

**BGEN 301 – PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS LAW**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Spring 2019, CRN 20112, BGEN 301 Section 20**

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| <b>Course Time:</b>           | Thursdays, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM  |
| <b>Location:</b>              | Rahall Center Room 318, Athens campus  |
| <b>Credit Hours:</b>          | Three (3)  |
| <b>Professor:</b>             | Debbie Curry, JD   |
| <b>Office Location:</b>       | No office on campus, Adjunct instructor  |
| <b>E-Mail:</b>                | <a href="mailto:dcurryjd@yahoo.com">dcurryjd@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:curryd@concord.edu">curryd@concord.edu</a>  |
| <b>Telephone:</b>             | (304) 412-4364 (cell) (call or text)   |
| <b>Text:</b>                  | <i>Business Law Alternate Edition</i> (12 <sup>th</sup> edition), Miller, Cross, Cengage Learning.   |
| <b>Supplemental Readings:</b> | Supplemental readings may be assigned by the instructor.   |
| <b>Course Description:</b>    | This course explores the legal environment in which businesses operate. Topics include the Uniform Commercial Code, torts and crimes, contracts, sales, and legal aspects of the use of technology. Ethical and criminal implications of business actions are also included. |

**Course Goals:**

- To familiarize students with basic legal terminology, especially in the areas of torts, crimes, contracts and the UCC
- To explain the legal environment relative to business matters, including the US court structure
- To explain the importance of stare decisis and precedent in the legal environment
- To teach students basic sources of legal research such as case law and statutes, and to help them begin to analyze these research sources
- To teach students the IRAC method of analyzing legal cases in order to quickly and succinctly grasp and articulate the important content in a case
- To discuss the overarching issue of legal and business ethics, and assist students in learning to apply ethics principles to a broad range of legal situations
- To discuss the changes in the legal and business environment caused by technology and the global market, and to help students begin to navigate the legal issues within these developing realities
- To teach students the basic principles and terminology in tort law and its interface with criminal law, and how to apply these principles to a set of facts
- To teach students the basic principles and terminology of criminal and cyber law, and how to apply these principles to a set of facts
- To teach students the basic principles of common law contract law, and how to apply these principles to a set of facts
- To teach students the basic principles of the Uniform Commercial Code

and how to apply the UCC to a set of facts

## Learning Objectives

- The student will be able to use and understand basic legal terminology appropriate to a pre-law class level
- The student will be able to articulate the state and national structure of the United States court system
- The student will be able to articulate the basic steps in a court proceeding
- The student will recognize and be able to understand basic legal documents such as pleadings, answers, interrogatories, etc.
- The student will be able to do very basic legal research using case law and statutes and regulations, and will be able to articulate where to locate these resources
- The student will be able to use the IRAC methodology to analyze and discuss fairly complex case law
- The student will learn and be able to articulate the basic principles of tort law, including the types of tortious actions and defenses thereto
- The student will learn and be able to articulate the basic principles of criminal law, including the categories of crimes, defenses and cyber law.
- The student will learn and be able to articulate the basic principles of common law contract law and a basic familiarity with Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, including types of contracts covered by the UCC, differences between the UCC and common law contract law.
- The student will develop critical thinking skills in the legal area that will allow him or her to distinguish key differences and similarities between cases, and then apply the cases as precedent to a set of facts.
- The student will develop critical thinking skills in the area of legal ethics and be able to apply basic legal ethics principles to fairly complex facts, including the discernment of relevant and irrelevant facts to the ethical issue.

**Testing:** Students will be given tests based on the material discussed in class and covered in the readings. The midterm and final will be planned exams. In addition, students will be expected to IRAC cases (not in the textbook) and turn them in in paper format throughout the semester.

**Preparation:** It is expected that each student will read the assigned material before class and be able to discuss the issues and cases if called upon. In addition, students should take notes in class, since some of the material on the exams will be from lecture and may not be covered in the text.

**Expectations:** *Academic Dishonesty* Academic dishonesty, including cheating or

plagiarism on tests or assignments, will not be tolerated, and will result in expulsion from the class with a grade of F and in some cases further action may be sought. Absolute honor and integrity are expected from students enrolled in this class. Students are expected to be familiar with and follow the Concord University Academic Dishonesty Policy.

“Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one’s own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University.” Concord University Academic Catalog.

Students are expected to follow the Honor Code while in this class. Honor Code: “As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same.”

***Cell Phone Usage*** Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom except in the case of emergency. This includes calling, texting, instant messaging, accessing the Internet/Facebook, listening to music, and other activities which will detract from active learning. Likewise, laptops in the classroom are permitted only for the purposes of taking notes if needed in the classroom or conducting permitted research. Repeated violation of this rule may result in the student being asked to leave the class.

***Non-Students in the Classroom*** Students may not bring children to the class at any time. Students may only bring adult guests to the classroom with the prior consent of the instructor.

***Disruptive Activity*** **There will be zero tolerance for disruptive activity in the classroom.** The instructor will treat students with respect. In turn, students must treat the instructor, guests and other students with respect and tolerance. Any infraction of this rule by any student may lead to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the course. Students should make every effort to be on time for class, and should not leave the class early except in case of illness or with the prior consent of the instructor.

***Attendance Policy/Make-Up Work*** Attendance is expected at each class during the semester. However, there may be times when a student may have to miss all or part of a class due to illness or other personal reasons. The student must notify the instructor in advance if he or she is going to miss class. This notification must

be via either e-mail prior to the class or by telephone/text prior to the class. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements to make up any work missed with the instructor immediately upon the return to class. The student must not wait until the end of the semester to turn in make-up work unless given express permission to do so by the instructor. If make-up work is turned in after the deadline set by the instructor, the student will not receive credit for that work in the course.

If the instructor finds that the student is missing too many classes to learn the material, the instructor will notify the student that he or she may be removed from the class roster. This decision will be made on a case by case basis. In any event, because this is an evening class with limited class meetings, a student missing more than two classes must arrange for a conference with the instructor to discuss the impact the absences may have upon the final grade for the course, and whether the student will be allowed to finish the course.

**Grading Scale** A standard grading scale for exams and written assignments will be used:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 90-100       | A |
| 80-89        | B |
| 70-79        | C |
| 60-69        | D |
| 59 and below | F |

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| <b>Grading Points:</b><br>% of final grade | Midterm Exam (short and long essay)            | 45% |
|  | Final Exam (short and long essay)              | 45% |
|  | Attendance and class participation/assignments | 10% |

**Teaching Plan:** The class is taught by lecture format and at times, the Socratic Method. Students are expected to read and prepare for the chapter assigned for the class ahead of time. (see attached calendar)

**Accommodation:** Students needing special accommodation or assistance should inform the professor at the beginning of the class and follow the proper procedure as outlined in the Concord University Catalog in the section titled Disability Services(see link herein).

**Tentative Schedule:**

| Date | Topic |
|------|-------|
|------|-------|

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>January</b>  |  |
| 17              | First class, go over syllabus, chapter 1, law and legal reasoning, start Chapter 2- courts and ADR |
| 24              | Finish Chapter 2, Chapter 3 court procedures, and Chapter 4- Constitutional authority              |
| 31              | Chap 5, ethics and Ch 6, intentional torts   |
| <b>February</b> |  |
| 7               | Chap 7 and 8. Negligence, Strict liab and intellectual property                                    |
| 14              | Chap 9 and start 10- criminal law and beginning of contracts                                       |
| 21              | Finish Chap 10 contracts and review for test   |
| 28              | Midterm exam   |
| <b>March</b>    |  |
| 7               | Chapter 11,12 Consideration, Capacity  |
| 14              | Spring Break, no class   |
| <b>BREAK</b>    |  |
| 21              | Chapters 13 and 14- contracts, continued   |
| 28              | Chapters 15 and 16- contracts, continued   |
| <b>April</b>    |  |
| 4               | Chapter 17 and 18 finish common law contracts-   |
| 11              | Chap 19 and a variety of legal issues- HR, etc   |
| 18              | Chapters 20 and 21 Intro to the UCC  |
| 25              | Catch up if needed and practice contract drafting  |
| <b>May</b>      |  |
| 2               | Review for final   |
| 9               | Final exam- 6:00 PM Rahall room 318  |
|                 | Note- dates and topics may be subject to change due to absences, weather, etc.                     |

NOTE: It is important that each student reference the following information and contact the instructor with any questions:

- the inclement weather schedule: <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts>
- Concord University encourages everyone to register to receive instant emergency text message alerts via cell phones and/or email alerts: <http://sms.concord.edu/>
- Technology services [www.concord.edu/technology](http://www.concord.edu/technology)
- the Americans with Disabilities Act statement: *Concord University's Protocol and Procedures for Serving Students with Disabilities as covered under Section 504/ADA* <http://www.concord.edu/multicultural/node/13>  
 "Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the

Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Disability Services Coordinator, Nancy Ellison, at [nellison@concord.edu](mailto:nellison@concord.edu) for assistance."

- "General Expectations of Business Students" and the "If Students Miss [http://www.concord.edu/business/node/11#Miss\\_Exam](http://www.concord.edu/business/node/11#Miss_Exam)
- the Division of Business Mission statement and the Division of Business homepage: <http://www.concord.edu/business/node/1>
- the university Honor Code and Mission statement, <http://www.concord.edu/academics/>
- Sexual Harassment & Assault Policy, <https://www.concord.edu/student-life/node/47>
- *The Academic Success Center is ready to assist any student with academic or personal concerns, tutoring, study skills, time management, and much more. The Academic Success Center is located in Suite 243 (Atrium) of the Rahall Technology Center. Students can stop by the ASC Monday through Friday, 8:00 am until 4:00 or by appointment. The ASC may be reached by calling (304) 384-6074, (304) 384-6298, or [asc@concord.edu](mailto:asc@concord.edu). Website: <http://hub.concord.edu/academicsuccess/>*
- *The drop-in tutoring schedule is posted online: <https://apps.concord.edu/tutoring/>. Smarthinking—online, and on-demand tutoring—is available on Blackboard at [elearn.concord.edu](http://elearn.concord.edu).*

**STUDENTS ULTIMATELY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR EDUCATION, WHICH INCLUDES READING, KNOWING, AND OBSERVING THE REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

**Note from the Instructor: IT IS MY GOAL AS AN INSTRUCTOR TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A SAFE, COMFORTABLE, RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT INSOFAR AS I AM ABLE, AND TO MEET THE ACADEMIC GOALS OF THE CLASS TO THE VERY BEST OF MY ABILITY. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME SHOULD YOU EXPERIENCE BARRIERS OR ISSUES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT YOUR ABILITY TO LEARN, OR IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS OR CONCERNS DURING THE SEMESTER.**

**IMPORTANT: Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly!**