Course: Legal Environment of Business, BULE 303-013
Professor: Wambui Mungai, LL.B., LL.M, Professor of Business Legal Studies
Class Location: Arlington: Founders Hall 121
Class Time: Wednesday 10:30am – 1:10pm
Office Location: Enterprise Hall 027
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm – 2:30pm
Office email: wmungai@gmu.edu

Course Description: This course surveys the legal environment of business, emphasizing legal concepts and legal reasoning to prepare students to recognize legal problems and formulate appropriate responses. Topics include business ethics, torts, crimes, contracts and other topics.

School of Business learning goals:

1. Our students will be knowledgeable about the legal environment of business.
2. Our students will understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain fundamental legal concepts from a variety of subject areas of the legal environment of business.
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply fundamental legal concepts through legal reasoning to resolve business related legal disputes.
3. Identify ethical issues and understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply ethical analysis and reasoning to resolve business related ethical dilemmas.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of law on business and the role of business in shaping the legal and regulatory environment.

Approach to Learning: lecture, discussion, class participation, student analysis, in-class assignments, project.

**Textbook Options** (links available on Blackboard):

**Stand-alone hard copy:** ISBN: 978-1-305-07545-0

**Loose-leaf Bundle (GMU Bookstore):** includes MindTap (eBook) printed access code and loose-leaf version, term (6 months) Printed Access Card
ISBN: 978-1-305-71458-8

**Stand-alone MindTap Digital book (GMU Bookstore):** (includes eBook) term 6 months Printed Access Card
ISBN: 978-1-305-11841-6

**MindTap:** MindTap is an online resource offered by Cengage and it is required. You must purchase access in order to use MindTap. Cengage offers free usage for the first two weeks of the semester, however, students must purchase access thereafter. The MindTap resource provides the e-book version of the required textbook, audio version of the textbook, flash cards, quizzes, critical thinking exercises, etc. MindTap is required in order to complete Homework (see Homework section below). There are links for purchasing MindTap and how to use MindTap on Blackboard. Do keep in mind that **electronics are not permitted during class** (unless expressly permitted for a in-class assignment). If you want your textbook in class, consider purchasing a bundle, which includes a loose leaf version of the book. There are links for purchasing MindTap and how to use MindTap on Blackboard.

**Course Website:** Many course materials are available on Blackboard, including the syllabus and lecture slides. Grades and announcements will also be posted on Blackboard.

**Email:** Occasionally, the professor will send announcements through GMU email. Please check GMU email regularly. When contacting the professor by email, please give your name and section and use a professional tone, demeanor and format in your email. If you are emailing the professor with an administrative question, please review your syllabus before emailing. Most administrative questions are answered in the syllabus.

**Student Responsibilities:** (1) regular class attendance; (2) preparation of assignments prior to class; (3) participation in discussions/ critical analysis of assignments and lectures; (4) completion of all assessments and (5) in-class conduct which respects the rights and opinions of classmates and the professor. The School of Business is a professional school and students’ behavior and dress shall comport with this professional environment.

**Methods of Student Evaluation:** Exams, assignments, and a project.

**Course repeat policy:** This course requires a minimum grade of C to satisfy the School’s degree
requirements, and students will not be permitted to make more than three attempts to achieve a C or higher in this course. Effective Fall 2010, registration in this course will be prohibited beyond three attempts that resulted in a grade lower than C. If you have questions about this policy, please see an academic advisor in ENT 008.

Disabilities: The professor is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Such students should contact the university’s Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. This professor must be notified of your request for accommodations for exams/assignments at least ten days prior to the dates the accommodations are requested and at the beginning of the semester for accommodations related to class participation.

Honor Code: George Mason’s Honor Code prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying and stealing. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the George Mason Honor Code and follow it at all times. As a reminder, the exams are to be your individual work. It is a violation of the honor code to discuss an exam with students who have not taken the exam yet. No collaboration is permitted for MindTap Homework, exams, writing assignments or projects, unless expressly authorized by the professor. A student receiving help from another student during class participation without authorization will not receive points.

Class Protocol:

(1) Electronics – Use of laptops and cell phones during class is prohibited, including texting, and checking emails and messages. If you carry a cell phone, please be sure to turn it off during class; a ringing phone during class is distracting and constitutes inconsiderate behavior toward your classmates and professor. Text messaging and/or checking messages is also rude and inconsiderate behavior, therefore, text messaging/checking messages during class is also prohibited. Students violating this policy may be expelled from that class session and ultimately from the course. In addition, violations of this policy will result in one point being deducted from the student’s final grade for each violation.

(2) Recording – Recording of class lectures is prohibited without express permission of the professor and, if granted, may only be done so for personal use and not shared with others.

(3) Exams – Students are required to bring their GMU photo identification to all exams and students. A student may not leave an exam, for any reason, until the student is finished with the exam.

Exams: Four closed-book exams are scheduled during the semester. One hour will be allotted for each exam. The exams during the semester will consist of a combination of true/false and multiple-choice questions. Please bring a standard scantron (Form 882-E), number 2 pencils, a good eraser and your GMU photo identification to the exams scheduled during the semester. The professor is not responsible for hand-grading worn or messy scantrons or scantrons completed in pen. There will be approximately 50 questions on each exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. However, with the accumulation of 100 Class Participation points or more, a student earns the right to drop the lowest exam grade (see Class Participation). As a result, early or make-up exams will not be given UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Please plan accordingly. Exams will not be given back,
however, after each exam the professor will make exams available for review during office hours on a particular day. Please pay attention for this announcement in class. If you cannot make it during that time, please make arrangements to review the exam another day. Students are expected to review the exam during the time available or to make an appointment to see the exam at another date prior to the giving of the next exam. Once the next exam is given, prior exams will not be made available for review.

**Homework:** MindTap includes several types of assignments (Worksheets, Video Exercises, Brief Hypotheticals, and Case Problems). Assignments are indicated with a “Counts Toward Grade” label. There are 520+ points available during the semester, assuming perfect scores on every assignment. The points available for each chapter are indicated below in the Schedule of Assignments in each week. Students may pick and choose which assignments to complete, however, assignments may only be completed once, so do not waste an attempt by merely guessing. Points are earned based on correct responses, therefore be as prepared as possible for each assignment to increase learning and point accumulation. Assignments are available until the time of the exam for each unit. MindTap assignments will be available until 30 minutes prior to the exam for each unit. For example, unit one (chapters 1, 4, 19 and 3) assignments will be available until 9:00am on September 19.

MindTap assignments carry the following points:

- Worksheets: 1 point each (if the worksheet has 10 questions and the students answers 7 correctly, 7 points will be awarded)
- Video Exercises: 10 points each
- Brief Hypotheticals: 10 - 19 points each, depending on chapter
- Case Problems: 1 point each

Students will be awarded Homework points in the course based on the number of accumulated MindTap points as follows ([**THERE IS NO ROUNDING**](https://www.example.com/), if a student earns 219.9 MindTap points, the Homework score will be 0):

- 420-520+ MindTap points = 50 Homework points in the course
- 320-419 MindTap points = 35 Homework points in the course
- 220-319 MindTap points = 20 Homework points in the course
- 0-219 MindTap points = 0 Homework points in the course

**Class Participation:** There will be 4 class Participation exercises during the semester worth 40 points each. These points will NOT count towards a student’s final grade. However, with the accumulation of 100 points or more, a student earns the right to drop the lowest exam grade ([because there are more than 160 points available, there will be no make-up assignments for any reason](https://www.example.com/)). To be eligible to earn points, students must be present for the entire class, engaged and must submit the required hand-out fully completed at the end of the class. These assignments are designed to reinforce learning and to help students prepare for Tests and Writing Assignments. Collaboration may be permitted, see individual exercise for details. For most exercises, students may use their own handwritten notes, but not electronics, lecture slides or the textbook. Students will lose significant points for failure to be fully engaged in the assignment and/or for use of prohibited resources. Review the grading rubric on Blackboard for further explanation and guidance. These assignments will not be returned, but they will be available for review during office hours. The quantity, point allotment and topics of assignments may change as the semester progresses.
**Writing Assignments:** Five Writing Assignments are scheduled during the semester; 20-30 minutes will be allotted for each. In-class collaboration will not be permitted on these assignments; however, students may use their own handwritten notes, but not electronics, lecture slides or the textbook. Students must attend class in order to complete Writing Assignments and they must be completed in class (unless otherwise instructed by the professor during class). Each Writing Assignment is worth 40 points, 200 points are available, but only a maximum of 150 points will count (for this reason, there will be no make-up Writing Assignments for any reason). Case law support, based on a relevant court case from the material, is required in each Writing Assignment and will account for at least 15 points on each Writing Assignment. Effective case law support means that the student summarizes the facts and ruling of a relevant case and shows how it supports his/her analysis. Students should prepare for these assignments as if they were in-class essays. Review the grading rubric on Blackboard for further explanation and guidance. These assignments will not be returned, but they will be available for review during office hours. The quantity, point allotment and topics of assignments may change as the semester progresses.

**Business Project:** The semester will culminate with a mandatory Business Project, worth 100 points. Each student will be asked to put themselves in the role of a business owner and create a hypothetical business idea and choose a business form. In the project, students will apply concepts learned throughout the semester. **Students will write approximately 600-700 words (2-3 pages)** and submit it to Safe Assign by the date indicated in the Schedule below. A stapled and double-spaced hard copy will also be handed to the professor in person and in class on the date indicated in the Schedule below. The format of the project and further details related to the project will be provided later in the semester. A grading rubric for the Project will be posted on Blackboard.

**Extra Credit:** Students will not be offered individual opportunities for extra credit, so please do not ask for such. However, there may be extra credit points included on individual assignments throughout the semester.

**Schedule of Assignments, Lectures and Exams:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT (Done prior to class)</th>
<th>GRADED WORK IN CLASS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>Course Introduction Introduction to Mind Tap</td>
<td>Review Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Business and Its Legal Environment</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|       | Administrative Agencies                    | Chapter 19  
*Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 1 (12 points available) and Chapter 19 (24 points available)* |                      |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Homework Details</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9/13   | Courts & ADR Constitutional Law | Chapter 3 | Chapter 4  
*Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter for Chapter 3 (30 points available) and Complete for Chapter 4 (24 points available)* | #1 Class Participation (40 points) |
| 9/20   |                          | Chapter 6  | *Complete: MindTap Homework for unit 1 by 9am (90 Points Available for Unit 1)* | WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1  
EXAM 1  
All material related to Chapters 1, 3-4, 19  
*(Bring scantron Form 882-E and #2 pencils)* |
| 9/27   | Criminal Law             | Chapter 6  | *Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 6 (26 points available)*               |                                                 |
| 10/4   | Torts                    | Chapters 5 | *Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 5 (50 points available)*              | #2 Class Participation (40 points)             |
| 10/11  |                          |            | *Complete: MindTap Homework for unit 2 by 9am (76 Points Available for Unit 2)*  | WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2  
EXAM 2  
All material related to Chapters 5-6  
*(Bring GMU ID, scantron Form 882-E and #2 pencils)* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Topic</th>
<th>Homework Details</th>
<th>Assignments/Exams</th>
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</table>
| 10/18  | Contract Formation & Contract Breach     | Chapter 10 & Chapter 11<br>
*Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 10 (42 points available) and for Chapter 11 (63 points available)* | #3 Class Participation Exercise (40 points)                                    |
| 10/25  |                                            | *Complete: MindTap Homework for unit 3 by 9:00am (105 Points Available for Unit 3)* | WRITING ASSIGNMENT 3 (Contract Law)<br>
EXAM 3<br>All material related to Chapters 10-11 (Bring GMU ID, scantron Form 882-E and #2 pencils) |
| 11/1   | Agency                                    | Chapters 16<br>
*Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 16 (38 points available)*               | #4 Class Participation Exercise (40 points)<br>
Business Project Overview                                                           |
| 11/8   | Employment<br>Employment Discrimination  | Chapter 17 (pp.487-501)<br>Chapter 18 for Chapter 17 (54 points available) and for Chapter 18 (44 points available) and |                                                                                  |
| 11/15  |                                            | *Complete: MindTap Homework for unit 4 by 9:00am (136 Points Available for Unit 4)* | WRITING ASSIGNMENT 4 (Employment)<br>
EXAM 4<br>All material related to Chapters 16, 17 (pp. 487-501), and 18 (Bring GMU ID, scantron Form 882-E and #2 pencils) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Work Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>~ No Class ~</td>
<td>~ Thanksgiving Holiday ~</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/29</td>
<td>Small Business Org.</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Chapter 15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 14 (39 points available)</td>
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<td>Complete Homework in MindTap for 15 (47 points available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Homework in MindTap for Chapter 2 (35 points available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete: MindTap Homework for unit 5 by 9:00am (121 Points Available for Unit 5)</td>
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<td>Business Projects (hard copy due in-person at 10:30 AM, online submission to SafeAssign via Blackboard no later than 10:30 AM)</td>
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<td>WRITING ASSIGNMENT 5 (Business Organizations/Ethics)</td>
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<td>Business Projects Due</td>
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**Grading:**

If a student earns at least 100 Class Participation points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 out of 4)</td>
<td>300 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments (worth 200+)</td>
<td>150 points max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Project</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points available</td>
<td>600 points*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If a student does not earn at least 100 Class Participation points:

| Homework | 50 points |
| Exams (4) | 400 points |
| Writing Assignments (worth 200+) | 150 points max. |
| Business Project | 100 points |
| **Total Points available** | **700 points*** |

Please do not contact the professor to calculate your grade prior to the deadline for final grades or to determine what grade needs to be achieved on assignments to get a desired grade in the course. Students are expected to monitor their grades on Blackboard and calculate their grades as the semester progresses.

**Disclaimer:** The syllabus may be altered as the semester progresses, as needed, and does not create a contract. Any modifications will be announced in class. It is the student’s responsibility to stay informed as to any changes that are made. The information provided in this course is intended for
educational and informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Nothing in this course is meant or intended to create an attorney-client relationship. For specific legal advice relating to your situation, contact a competent attorney in your jurisdiction.