

# ***THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS***

## **MGT 3600 (Sec. 3)**

### **Spring 2016**

**Professor:** Paul E. Volbrecht, J.D.

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

**Required Text:** The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business

**Prerequisites:** Junior Standing (minimum)

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the American legal system and its inner workings at both the trial and appellate court levels.
2. Demonstrate an ability to communicate, cooperate and present effectively as a team.
3. Demonstrate an ability to appreciate, understand and explain multiple points of view regarding various legal issues applicable in the business environment.
4. Demonstrate an ability to research, analyze and present cases involving business law matters cogently and coherently through both oral and written communication.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the legal and ethical considerations attendant to making important decisions and to resolving issues related to the Legal Environment of Business.
6. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how the law impacts the conduct of U.S. business and how it affects the policies and decision making processes of those businesses.

#### **Learning Activities:**

1. Lecture.
2. Written and oral analysis of Wisconsin, State and Federal case law.
3. Discussion and analysis of text material, chapter cases and review questions.
4. Research, discussion and analysis of group presentations and current legal events.
5. Written Examinations.

## **EVALUATION & GRADING:**

	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Participation	10
Class Attendance	10
Group Presentation	10
Written Case Briefs	10
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Exam 3	20
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<hr/> <b>100</b>

## **ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS & GRADING:**

**Participation:** Students are expected to read all assigned material, including the chapter cases, prior to the class lecture. The Socratic Method will be utilized to discuss assigned reading, cases and questions. The discussion of one's opinions, thoughts and ideas is an essential part of this course. Up to ten (10) points may be awarded for classroom participation.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Arriving after class begins will result in a marked absence. Three (3) absences are allowed without penalty. Each additional absence loses one (1) point.

**Group Presentation:** Students will work in groups to present on a legal topic of their choice both orally and in writing. The presentation will be worth up to ten (10) points which may be awarded to the group as a whole. The required format is detailed in the Group Presentation handout under **Course Documents** on eLearning.

**Written Case Briefs:** Assigned case briefs **must be typewritten**. Only the cases assigned on the syllabus, for your specific group number, must be briefed in writing. The specific cases will be posted under **Case Law** on eLearning prior to the assigned due date.

The required format is detailed in the Brief Format handout and in the sample brief, Grutter v. Bollinger, under **Course Documents** on eLearning. The full case, Grutter v. Bollinger, is posted under **Case Law**.

Written case analysis is worth up to five (5) points for each of the two cases assigned. One (1) point per day will automatically be deducted from assignments submitted after the assigned date. One (1) point will also be deducted from briefs that do not follow the required format.

The case briefs are designed for individual effort. Working together to better understand the concept and legal significance of a particular case is appropriate and sometimes necessary. However, individual preparation of the case briefs is required. The submission of the same or deceptively similar brief is not permitted.

**Written Assignments:** All written assignments will be graded according to the standards set forth above. In addition, all assignments will be graded based upon the proper use of grammar, punctuation, spelling and paragraph formation. All written case briefs and group presentation papers **must be** completed according to the detailed format for each assignment as posted on eLearning.

**Exams:** All exams must be taken at the regularly scheduled time. Makeup exams will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor.

**Extra Credit:** Written end of chapter Review Questions & Problems are worth one-half (½) point for each chapter. All questions must be answered and turned in prior to the conclusive lecture on that chapter. **All work must be legibly handwritten, stapled and have clean edges. Nonconforming work will not be accepted.** The timely completion of the homework assignments for all chapters will result in seven (7) points being added to the final assigned, average **exam** grade.

**PowerPoint Slides:** The shells of all PowerPoint slides utilized in class are available under **PowerPoint Slides** on eLearning. The shells, while not comprehensive, will help prepare you for each class by providing you with an overview of the material that will be covered. The shells should be printed prior to class for use as an outline during the lecture.

# **ASSIGNMENTS**

<u><b>DATE &amp; CHAPTERS</b></u>	<u><b>PAGES</b></u>	<u><b>ASSIGNED CASES &amp; PRESENTATIONS</b></u>
<u><b>February 7</b></u> Introduction to the course Chapter 1 – Law as a Foundation For Business	04-24	
<u><b>February 14</b></u> Chapter 2 – Role of Ethics Chapter 3 – The Court System	26-59 60-85	
<u><b>February 21</b></u> Chapter 4 – Litigation Chapter 5 – Alternative Dispute Resolution	86-117 118-151	
<u><b>*FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup></b></u> Chapter 6 – The CONSTITUTION	<b>1<sup>st</sup> EXAM</b> 152-182	<b>Part ONE (Chs. 2-5)</b>
<u><b>March 7</b></u> Chapter 7 – The Property System Chapter 8 – Contract Formation	186-225 226-257	
<u><b>March 14</b></u> Chapter 9 – Contractual Performance And Breach Chapter 10 – Torts Affecting Business	258-279 280-311	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Case Brief Due</b>
<u><b>March 21</b></u> Chapter 11 – Intellectual Property Chapter 13 – Criminal Law & Business	312-349 378-411	
<u><b>*MARCH 28<sup>th</sup></b></u> Chapter 15 – The Regulatory Process	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> EXAM</b> 444-471	<b>Part TWO (Chs. 6-11 &amp;13)</b>
<u><b>April 4</b></u> Chapter 16 – Regulating Competition Chapter 18 – Regulations Protecting Consumer Purchases, Privacy	472-505 546-577	
<u><b>April 11</b></u> <i>Movie (TBD)</i>		Movie Review & Analysis

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<u><b>DATE &amp; CHAPTERS</b></u>	<u><b>PAGES</b></u>	<u><b>ASSIGNED CASES &amp; PRESENTATIONS</b></u>
<u><b>April 18</b></u> PRESENTATIONS		Group Presentations
<u><b>April 25</b></u> PRESENTATIONS		Group Presentations
<u><b>May 2</b></u> Chapter 19 – Environmental Regulation Chapter 20 – Discrimination in Employment	578-613 614-651	
<u><b>May 9</b></u> Chapter 21 – Employment Laws Chapter 12 – International Law	652-685 350-377	2 <sup>nd</sup> Case Brief Due
<b>**FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> EXAM</b>	<b>Chs.: 15, 16,18, 19-21, 12</b>
<b>MAY 15-17</b>	<b>DATE &amp; TIME T/B/A</b>	