

**DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
FALL 2017**

**Course title:** Foundations in Business Law, BLAW 505  
**Course time:** Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Instructor:** Wayne Koprowski  
**Work email:** wkoprowski@dom.edu  
**Office:** Fine Arts 315  
**Campus Phone:** 708.524. 6564  
**Office Hours:** Before class, after class or by appointment

### **I. PREREQUISITES**

None

### **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with the laws, regulations and court decisions that govern the business environment today. Together these laws, regulations and cases provide the legal framework in which the modern business manager is expected to operate. The course is a focused foundation course which will briefly highlight selected legal issues faced by business managers. The course is intended to provide students with a basic understanding of the terminology, fundamental principles and concepts of current business law.

### **III. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of this course, students should

- be able to recognize business law issues
- be familiar with various laws and regulations facing managers today
- understand how laws affect the business environment
- identify and appreciate some of the legal issues facing the contemporary business person

### **IV. COURSE METHODOLOGY**

Classes will consist of lectures, discussions and cases. Students are expected to read the chapters assigned for class and be prepared to discuss the topics covered as well as the cases and discussion questions, if any, assigned for the chapter.

## V. TEXTBOOK

***BLAW 505, Business Law, Cengage Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-337-44633-4.*** Students can also access the digital e-book product by purchasing instant access online at: [www.cengagebrain.com/course/2308640](http://www.cengagebrain.com/course/2308640). ISBN: 9781337687188.

## VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams. There will be one take home final exam. The exam will consist of cases which you will analyze.

Research assignments. There will be four short research projects. The due dates for deliverables are provided in the Course Outline. Students will read the topics covered by the assignment and should be prepared to discuss each assignment in class. The assignments are:

Assignment 1: Research the Securities and Exchange Commission website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) and link to the EDGAR filings. Find the Form DEF 14A (definitive proxy statement) filed April 2016 for Abbott Laboratories. Answer the following questions: How many directors are being elected? Who is the CEO? List the Board's various committees. What is the base salary and total compensation of the CEO? Who is the registered independent public accounting firm? (You can also use Google. Hint: The Table of Contents for the proxy statement should be a big help).

Assignment 2: Research the Apple Terms and Conditions for iTunes and Facebook. In no more than 2 pages discuss three sections of each which you find interesting and/or surprising.

Assignment 3: Research online and print out a Sexual Harassment Policy for any company. Answer the following questions: What is the definition of harassment? What kind of conduct is prohibited? What is the procedure for filing a complaint?

Assignment 4: Research the U.S. Patent and Trademark website. Answer the following questions about trademarks: Definition of a trademark; Must a trademark be registered? What is the advantage of registration? What is the filing fee? What are the two possible trademark formats?

Research Paper/Presentation. There will be one short research project. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Employees should have an expectation of a right to privacy in the workplace, e.g. electronic monitoring of computer usage, phone calls, video surveillance.
2. Corporations have a social responsibility to act for the greater societal good and not merely to maximize returns for their investors.
3. Corporate officers should be held criminally liable for the acts of subordinates even if they have no knowledge of any wrongdoing.

4. Former employers should be held liable to current employers for the acts of former employees who cause injury or death for failing to disclose violent behavior.
5. Damage awards should be capped for product liability suits (tort reform).
6. Employers should be able to prohibit employees from bringing guns to work including parking lots provided to employees (parking lot gun laws).
7. Employers should be able to access the Facebook pages of prospective or current employees.
8. Should private technology firms (like Apple, Google) be required to override encryption protocols in the name of fighting terrorism. Why or why not.
9. Are social media companies (like Facebook) liable for invasion of privacy for things like photo-tagging or sharing personal information with advertisers (data mining).
10. Discuss any chapter in the book that we did not cover in class, e.g. international law, antitrust law, banking, insurance. *You must have at least 2 outside sources.*

The due date is indicated on the Course Outline. The paper should be approximately 4-5 pages, space and a half. There should be a bibliography attached at the end of the paper. The paper should address *both* sides of the issue. Your conclusion should also indicate your opinion and your reasons (the last 2 sentences are not necessary for chapter topics).

## VII. GRADING

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exam	100 points
Assignments (4)	100 (25 points each)
Research paper	50
Participation	<u>50</u>
	300

## **VIII. GRADING SCALE**

A	=	96-100
A-	=	92-95
B+	=	88-91
B	=	82-87
B-	=	78-81
C+	=	74-77
C	=	70-73
C-	=	68-69
D	=	66-67
F	=	Below 66

## **IX. CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Students will be evaluated on their contribution to class discussions. The student's insights, grasp of the topics, concepts and terms will all be taken into consideration. *Please note that a portion of the grade is class participation.*

## **X. ATTENDANCE**

While attendance is not required, it should be noted that much of what students will take away from this course occurs during class time. Moreover, the participation grade may be affected by excessive absences, especially in this abbreviated foundation course. Students who cannot make class will be required to turn in assignments at the following class. If you cannot take the exam for whatever legitimate reason, please contact me as soon as possible to arrange an alternative time.

## **XI. RESOURCES**

Lexis/Nexis database (Dominican Resource Center)  
PowerPoint slides are posted on Canvas as are optional videos  
[www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)

See also websites on inside cover of textbook for additional resources

**COURSE OUTLINE  
BLAW 505  
FALL 2017**

<b>Aug 30</b>	Introduction Business Organizations: Chapters 1-6
<b>Sept. 6</b>	Contracts: Chap. 7-13; Chap. 14 (p. 290-295) <b>Assignments 1 &amp; 2</b>
<b>Sept. 13</b>	Employment law and Discrimination Chap.15-17; <b>Assignment 3</b>
<b>Sept. 20</b>	Intellectual Property and Social Media Chap. 18 & 19; <b>Assignment 4</b>
<b>Sept. 27</b>	<b>TBA; Research Paper due</b>
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>Final</b>