

BSA 270: Business Law

About Your Instructor

Brian K. Flatley is the instructor for this course. You may reach him at bkflatley@peace.edu

Brian Flatley is a Magistrate of District Court in Wake County, North Carolina, where he has served for the past fifteen years. He is currently assigned as a small claims judge. He has previously worked as an attorney in Elkin, North Carolina and Raleigh. Mr. Flatley received his bachelor's degree in English from Boston College, and his law degree from Wake Forest University.

Course Description

This course addresses the legal and ethical issues confronting the business manager. The legal system, legal processes, and several areas of substantive commercial law relevant to management decisions will be discussed. In addition, we will explore the developing recognition of legal and ethical issues and their managerial implications. Concepts studied will include product liability, the administrative legal process of regulation, and the contract as the fundamental legal instrument of global commercial relations.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, the successful student should be able to recognize common legal problems that confront the small businessperson. This course aims to improve the analytical abilities and reasoning of students, and provide a background in legal instruction to enable students to address legal issues with confidence. Students will become more knowledgeable about how the legal system works, and how the law impacts daily business decisions. This course will not make the successful student into an attorney, but may help future businesspeople become smarter consumers of legal services.

What follows is a summary of the assignments and requirements. I reserve the right to alter, add or delete from these requirements; if unique learning opportunities present themselves for immediate use.

Requirements: Students will be responsible for the following:

- Reading weekly as assigned.
- Reviewing and considering summation/lecture notes.
- Responding to weekly discussion questions, requiring opinions and remarks on fact scenarios.
- One comprehensive final exam at the end of the course.
- Students should expect to spend ten to fifteen hours per week on this course.

Course Information

Textbook:

Reed, Pagnattaro, Cahoy, Shedd and Morehead, The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business (16th Edition), McGraw-Hill, 2013.

ISBN 978-0-07-352499-3

Reading Assignments:

Week One: Chapters 1 and 2.

Week Two: Chapters 3 and 4.

Week Three: Chapters 5 and 7.

Week Four: Chapters 8 and 9.

Week Five: Chapters 10 and 11.

Week Six: Chapters 13 and 14.

Grading:

Your marks for this course will be calculated as follows:

- Discussion Questions: 30%
- Term Paper 20%
- Final Exam 50%

About the Comprehensive Final Exam:

There will be one exam for this course in Week 7. This exam opens on April 26th at midnight, and closes on May 1st at midnight. The exam will feature three essay questions based on your reading materials for this course. An exciting new aspect of this exam is your proctoring service, Proctortrack!

William Peace University partnered with Proctortrack to uphold academic integrity through the delivery of online assessments, including tests and quizzes, during the pandemic. Proctortrack supports student identity verification while also monitoring what materials and resources are or are not approved for use during the exam. All online courses at William Peace University require one (1) proctored exam or activity during the final week of the course. All proctored exams will be completed through Proctortrack.

Proctortrack will require you to download an app and register as a student with their service. Once this is done, you are registered for any subsequent exams you take with Proctortrack. You can find out more here: <http://bit.ly/ProctortrackFAQ>

About the Term Paper:

You will submit a ten-page paper due on the First of May, 2021. This paper should be in "college format," with a bibliography at the end of the paper after ten pages of double-spaced text. You will submit this paper as a .doc formatted attachment to an e-mail addressed to bkflatley@peace.edu no later than 9 pm on May 1, 2021.

The topic should be any subject that interests you in the law, especially including topics we have covered in this class. For example, has a story in the news involved principles we have discussed in this class? Sounds like a good paper topic to me!

If you have any questions about your topic, or how to proceed in this assignment, please let me know.

About the Fact Scenarios:

You will find in your Weekly Assignments folders several short tableaux with factual situations involving fictitious characters. These fact scenarios will form the basis of your discussion board conversations. As your discussion boards are the "virtual classroom" for this course, the scenarios are very important, and you should read these as early as possible in the assignment week.

While discussing the scenarios in the boards, please try to steer away from generalities and ordinary observations regarding the characters. The scenarios are designed to relate to your reading assignments in your textbook and the lecture notes. If you have **not** done the reading, it will certainly show in the discussion boards. For example, simply agreeing with one of your classmates, or observing that a character has behaved badly and is in trouble, will earn you no credit. But if you can demonstrate that you have read the appropriate passages in the textbook and lecture notes, and can relate how the principles you have learned apply to the facts in the scenarios, you will prosper.

Due Dates

Your Comprehensive Final Exam opens on April 26th at 12:01 am, and is due on May First at midnight, and will cover all materials assigned for the course. Your Term Paper is due on May First at 9:00 pm. When taking your Final Exam, you would be well advised to take the exam well before the due date. If you take your exam close to the deadline and encounter technical difficulties, you might not be able to take the exam, with a result of no credit. Please keep in mind that the proctoring service "cuts off" at midnight, so give yourself time to complete each exam by then.

- The Comprehensive Final Exam is open-book and open-notes in format.
- You will submit your term paper to me via e-mail at bkflatley@peace.edu
- Please submit your term paper in Word format no later than 9:00pm on May 1st , 2021.

- Generally, late work is unacceptable. This is especially true of discussion board work, as submitting posts to a closed board is not very useful. I recognize that emergencies do occur. If you feel that you will be unable to complete an assignment, please get in touch with me via e-mail before the assignment is due.
- You will notice that there are two major elements of the class due on May the First. Accordingly, one would do well not to leave "until the last minute" any of the tasks due on that date, as it will be impossible to complete both tasks simultaneously.
- Exams for this course will be taken online and not subject to proctoring. You will be able to access and complete the exam through Moodle. Please take note of the exam periods and deadlines.
- End dates for Fact Scenario discussions are:
 - Week One – March 21st at 9 pm.
 - Week Two - March 28th at 9 pm.
 - Week Three – April 4th at 9 pm.
 - Week Four – April 11th at 9 pm.
 - Week Five – April 18th at 9 pm.
 - Week Six – April 25th at 9 pm.

Questions and all written work will be graded according to the following:

- Guidelines: Have you followed the guidelines of the assignment correctly?
- Organization/Presentation: Did you check your English? Punctuation? Grammar? Is your paper neat and are your thoughts organized?
- Content: Is your information in-depth and accurate?

Grade point equivalents will be as follows:

A: 90 to 100

B: 80 to 89

C: 70 to 79

D: 60 to 69

F Failure: 59 and below.

I = Incomplete

W = Withdrawal

Please note: If you fail both of the proctored exams it will result in a course grade of "F" regardless of the grades on other assignments.

Course Policies

E-mail Policy: As you take this course, you will need to communicate with me. It is my commitment to respond to all input from students requiring a response within 24 hours on business days, and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays. I may be reached at bkflatley@peace.edu

This Is An Online Course: All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in Moodle. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367.

Class Participation: Participation in online discussions is of the essence of this course. In order to succeed in this experience, students must pro-actively contribute to the discussion boards in a timely and engaging manner. Your discussion contributions will be more useful and interesting to your classmates and more productive for you, if you have done the reading in both the textbook and the lecture notes.

Honor Code

The Honor Code represents the important values of integrity and accountability to the University community. It sets the standard for personal behavior. All new students are given the opportunity to sign the Honor Code to indicate their commitment, but all students are bound by it because of their membership in the William Peace University community. (Go to www.peace.edu to review the *Community Conduct Code*.)

On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I condone the actions of those who do.

Academic Integrity

William Peace University takes academic integrity seriously. It is expected that students are familiar with the University Honor Code and that they strive to embody its principles in their work. Students should be aware that there is a process by which violations of academic integrity are adjudicated.

Academic integrity requires that all members of the University community pursue learning with honesty and responsibility. Violations of academic integrity include:

Cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in academic work or in working with others on academic requirements (tests, assignments, etc.)

Plagiarism (representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work).

Falsification (falsification or invention of any information or citation in academic work).

Facilitating academic dishonesty (helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty as noted above).

Lying (misrepresenting information that is relevant to the classroom or academic performance).

Procedure for Handling Violations

The instructor will meet with the student(s) involved, send an email response, or note the matter on a graded assignment and clearly state the nature of the charge. Each professor has the option to institute sanctions for a first offense but is also required to submit a report to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The type of infraction (e.g. unintentional plagiarism versus blatant cheating on a test) will determine the severity of the sanction. A professor's course syllabus will explain his or her penalties for a violation of academic integrity, such as a zero or "F" for a specific assignment or an automatic "F" for the entire course.

The student is under no pressure, overt or implied, to admit responsibility. A student cannot withdraw from a course in which a decision about the violation of academic integrity is pending. When a decision has been made, the accused student(s) may choose to appeal using the academic grade appeal process.

The Vice President of Academic Affairs will keep records of all violations which remain a part of a student's permanent record. For each violation the VPAA usually sends a letter to the student, which serves to note the infraction, remind about the importance of academic integrity, and warn about the consequences of future infractions.

Violation	Action by Faculty (Course Penalty)	Action by V.P. for Academic Affairs (Academic Penalty)
First	Notifies student; assigns penalty as described in course syllabus; reports violation to VPAA	Usually sends letter to student warning that another violation will result in suspension for the subsequent semester.
Second	Notifies student; assigns penalty as described in course syllabus; reports violation to VPAA	Sends letter to student suspending him or her from WPU for the subsequent semester and warning that one more violation results in permanent expulsion from

		the university.
Third	Notifies student; assigns penalty as described in course syllabus; reports violation to VPAA	Sends letter to student permanently expelling him or her from WPU.

Incomplete Policy

An Incomplete is appropriate for a student that has been making steady, successful progress in a course and has an unexpected, verifiable mitigating circumstance at the end of the semester which precludes them from completing the last assignment or exam. Poor time management is not an appropriate reason to request an Incomplete. All incomplete grade requests must be approved first by the Instructor, and then by the Director of Online Programs. If the Incomplete is approved the student will have up to six additional weeks to complete the work, as determined by the Instructor. If the student does not complete the final work, the Instructor will assign the appropriate letter grade for work completed or the grade will revert to an "F."

Disability or Learning Services

Disability Services are available for students who require reasonable accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability, in order to provide equal access to the educational environment. Students will need to be registered with the office and provide appropriate documentation, in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, in order to receive an Academic Accommodation Plan. For more information or to register, contact Nicole Davis, Director of Counseling and Disability Services at (919) 508-2163 or Nicole.Davis@peace.edu. The Disability Services office is located on the 2nd Floor of Joyner House.