



Albertus Magnus College

Course Syllabus

Course Code and Title:

BE 334-1/DL1
Business Law

Course Description:

In this course, we study the basic legal principles that guide business relationships. Emphasis is placed on and examination of the Uniform Commercial Code, contracts, sales, commercial paper, negotiable instruments, and business organizations.

PROGRAM AND COURSE OFFERING INFORMATION

Program: ADP

Session: Mod

Class Meetings:

Tuesdays: **DL Students**-Online assignment due by 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday in the assigned week

Thursdays: DL Students-Online assignment due by 11:00 p.m. on Thursday in the assigned week

Delivery method (On-ground, Blended or Online): Blended

Number of Credits: 3

Textbook and Supplementary Readings: Business Law and the Legal Environment, Saylor Academy, 2012. Please note: this is an “open source” text book. I will attach a PDF to the eLearning site of selected chapters if necessary but the entire text can be found online for free here:

https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_business-law-and-the-legal-environment-v1.0-a/index.html

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

William A. Aniskovich, JD

Associate Professor of Law and Management
Chair, Tagliatela School of Business and Leadership
Director, Healthcare Management Program

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. - Noon

Thursdays: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. - Noon

Fridays: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

(or by appointment)

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY

Professor Bill Aniskovich is the Chair of the School of Business and the Director of College's Healthcare Management Program. He is the CEO of Stonington Behavioral Health, Inc. and an attorney with the New Haven law firm of Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, LLC. Bill was a "Pro Deo" scholar at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. where he graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa in 1985 with a BA in Politics. He earned a master's degree in American Government and his law degree at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA in 1989, where he was member of the Virginia Law Review. The UVA Law Review published his Note on the Bill of Rights and the Framers Science of Politics in 1989. Returning to Connecticut after graduating from law school, Bill was elected to the Connecticut State Senator in 1990. He served seven terms in the Senate, finishing his career in 2004 as the Senate Minority Leader Pro Tempore. In 2004, Bill was appointed by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to the SAMHSA Mental Health Services National Advisory Council in Washington, D.C. Bill was appointed to the Board of Governors for Higher Education, in 2005 and served there until 2010. While a lawmaker, Bill received numerous awards for his legislative and professional advocacy on behalf of persons with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Bill joined Stonington Behavioral Health, Inc. in 1995 and became its CEO in 2004. Under Bill's leadership, Stonington has experienced significant growth in programs for adults, including a 34-bed TRICARE-certified residential program for active duty service members with PTSD in North Stonington, CT as well as a 180-bed community sober residence for adults with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Bill also led the successful federal court litigation that protects the rights of persons with mental illness and substance abuse disorders under the federal Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (CHMC v. City of New London). At Brenner, Saltzman, Bill's focus is municipal, elections and business law. He currently serves as the Town Attorney for the Town of Branford. Bill is a life-long resident of Branford, where he lives with his family.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Tradition of Honor: As a member of the Albertus Magnus College Community, each student taking this course agrees to uphold the principles of honor set forth by this community, to defend these principles against abuse or misuse, and to abide by the regulations of the College. To this end, every student must write and sign the following statement at the end of each examination: *"I declare the Honor Pledge."*

Intellectual Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious offense against academic integrity and intellectual honesty. In completing written assignments, the student must work independently unless the class instructor indicates otherwise. It is important for students to understand that they must reference the sources for all direct quotes, for the rephrasing of information from an outside source, and for ideas borrowed from readings. Students will be required to use APA format when referencing sources. Failure to cite appropriate references in any of these instances results in an act of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional. If it has been determined that a student plagiarized a written assignment, the student may be dismissed from the Master of Arts in Leadership Program. The instructor will report instances of plagiarism to the college administration.

Writing Guidelines: The writing guidelines for this course will follow the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition (CMOS) format standards. Referenced pages must be correctly formatted and alphabetized; sources must be appropriate to the assignment, correctly cited, and traceable; and the number of citations and sources must be adequate for each paper. Citing your sources properly requires following the CMOS style format rules. Please use the documentation guidelines found on the Purdue Online Writing Lab link posted in the course syllabus.

Appropriate Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to show a respect for order, the rights of others, and to exemplify a sense of honor and integrity in the classroom. Student conduct is considered an integral part of the educational process. Therefore, no student should be denied the right to learn as a direct result of disruptions in the classroom. Active learning, open inquiry, and the free expression of informed opinion are the foundations of a liberal education at Albertus Magnus College. However, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct the class is prohibited. Students are expected to be considerate and respectful of the rights, views, and interests of other students and faculty. The faculty member will take appropriate action if students do not abide by these rules.

Accommodations for Special Needs: Please advise the instructor of any special problems or needs at the beginning of the semester. Those students seeking reasonable accommodations based on disabilities should contact the Director of Academic and Student Disability Services, Aquinas Hall, Room 114 at (203) 672-1050, or email asejdic@albertus.edu, to obtain a Faculty Accommodation Letter. Albertus Magnus College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In providing reasonable accommodations, the College shall not fundamentally alter the nature of programs, services, or activities; require waiver of essential academic standards or violate accreditation requirements.

In order to respect the independence, rights and dignity of students with disabilities, the College initiates services only after a student makes a voluntary disclosure of a disability to the Office of Academic and Student Disability Services. Students who are approved for accommodations are responsible for approaching instructors in a timely manner to provide faculty accommodation letters and to arrange how accommodations will be implemented. Accommodations cannot be retroactive, so we strongly advise students to make accommodation appointments as soon as possible.

Blended and Online Course Etiquette: This course involves use of the Albertus eLearning system online. It is important to maintain appropriate professional interactions with your classmates and Instructor in the online environment. Please click the following link to review the Albertus policies regarding proper etiquette for interaction in all blended and online course work: [Link to Albertus' Netiquette Guide](#)

Withdrawing from a Course: It is the responsibility of the student to officially drop or withdraw from a course. However, failure to attend a course for 14 calendar days may result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. The policies on course withdrawals and administrative withdrawals may be found online at <http://www.albertus.edu/policy-reports/academic-policies-regulations-eug#apgr>

The Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence (CTLE):

The CTLE provides free tutoring services in multiple subjects and for writing both live and online, as well as other academic support services. You may use the free eTutoring on the MyAlbertus portal, which includes subjects such as statistics, math, psychology, sciences and writing. On the main campus you will find tutors in Rosary Hall (the library) for 1) writing, 2) math, 3) science, and 4) technology. More specifically, you will find the Writing Center and math and science tutors on the 2nd floor of Rosary Hall. The ITS (information technology services) office is on the 1st floor of Rosary Hall, and this is where you will find Tech tutors. In the late afternoon you will also find Tech tutors and math tutors in the Professional and Graduate Studies (PGS) office in Aquinas Hall. Please make use of these services to support your success in this and other courses. The CTLE bulletin board across from the Registrar's office provides information on all of the CTLE support services and specialized programs.

Internet Resources (public sources):

Purdue OWL CMOS Style Guide (website with detailed Chicago Manual resources):

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/cmos_formatting_and_style_guide/chicago_manual_of_style_17th_edition.html

COURSE GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and must complete all course requirements as assigned. All courses are treated as having two sessions per week and attendance will be taken for all "sessions." There are strict penalties for missing either an on-ground class or an online "class" assignment. These penalties are "no fault" penalties. In other words, it doesn't matter why you missed the class; the penalties apply no matter how legitimate or frivolous the reasons for your absence. If you do not post your online "assignment" by the assigned date and time, you will be marked as "Absent" from that "class." That absence is equivalent to an absence from an on-ground class.

You may miss one class session without penalty to your attendance. If you miss two classes, whether online or on-ground, your course grade will automatically be penalized ½ a course grade. If you miss three classes, your course grade will automatically be penalized one full grade. If you miss four classes, your course grade will be penalized two full grades. If you miss five or more classes, you will not be able to pass the course.

If for some extreme reason a student cannot attend class, he or she may be able to make up the work with professor approval, by submitting answers to the material covered in class that is stated on the course weekly syllabus. This work **MUST** however be handed in no later than following class for credit.

Class Cancellations: When classes are cancelled due to inclement weather or another emergency, the instructor will make arrangements to cover the material missed during this class session. This may be done through email, an assignment submitted through eLearning, or with an additional on-ground session.

Assignment Due Dates: Specific due dates are set for each assignment. Late assignments are not accepted beyond the specified date and time. This is essential for the development of knowledge in each class and to ensure the learning objectives and outcomes for the course are met. If a student has an emergency situation, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for the completion of any missed assignments.

Course Formats:

BLENDED

This course is being offered in two formats, the first is a blended format, with approximately 50% of the meetings and many of the assignments occurring in an online environment through the use of eLearning. Students are expected to participate in all in-class sessions and to complete all online assignments listed for each week in eLearning. *The blended portion of the class takes the place of one in-class session. Thus, students should expect to spend 2.5 hours on these assignments, in addition to time spent completing homework assignments.*

DL/ONLINE

This course is also being offered in an online format in the Albertus eLearning portal. Students are expected to be considerate and respectful of the rights, views, and interests of other students and faculty while in the online course room. Students are expected to participate in all online discussions and to complete all online assignments.

Grading Policy and Methods of Assessment

Element	Percentage of Grade
Class Participation	32%
7 Thursday Assignments	28%
Online Final Exam	40%

Grading Criteria:

- Ordinary written work (journals, homework assignments, and forum entries) will be graded according to the following general criteria:
 - Substance of the assignment is addressed directly and accurately
 - Work reflects a thoughtful response to the assignment (logic, flow, creativity)
 - Work is well crafted (flow, grammar, spelling, format, etc.)
- There are eight (8) on-grounds class sessions. Each class session allows you to earn up to 4 participation points. Students must be present and contribute to the classroom discussion to earn full class participation points.
- There are seven (7) graded on-line homework assignments each worth 4 points, for a possible total of 28 points. **These submissions are due on Thursdays by 11:00 p.m.** These seven assignments are also the equivalent of your attendance for the “Thursday” class each week. Failure to complete the assignment by the deadline for that week will result in an “absence” from the Thursday “class” and a 0 for that assignment.
- An online Final Exam, worth 40 points, will be posted to eLearning and must be completed by 11:00pm on the last day of class (Thursday of Week 8). More information about the Final Exam will be posted to eLearning.

Grading Policy and Methods of Assessment (Online):

Element	Percentage of Grade
8 Tuesday Assignments	32%
7 Thursday Assignments	28%
Online Final Exam	40%

Grading Criteria:

- Ordinary written work (journals, homework assignments, and forum entries) will be graded according to the following general criteria:
 - Substance of the assignment is addressed directly and accurately
 - Work reflects a thoughtful response to the assignment (logic, flow, creativity)
 - Work is well crafted (flow, grammar, spelling, format, etc.)
- There are eight (8) weekly online Tuesday assignments, each worth 4 points, for a possible total of 32 points. **These submissions are due on Tuesdays by 11:00 p.m.** These weekly assignments are the “Tuesday class” for each of the eight weeks of the Mod. Failure to submit a weekly assignment on time without advance permission means both an absence for that “class” and a 0 for that assignment.
- There are seven (7) graded Thursday assignments each worth 4 points, for a possible total of 28 points. **These submissions are due on Thursdays by 11:00 p.m.** These seven assignments are also the equivalent of your attendance for the “Thursday” class each week. Failure to complete the assignment by the deadline for that week will result in an “absence” for that “class” and a 0 for that assignment.
- An online Final Exam, worth 40 points, will be posted to eLearning and must be completed by 11:00pm on the last day of class (Thursday of Week 8). More information about the Final Exam will be posted to eLearning.

Final Course Grade:

Final grades for the course will be assigned based on the Table below.

A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	84-86	3.00
B-	80-83	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	74-76	2.00
C-	70-73	1.70
D+	67-69	1.30
D	60-66	1.00
F	Below 60	0.00

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Objectives:

This course will:

- Explain the relationship of the law and legal system to business practice.
- Describe the central role of private property ownership in business law.
- Compare the various forms of business organization.
- Analyze case law and assess the ethical implications of business decisions.

Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, each student will be able to:

1. Distinguish different philosophies of law and explain their relevance
2. Compare the two different court systems in the United States, explain the basic principles of jurisdiction, and identify alternatives means of resolving disputes
3. Understand the nature of personal property, how rights in personal property are acquired and maintained, and distinguish the basic types of intellectual property
4. Understand the nature and type of real property interests and the various ways in which environmental laws affect ownership and use
5. Contrast the basic types of contracts, define the elements of proving a contract exists and apply those elements in case law examples
6. Identify the three different basic kinds of claims that make up tort law and explain how to determine if a business will be held liable for its wrongful acts/harmful products
7. Describe the basic forms of business organization and their differences
8. Explain the rules imposed on business owners by the federal anti-discrimination laws, in particular, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Week One

Topic: *The Law*

Learning Objective(s): Distinguish different philosophies of law and explain their relevance

Reading Assignment(s):

- Chapter 1, Saylor
- The Declaration of Independence (posted to eLearning)
- The United States Constitution (posted to eLearning)

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Which one of the six methods of interpreting the meaning of the Constitution that are listed on Slide 31 of the Lecture Notes and described in the slides that follow do you find most persuasive? Why? Post your answer in the “Law” Forum, then respond to at least one other post. Full credit only for those who post and respond.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday at 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Read “A Sample Case” at Section 1.6 of the Saylor text. Answer Case Question #5 only in the Week One Journal on eLearning. The Case Questions appear at the end of the case.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday at 11:00 p.m.

Week Two

Topic: *The Process*

Learning Objective(s): Compare the two different court systems in the United States, explain the basic principles of jurisdiction, and identify alternatives means of resolving disputes.

Reading Assignment(s): Chapter 3

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Complete the Process Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Read the Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz case excerpt that appears in Chapter Section 3.9 of the text. Answer “Case Questions” numbers 1, 2 and 3 ONLY that appear after the case excerpt. Upload your essay to the eLearning homework link.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Three

Topic: *Personal Property*

Learning Objective(s): Understand the nature of personal property, how rights in personal property are acquired and maintained, and distinguish the basic types of intellectual property.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 31 and 32

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Complete the “Personal Property” Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Read the Bishop v. Ellsworth case excerpt that appears in Chapter Section 31.4 of the text. Answer “Case Question” number 3 ONLY that appears after the case excerpt. Upload your essay to the eLearning homework link.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Four

Topic: *Real Property*

Learning Objective(s): Understand the nature and type of real property interests and the various ways in which environmental laws affect ownership and use

Reading Assignment(s): Chapter 33

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Complete the “Real Property” Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Read the Hoover v. Crane case excerpt that appears in Chapter Section 32.5 of the text and answer Questions 1, 2 and 3 in the “Case Questions” that appear after the case excerpt. Upload your essay to the eLearning homework link.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Five

Topic: *Contracts*

Learning Objective(s): Contrast the basic types of contracts, define the elements of proving a contract exists and apply those elements in case law examples

Reading Assignment(s): Chapter 53

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Read the Lucy v. Zehmer case excerpt that appears at Chapter Section 53.4 of the text. Answer “Case Question” number 1 and 2 ONLY that appear after the case excerpt. Upload your essay to the eLearning homework link.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Complete the Contracts Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Six

Topic: *Torts*

Learning Objective(s): Identify the three different basic kinds of claims that make up tort law and explain how to determine if a business will be held liable for its wrongful acts/harmful products

Reading Assignment(s): Chapter 7

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Post a response in the “Poor Stella” Forum and respond to at least one other student post.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Complete the “Tort Law” Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Thursday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Seven

Topic: *Business Organizations: How to Form Them and Why*

Learning Objective(s): Describe the basic forms of business organization and their differences.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 40-43 in Saylor

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Complete the “Business Forms” Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Monday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Post an answer to the question posed in the “What Should I Do?” Journal on eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Wednesday by 11:00 p.m.

Week Eight

Topic: *Employment: Let the Employer Beware!*

Learning Objective(s): Explain the rules imposed on business owners by the federal anti-discrimination laws, in particular, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Reading Assignment: Chapter 50

Description of Homework Assignment(s):

Tuesday Assignment (DL Students Only)

Complete the “Employment Law” Quiz posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): Tuesday by 11:00 p.m.

Thursday Assignment (All Students)

Complete the online Final Exam posted to eLearning.

Due Date(s) and Time(s): THURSDAY by 11:00 p.m.