. The professor will communicate with students outside of class through Blackboard, and students will submit all of their assignments online. Unless the entire UCA network is down, the failure to have a reliable online access or difficulty working with the system are not valid excuses for failing to complete the required work.

Course Description (from the undergraduate bulletin): “This is a required course for all business majors in the business foundation. The mode of instruction is lecture. The course is a study of the constitution and business; the court system and other means of dispute resolution; anti-trust issues; business and labor; consumer rights; enforceable contracts; business and its environment including social responsibility, ethics, and protecting the physical environment.”

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to educate students about basic legal concepts. This class will not prepare students to be lawyers; that requires three years of study beyond the undergraduate degree. Nonetheless, students should leave the class better equipped to recognize legal issues in their personal and professional lives. Specific course objectives include:

- Developing legal reasoning skills by applying the law to hypothetical cases;
- Learning the basic steps of civil litigation;
- Identifying the constitutional and statutory bases for the law;
- Identifying and learning the elements of basic torts;
- Learning how to create a principal-agent relationship and identify the rights and responsibilities of a principal and agent;
- Identifying the rights of employees in the workplace, including what constitutes employment discrimination and sexual harassment;
- Discussing how to acquire rights in real and personal property; and
- Learning the basics of contract law, including contract formation, defenses to enforcement, discharge, and remedies.

Course Delivery Method: The course is delivered via a combination of lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to discuss issues raised in class. They should be able to intelligently express their views while remaining sensitive to opposing views.

Lectures and discussions are intended to enhance, not substitute for, the reading. The professor will presume that students have read the assigned material prior to the class in which the material will be discussed.

Grading: Final grades will be assigned on the traditional ten-percentage-point scale (90% to 100% = A; 80% to 89% = B, etc.). The final grade will be based on a total of 1000 points (though slightly more points may be offered). The official gradebook will be on Blackboard, and students should consult Blackboard for their grades.

Points may be earned as follows:

- CengageNOW Assignments: 60 points total
- CengageNOW Exam Review: 40 points total
- Exams
 - Exam 1: 140 points
 - Exam 2: 180 points
 - Exam 3: 180 points
 - Exam 4: 200 points (not cumulative)
- Writing Assignments
 - Supreme Court Case Brief: 100 points
 - Ethics Assignment: 100 points

In addition to the above, the professor encourages all students to perform community service. To this end, students may earn four bonus points for every hour of community service performed, up to forty-eight points. Information on submitting proof of community service will be on Blackboard. Additional bonus-point opportunities may be offered at the discretion of the professor.

Grades may also be affected (positively or negatively) by attendance, class preparation, and completion of class evaluations. See relevant portions of **Policies and Procedures** section.

Description of Major Deliverables/Course Requirements:

- Exams: Exams will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions. Any material covered in the textbook (included cases in the assigned reading) may be on the exam, even if it is not covered in class. Any material covered in class may be on the exam, even if it is not covered in the textbook.
 - After every exam, there will be an opportunity to gain additional points. Once students receive their graded exams, they should go back over the questions they missed. Details will be posted on Blackboard.
- Writing Assignments: Descriptions of the writing assignments are posted on Blackboard.
 - Supreme Court Case Brief
 - Due October 1 for classes meeting on Monday/Wednesday
 - Due September 25 for classes meeting on Tuesday/Thursday

- Ethics Assignment: Deliverables due at various dates throughout semester.
- CengageNOW Assignment: Before each class, students should go to CengageNOW and complete a pretest on the chapter. The pretest is designed to ensure that students have read the material before coming to class. The assignment must be completed before the material is to be discussed in class.
- CengageNOW Exam Review: There will be exam review assignments for each exam period. These exams will give students a chance to practice answering multiple-choice questions similar to those that will appear on the exam. The review must be completed before class on the date of the exam.

Early in the semester, the professor will offer students an opportunity to participate in the Arkansas Student Congress on Human Relations. This competition is a legislative simulation where students will compete against delegations from other Arkansas colleges and universities. Students who participate in this event may exempt themselves from one of the writing assignments and will receive the greater of ninety points or the score they received on the other writing assignment.

Class Schedule: As with any class, this schedule is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the professor. Changes to the schedule (including changes to test dates) will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

| <u>Topic / Reading</u> | <u>Date (TTh classes)</u> | <u>Date (MW class)</u> |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Class Introduction | August 21 | August 25 |
| Ch. 01: The Legal Environment (pp. 3-16, 21-28) | August 26 | August 27 |
| Ch. 02: Constitutional Law (pp. 33-46) | August 28 | September 3 |
| Ch. 02: Constitutional Law (pp. 46-55) | September 2 | September 8 |
| Ch. 03: Courts and ADR (pp. 60-74) | September 4 | September 10 |
| Ch. 03: Courts and ADR (pp. 74-90) | September 9 | September 15 |
| Exam #1 (covering above material) | September 11 | September 17 |
| Ch. 08: Intro to Contracts (pp. 215-30) | September 16 | September 22 |
| Ch. 09: Agreement (pp. 234-46) | September 18 | September 24 |
| Ch. 10: Consideration (pp. 260-70) | September 23 | September 29 |
| Ch. 11: Capacity and Legality (pp. 273-87) | September 25 | October 1 |
| Ch. 12: Voluntary Consent (pp. 292-302) | September 30 | October 6 |
| Ch. 13: The Statute of Frauds (pp. 305-16) | October 2 | October 8 |
| Exam #2 (covering above material) | October 7 | October 13 |
| Ch. 14: Performance and Discharge (pp. 321-32) | October 9 | October 15 |
| Ch. 15: Breach and Remedies (pp. 336-50) | October 14 | October 20 |
| Ch. 16: Third-Party Rights (pp. 355-68) | October 21 | October 22 |
| Ch. 42: Personal Property (pp. 949-58) | October 23 | October 27 |
| Ch. 43: Real Property (pp. 971-82) | October 28 | October 29 |
| Ch. 43: Landlord-Tenant Law (pp. 982-85) | October 30 | November 3 |
| Exam #3 (covering above material) | November 4 | November 5 |

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| Ch. 04: Torts (pp. 95-110) | November 6 | November 10 |
| Ch. 04: Torts (pp. 110-19) | November 11 | November 12 |
| Ch. 28: Agency (pp. 635-44) | November 13 | November 17 |
| Ch. 28: Agency (pp. 644-56) | November 18 | November 19 |
| Ch. 29: Employment Law (pp. 660-82) | November 20 | November 24 |
| Ch. 30: Employment Discrimination (pp. 687-705) | November 25 | December 1 |
| Catch-Up Day | December 2, 4 | December 3 |
| <i>(if we are completely caught up, we will cover Ch. 05: Intellectual Property)</i> | | |

Exam #4 (covering above material)**MW 1:00 Class: Monday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.****TTh 9:25 Class: Tuesday, December 9 at 8:00 a.m.****TTh 12:15 Class: Tuesday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m.****Other Important Dates**

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| September 1 | Labor Day |
| September 11 | Deadline to drop with a 75% refund |
| September 19 | Deadline to drop with a "W" |
| October 16-17 | Fall Break |
| October 27 | Advanced Registration Begins for Spring 2015 |
| November 26-28 | Thanksgiving Break |
| December 1 | Deadline to drop with a "WP" or "WF" |

Evaluations: Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on the Monday of the thirteenth week of instruction through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on the Evals button on the top right.

To encourage students to complete the evaluations, if 90% of the class completes the evaluation by the day of the final exam, every student in the class will receive five bonus points.

Policies and Procedures:

Attendance and Drop Policies: The professor will circulate a sign-in sheet. If there is an error on the sheet, the student should bring the error to the attention of the professor rather than correcting it himself/herself. Falsifying the attendance record by signing the attendance sheet on behalf of another student or by signing the attendance sheet on a day where the student was absent constitutes academic misconduct and will be handled accordingly.

- Grades can be positively or negatively affected by attendance, promptness, preparation, and participation. Every instance of an unexcused absence, tardiness, or lack of preparation constitutes a "strike." Students with more than three strikes will be penalized five points for every strike beyond the third.
- Excused absences
 - Students who seek an excused absence must provide documentation for the absence and (unless it is an emergency) must seek an excused absence in advance.

- Reasons for an excused absence are limited to illness requiring a doctor visit (of self or minor child), jury duty, military service, involvement in an automobile accident, death in the immediate family, representing UCA in an official capacity, religious observance, or inclement weather. *The following is a non-inclusive list of things that are NOT grounds for an excused absence: court date, heavy traffic, heavy rain, oversleeping, work obligation, interview, need to catch a flight.*
- Drop policy
 - The professor may drop a student if he/she misses a major assignment or exam and has at least five unexcused absences. This, however, is not a substitute for the student dropping himself/herself if he/she does not attend class.
 - If a student withdraws within the WP/WF period, the professor will generally assign a grade of WP unless (1) the student has committed an act of academic misconduct or (2) the professor withdraws the student for nonattendance.
- Inclement weather policy:
 - Students should presume that class will be held unless the University is closed. Students may seek an excused absence based on inclement weather if the Conway School District (or for those students who live outside of Conway, their local school district) is closed for that day.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise stated. Any assignment outside of CengageNOW must be submitted via Blackboard. Hard copies of assignments (outside of proof of community service) will not be accepted under any circumstances. If a student is having difficulty with Blackboard, he or she may email the assignment to establish that the assignment was completed before the due date. However, the assignment will not be accepted until it is submitted via Blackboard. (In other words, the professor will not reject the assignment as being submitted late, but it must be submitted via Blackboard to be counted.)

Makeup Exams: The professor expects all students to complete all exams on the day and time scheduled. No makeup exam will be given unless the reason for the makeup constitutes grounds for an excused absence and request for a makeup is made before the date of the scheduled exam. Requests for a makeup exam made after the date for the exam will be summarily denied unless the student establishes (1) that he or she could not have reasonably made arrangements before the deadline and (2) that the event causing the need for the deadline was unforeseeable and unavoidable.

Classroom Policies: Students may use electronic devices in the classroom for educational purposes only. Students shall not use these devices for non-educational use during class. Examples of non-educational use include, but are not limited to, displaying web pages unrelated to class; sending or reading email, texts, or instant messages; making or receiving phone calls; playing unrelated video or audio files; and playing games. The professor reserves the right to ban the use of electronic devices if there is excessive non-educational use during class.

Students may record lectures, but they must make it known that they are recording the lecture. The lectures are the professor's intellectual property, and use of the lecture for anything other than educational purposes is strictly prohibited.

Academic Integrity Statement: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

Many professions have a code of professional conduct that requires members of that profession to report violations of the code to the appropriate authority. The failure to report a violation is, in itself, a violation of the code. To that end, the professor views the failure to report an act of academic misconduct as academic misconduct as well.

In addition, there are five sections of Legal I this semester, and the professor is teaching three of those sections. Students in different sections will be taking the exams on different days. While students are free to study with other students (including those in other sections), students should not discuss the contents of any exam to any student that is not in their section. Providing exam information to a student who has not taken the exam or receiving information about an exam before taking it (no matter how insignificant the information may be) is academic misconduct and will result in the student receiving a failing grade in the class.

Disabilities Act Statement: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Services, 450-3613.

Sexual Harassment and Academic Policies: All students are required to familiarize themselves with the University of Central Arkansas policy on sexual harassment and on academic policies. These policies are printed in the Student Handbook.

Title IX: If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member, the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by the student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on those specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit <https://uca.edu/titleix>.

Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS): An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.

Other Required Materials/Competencies/Resources: None

Accreditation & Assurance of Learning

Learning Goal(s) Assessed in this Class

There is no formal assessment activity scheduled in this class.