

Administrative Matters

Instructor name and email address. Professor Jillian Grennan (she/her), <u>jgrennan@scu.edu</u> My preferred way to be contacted is via email. I also check Camino for messages, especially about assignments, but less frequently than email.

Office hours. By appointment. My time is flexible for individual student meetings on Zoom or in person (depending on my campus schedule). Rather than holding set office hours, meetings can be arranged throughout the day at a time convenient for both of us.

Class recordings. posted to Camino after class, including both Zoom recordings and in-person meetings.

Please do not share class recordings. As is stated in the Student Conduct Code:

"...Dissemination or sharing of any classroom recording without the permission of the instructor would be considered "misuse" and, therefore, prohibited. Violations of these policies may result in disciplinary action by the University. At the instructor's discretion, violations may also have an adverse effect on the student's grade."

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Decisions to trade and produce require trust: trust that consumers, firms, workers, financial institutions, and asset owners will do as they promise and that violations of such promises will be unacceptable in the marketplace. Business law provides these guarantees and the boundaries within which certain promises can be made and enforced.

In this course, you will gain a broad, foundational understanding of our legal system and the primary substantive areas of law relevant to business decisions and transactions. Additionally, you will apply your legal understanding by exercising fundamental legal skills such as critical reading and persuasive writing. The legal knowledge and skills you acquire and apply in this course are essential for a business professional to navigate our law-saturated business environment.

After taking this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize and define the basic vocabulary of the law specific to business;
- Identify and describe the substantive legal principles governing business transactions;
- Relate business issues to relevant areas of U.S (federal and state) law;
- Prepare critical analyses of legal issues in a business context;
- Clearly and effectively communicate the results of legal analyses of business issues;
- Identify and analyze legal and ethical issues in the business context.

Textbooks

The assigned textbook for course is listed below and has been ordered through the bookstore or is available as an eBook for rent. I provide chapter references for various lectures. It is important for you to read the textbook to fully engage with the material covered in class.

1. Kubasek, N. K. et al. (2022) Dynamic Business Law (6th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/9781260733976

I will also be distributing supplemental materials periodically on Camino (see next).

Course Resources

I will manage course announcements and assignments through Camino (SCU's branded instance of Canvas). If you are unable to access the Camino site, please contact me as soon as possible. A copy of the syllabus, detailed reading lists, and copies of class materials can be found there. Class materials will be posted to Camino immediately before each class. Materials in this course are protected by United States copyright laws. I am the copyright holder of the materials I create, including notes, handouts, slides, and videos. You may make copies of course materials for your own use and you may share the materials with other students enrolled in this course. You may not publicly distribute the course materials without my written permission.

Student Technology Help

If technical difficulties prevent you from completing course work, please alert me immediately. However, understand that I cannot assist you with technical problems. Please use the technical support resources available through SCU. Be sure to document all interactions with tech support (e.g., save emails). SCU can provide you with technology assistance, and you can also reach out to our providers directly for questions. For Camino support, contact caminosupport@scu.edu or call 408-551-3572. You can also use the help button within the Camino platform (on the left hand navigation) for 24/7 support via chat or phone with our vendor.

For Zoom assistance, contact Media Services at <u>mediaservices@scu.edu</u> or 408-554-4520. You can also get support from the Zoom Help Center website: <u>https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us</u>

For SCU network and computing support, contact the SCU Technology Help Desk at <u>techdesk@scu.edu</u> or 408-554-5700. They can provide support for MySCU Portal, Duo, eCampus, hardware and software issues, and more.

For presentations, please note that all classrooms are equipped with a podium PCs and an overhead projector.

Grading and Evaluation

I will evaluate your performance in the following areas:

- Legal Writing Assignments (40%)
 - o **Assignment #1 (10%):** Due 5/4/23, Class #10
 - o **Assignment #2 (15%):** Due 5/25/23, Class #16
 - o **Assignment #3 (15%):** Due 6/8/23, Class #20
- Final Exam (25%): Online during finals week (June 12th-16th)
- Class Contribution and Attendance (25%)
- **Personal Reflection (10%):** Your chance to grow as a leader. There are no right or wrong answers, I want to hear your reflections on issues raised in class and see how you apply critical thinking. This is open all semester and allows you to reflect deeply on something in the class.
- Extra-credit presentations (up to 2.5%): In association with "Legal Writing Assignments." You need to sign-up to present a week prior to the due date. I will remind you.

Legal Writing Assignments. There are three legal writing assignments, which are to be done individually as take-home assignments. An essential legal skill is legal analysis – the ability to evaluate a set of related facts, spot potential legal issues arising from those facts, identify the legal principles necessary to resolve those legal issues, and apply those principles to the facts to reach legal conclusions. You will complete three legal analyses based on a set of hypothetical facts. Each legal analyses requires you to write 6-8 pages of analyses. Please type up your analyses using Times New Roman font in 12 pt. size, double-spaced and with standard 1-inch margins. Your analytical framework should generally follow the I-R-A-C formula to be discussed in class. I = identify legal issue, R = rule statement, this is not just a summary of cases or law, but a synthesis of cases and law and what you interpret it to be, A = application of facts, including against counter-arguments, and C = conclusion. Grammar and spelling count, please proofread your papers. To be eligible for full credit, assignments must be submitted by the deadline stated in the syllabus. Absent an extension based on "extraordinary circumstances" (see below for the definition of "extraordinary circumstances"), assignments completed late will receive an automatic 20%-per-day reduction in points, beginning after a 10-minute grace period (e.g. if an assignment is due at 11:59pm on Friday, it will automatically lose 20% at 12:10am on Saturday morning, an additional 20% at 12:10am on Sunday morning, etc.).

Final exam. It will be a mix of true and false, multiple-choice, and short-answer questions. You will see examples throughout the term via "Concept Checks."

Class Contribution and Attendance. Class is more fun when you ask questions and are engaging with the material. Attendance and active contribution by answering questions, commenting on cases, and reflecting on hypothetical business law issues is critical for everyone's learning. Much of our class discussion will be driven by the content covered in class that day. As such, absent special circumstances noted below, I expect students to attend each class session and to be prepared to discuss the relevant topics. During discussions, quality is what matters. Effective class participation moves the discussion forward by building on previous comments and creating an inclusive environment for you and all of your classmates.

As noted above, all classes will be recorded to accommodate students who may be unable to attend a live session for any number of reasons. If you are unable to attend a class, please notify me of your expected absence in advance of class, if possible. If you are unable to provide advance notice due to an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible with an explanation for the lack of advance notice so that it does not adversely affect your grade. Students who miss class can make up for it by sending me an email with a news article that is relevant to the business law material covered this term along with a one paragraph explanation of why the article is relevant to the course. If you need ideas, consider reading Matt Levine's opinion column: https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/authors/ARbTQlRLRjE/matthew-s-levine, or Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance Blog: https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/

Class Notes. Taking class notes can be very useful. I also want to offer some evidence that taking notes by hand may improve your own comprehension. Please see for example, this paper for the actual research (https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0956797614524581) and/or this nice op-ed (https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2014/12/30/this-year-im-resolving-to-ban-laptops-from-my-classroom/) summarizing recent research.

Personal Reflection. Each individual will submit a personal reflection. If you make a good effort and follow the directions, you will get full credit for the reflections. You should submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced Times New Roman 12 pt., 1 inch margins) reflection with your thoughts about business law. You may choose your own topic for the reflection. The goal of your personal reflection is to develop your own original thoughts about business law. In seeking to generate a new idea, do not be afraid to take a risk. The key to the reflection is the quality of your idea, so please do not feel that you have to fill many pages with writing for the sake of writing. Instead, what I seek is expositional clarity in relation to your idea. Summarize your idea, and then explain how it fits into what you have learned in class, and what your unique angle is on existing debates.

Extra-credit Presentations. Individuals will be able to present 10-minute presentations with slides for any of the assignments in class on the day that they are due. No more than two students may present in any assignment, and only one presentation per student per term.

Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Wellness within the Classroom

Land Acknowledgment. Santa Clara University occupies the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ohlone and Muwekma Ohlone people.

Respect for Diversity. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition,

if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that I can make arrangements for you.

Gender Inclusive Language. This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you go by a name different from what is on the class roster, please let me know. Using correct gender pronouns is important to me, so I encourage you to share your pronouns with me and correct me if I make a mistake. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not he sitate to contact me.

Polices Designed to Ensure Fairness

Academic Integrity. The Academic Integrity pledge is an expression of the University's commitment to fostering an understanding of—and commitment to—a culture of integrity at Santa Clara University. The Academic Integrity pledge, which applies to all students, states:

"I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code."

Academic integrity is part of your intellectual, ethical, and professional development. I expect you to uphold the principles of this pledge for all work in this class. I will clarify expectations on academic integrity as needed for assignments and exams. If you have questions about what is appropriate on any assignment, please let me know before you hand in work. For more resources about ensuring academic integrity in your work, including the appropriate use of course sharing sites such as Chegg, see this site created by the SCU Library at https://libguides.scu.edu/academic-integrity or visit www.scu.edu/academic-integrity.

Extraordinary circumstances. Timely submission of assignments is an important part of professionalism. As such, I generally expect you to submit each assignment by the due date. I understand, though, that extenuating circumstances may sometimes prevent you from doing so. If you need to submit an assignment late due to an "extraordinary circumstance," please let me know as soon as possible via email. Extraordinary circumstances are (usually unexpected) that interfere with your ability to complete a timely submission of an exam or a timely submission of an assignment. Such circumstances may include illness, accident, approval through disability services, disruptions due to official school obligations (such as for athletics), religious holidays, or other circumstances beyond your control. Generally, extraordinary circumstances do not include voluntary social activities, voluntary recreational activities, or the need to study for exams or complete assignments in your other classes. When evaluating whether your circumstances are extraordinary, I consider the amount of advanced notice given to me. Also, depending on the nature of the circumstances and the particular deadline, I may require additional details or supporting material.

To obtain an extension or an excused absence based on extraordinary circumstances, please send me an email as soon as you are aware of the need for an extension or excused absence. The

message should explain the extraordinary circumstances that prevent you from completing the exam or assignment by the deadline. I will reply to the message confirming whether an extension is granted or the absence is excused. Depending on the circumstances, additional evidence may be required. If you have not received a reply from me confirming the extension within 24 hours (e.g., because I may have missed your message or an error may have disrupted the electronic message), please follow up with me ASAP about the status of your request. If you fail to communicate with me, unexcused late or incomplete assignments will result in reduced points for that assignment.

Grade Dispute. Please turn in a written petition and if it involves a specific assignment, a copy of the assignment. Any request for a re-grade will result in a re-grade of the entire assignment.

Accommodations for Pregnant and Parenting Students. Santa Clara University does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related medical conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy and childbirth will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor, and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing accommodations can often arrange accommodations by working directly with their instructors, supervisors, or departments. Students needing accommodations can also seek assistance with accommodations from the Office of Office of Accessible Education (OAE) or from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX Office. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. https://www.scu.edu/title-ix/resources/pregnancy/pregnancy.

Accommodations for those with a Disability. If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the Office of Accessible Education (oae@scu.edu, http://www.scu.edu/oae) as soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through OAE, please be sure to request your accommodations through your myOAE portal and discuss them with me during my office hours within the first two weeks of class.

To ensure fairness and consistency, individual faculty members are required to receive verification from the Office of Accessible Education before providing accommodations. OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology. Students with approved accommodations of time-and-a-half should talk with me as soon as possible. The Office of Accessible Education must be contacted in advance (at least two weeks notice recommended) to schedule proctored examinations or to arrange other accommodations.

In light of shifting health advisories related to COVID-19, exams may be administered online. Students with approved testing accommodations should contact me (at least two weeks notice recommended) prior to an exam date to notify me of their intent to use their testing accommodations on the upcoming exam to ensure their accommodations are effectively implemented.

Discrimination, Harassment and Sexual Misconduct (Title IX). Santa Clara University is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence.

Please know that as a faculty member, California law SB 493 requires me to report any information brought to my attention about incidents of sexual harassment or misconduct to the SCU Equal Opportunity and Title IX Office (408) 551-3043. This includes, but is not limited to, disclosures in writing assignments, class discussions, and one-on-one conversations.

Should you need support, SCU has dedicated staff trained to assist you in navigating campus resources, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and filing a formal complaint with the University or with law enforcement. Please see the Student Resources page for more information about reporting options and resources.

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence and wishes to speak to a confidential resource who is not required to report, please contact one of the following SCU resources for support:

- Bree Van Ness, Assistant Director for Student Survivor Advocacy and Campus Support, SCU Wellness Center, 852 Market St, (408) 551-3307, bvanness@scu.edu
- SCU Wellness Center
- CAPS
- Any individual (clergy, counselors) acting in a professional capacity for which confidentiality is mandated by law

I am happy to help connect you with any of these resources.

Safety and COVID-19 Measures. In order to meet our learning objectives, we will adhere to the highest standards for safety and mutual respect. I expect everyone to adhere to current university mask mandates at all times; to make their best attempt to make themselves heard when asking questions or contributing to discussions; and refrain from eating or drinking in class. It is expected that everyone will follow university guidelines about health and public safety measures outlined on the Prepared SCU website.

Course Schedule

As noted above, the reading list associated with specific lectures is available on Camino. Below you will find an outline of the major parts covered in the course as well as the specific topics within each major part. Dates highlighted in red are when legal writing assignments are due.

Spring Term

Class	Date	Course Part	Торіс	Textbook
1	4/4	Part 1. Foundations and Structures of U.S. Legal System	Introduction to Business Law	Chapter 1
2	4/6		Business Ethics	Chapter 2
3	4/11		U.S. Legal System and Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
4	4/13		Alternative Dispute Resolution	Chapter 4
5	4/18		Constitutional Principles	Chapter 5
6	4/20		Administrative Law	Chapter 44
7	4/25	Review Sessio	N.A.	
8	4/27	Part 2. Legal Considerations for Business Leaders	Business Entities and the Principal-Agent Challenge	Chapter 35 & 38
9	5/2		Corporations: Directors, Officers, Shareholders	Chapter 38 & 39
			Corporations: Securities and Investor Protection (Extra-	
10	5/4		credit presentation)	Chpater 11 & 41
11	5/9		Contracts	Chapter 13
12	5/11		No class, please work on reflection & assignment #2	N.A.
13	5/16		Written Contracts and Remedies	Chapter 18 & 20
14	5/18		Intellectual Property	Chapter 12
15	5/23		Employment and Labor Law	Chapter 42 & 43
			Crime and Consumer Protection (Extra-credit	
16	5/25	Part 3. Duties and Rights	presentation)	Chapter 7 & 45
17	5/30	Owed to Others and	Tort Law	Chapter 8
18	6/1	Society	Negligence and Liability	Chapter 9 & 10
19	6/6		Antitrust Law	Chapter 47
20	6/8	Review Session Part 2 & 3, (Extra-credit presentation) N.A.		

Detailed Reading List

Part 1. Foundations and Structures of U.S. Legal System (Class 1 through 7)

Class #1 Topic: Introduction to Business Law

- Course overview: top questions on Day #1
- What is business law?
- Private vs. public and criminal vs. civil law
- The sources of business law
- Case study: The Case of the Speluncean Explorers

Reading and watching:

• Watching: Simon Sinek on Feeling Safe

• Reading: Textbook Chapter 1

Class #2 Topic: Business Ethics

- Defining ethics and business ethics
- What is the social responsibility of business?
- The relationship between business law and business ethics
- WH framework for business ethics
- Social responsibility, the morals of markets, and sustainable investment
- Case study: Kendall v. Hoffman La-Roche, Inc., 209 N.J. 173 (2012)

Reading:

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 2
- Please read before class: **Milton Friedman's Op-Ed from the *New York Times* on the <u>Social Responsibility of Business</u> and skim the Commentary on its 50th anniversary published in the *New York Times* entitled Greed Is Good. Except When It's Bad.

Class #3 Topic: The U.S. Legal System and Dispute Resolution

- Jurisdiction
- Forum selection
- The structure of the U.S. Court system
- Civil Litigation process
- Case study: Flowers v. Mississippi 139 S. Ct. 2228 (2019)

Reading:

- Reading: Textbook Chapter 3
- Watching: Hertz v. Friend

Class #4 Topic: Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Alternative dispute resolution
 - Negotiation
 - Mediation
 - Arbitration
- Other alternative dispute resolution methods
- Case study: Maribel Baltazar v. Forever 21, Inc. 62 Cal. 4th 1237 (2016)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook Chapter 4

Class #5 Topic: Constitutional Principles

- The U.S. Constitution and judicial review
- Federal preemption and sources of authority in the government

- Constitutional restrictions on government
- Amendments to the Constitution including the Bill of Rights
- Case study: Morse v. Frederick, 551 U.S. 383 (2007)

Reading:

• Textbook reading: Chapter 5

Class #6 Topics: Administrative Law

- Introduction to administrative law
- Adopt an agency
- The process of administrative rule-making
- Limitations on the power of agencies
- Adopt an industry

Reading:

• Textbook reading: Chapter 44

Class #7 Topics: Review session and introduction to legal writing

- Review material on the foundations and structures of the U.S. legal system
- Introduce first take-home legal writing assignment
- Additional practice in the I-R-A-C method for legal writing

Reading:

• Reading: Legal writing, general instructions; writing tips (on homepage)

Part 2. Legal Considerations for Business Leaders (Class 8 through 15)

Class #8 Topics: Business Entities and the Principal-Agent Challenge

- A corporate mindset
- Organizational form as a transformative business idea
- Characteristics of corporations
- The principal-agent challenge
- Other organizational forms (e.g., sole proprietorship, partnerships, LLCs)
- Special organizational forms (e.g., franchises)
- Case study: Patterson v. Domino's Pizza, LLC, 333 P. 3d 723 (2014)

Reading:

- Reading: Chapter 35
- ** For those interested in deeper knowledge in this area, "The Company" by John Micklewait and Adrian Wooldridge is an excellent, accessible book.

Class #9 Topic: Corporations: Directors, Officers, Shareholders

- Legal process of incorporating
- Board meetings
- Board of directors and their fiduciary duties
- Business judgement rule vs. piercing the corporate veil
- Case study: Dodge v. Ford Motor Company, 204 Mich. 459, 170 N.W. 668 (1919)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapters 38 & 39

Class #10 Topic: Corporations: Securities and Investor Protection

- The Securities and Exchange Commission
- Financial reporting
- We will explore some famous scandals in history that forever changed aspects of financial reporting
 - o Enron, Worldcom, etc.
- We will also explore the legislative responses:
 - o Sarbanes Oxley Act (SOX) and Dodd-Frank
- Related concepts: fair-value account vs. historical cost accounting, expert reliance on audited financial statements, accountant liability
- Case study: Thomas v. Shiloh Industries, Inc. United States District Court, S.D.N.Y. (2018)

Reading and watching:

- Reading: Textbook chapter 11 & 41
- Watching: We will watch a clip of the movie "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room" in class.

Class #11 Topics: Contracts

- Contract terminology
- Sources of contract law
- Various classifications of contracts
- Interpretation of contracts
- Case study: Hawkins v. McGee 84 N.H. 114, 146 A. 641 (1929)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 13

Class #12 Topic: No class, please work on reflection & assignment #2

Class #13 Topic: Written Contracts and Remedies

- Contracts in writing and the Statute of Frauds
- Debt issuances as examples of written contracts and legal issues that arise
- Circumstances for discharging contracts
- Legal remedies for breach of contract
- Case study via examples
- Discuss Writing Assignment #2

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook Chapter 18 & 20

Class #14 Topic: Intellectual Property

- Defining intellectual property and its importance in business
- Trademarks
- Copyrights
- Patents and Trade Secrets
- Case study: Stone Brewing Co. v. MillerCoors

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 12

Class #15 Topic: Labor and Employment Law

- History of Labor Law: National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act) and Unionization
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and Minimum Wages
- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Other laws: Employment at Will, Employee Privacy, COBRA, ERISA
- Civil Rights Act: Disparate Treatment vs. Disparate Impact
- Hostile Work Environment
- Case study: Ehling v. Monmouth-Ocean Hosp. Sev. Corp., 961 F. Supp. 2d 659 Delaware (2013)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 42 & 43

Part 3. Duties and Rights Owed to Others and Society (Class 16 through 20)

Class #16 Topics: Crime and the Business Community

- Common crimes affecting business
- Corporate criminal liability
- Defenses to crimes
- Federal Trade Commission
- Deceptive advertisement
- Case study: United States v. Kaplan, 2:13-cr-00377-PMP-CWH (D. Nev. Dec. 4, 2014)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 7 & 45

Class # 17 Topic: Tort Law

- Classification of Torts
- Intentional Torts
 - o Against Person
 - Against Property
 - Against Economic Interests
- Damages Available in Tort Cases
- Case study: Mazda Motor Corp. v. Hurst, 261 So. 3d 167 Ala: Supreme Court (2017)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook Chapter 8

Class #18 Topic: Negligence and Liability

- Elements of Negligence
 - o Duty
 - Breach of duty
 - Causation
- Product liability
- Case study: Bonacci v. Brewer Service Station

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 9 & 10

Class #19 Topic: Antitrust Law

- History and rationale for Antitrust Law
- Introduction to mergers
- Antitrust rules
- Case study: FTC v. Penn State Hershey Medical Center US Court of Appeals for the 3rd District 838 F.3D 327 (2016)

Reading:

• Reading: Textbook chapter 47

Class #20 Topic: Review session and Extra-credit presentations

- Extra-credit presentations
- Review of Part 2 & 3 of course
- Q&A about final exam

Reading:

• N.A.