

PACE UNIVERSITY
LAW 101 / AOK 1-CE – BUSINESS LAW I (CIVIC ENGAGEMENT)
DR. JESSICA A. MAGALDI

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JMAGALDI@PACE.EDU

T / TH 12:15 – 1:40 PM
ROOM W-523

LEARNING GOALS AND COURSE OBJECTIVES

Our Law 101 learning goal is to develop and foster critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills in the context of the study of law. Our civic engagement learning goal is to promote socially-responsible business practices and examine issues of justice and equity in a business context by encouraging students to integrate classroom learning and experiential learning with a community-service partner to understand the application of legal principles to real-world issues.

In particular:

- To consider the notion of citizenship within the context of examining laws governing such aspects of business as contracts, real property, personal property, torts and crimes
- To have a community-based learning experience to give students a sense of the broader legal environment of business
- To give students a historical perspective on the development of law
- To encourage students to think critically about the law and to consider the ethical implications of business transactions
- To help students develop problem solving and decision-making skills in the context of classroom and service learning
- To help students understand law in the context of local, national and global forums
- To help students develop written and verbal communication skills within the context of the study of law and a service learning experience

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

Law is a human construct that develops in response to an engaged society. Students will become acquainted with each legal and ethical concept through two sets of readings on the topic. One set of readings will examine the legal rules and doctrines for a particular business law topic (for example, tort law, contract breach, intellectual property law). A coordinated set of readings found on Blackboard will examine valuable lessons on the social responsibility of achieving equity and justice in a complex legal system of conflicting interests and finite resources. In the classroom, we will integrate these concepts by applying them to hypothetical cases. In your community-based project experiences, you will personalize this learning by engaging with these concepts through working with real clients grappling with the application of these concepts to their real lives.

SERVICE LEARNING PLACEMENTS

Students are required to participate in 20 hours of community-service activities and **CANNOT PASS THE COURSE without fully completing this requirement.** We have two community partners who share our goals and wish to support our students with meaningful opportunities to use their knowledge and skills to improve their communities: The New York City Bar and the Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals. Both will offer students client contact in a supervised setting. The New York City Bar has a referral service for low-income clients where students can assist with intake under the supervision of the attorneys in the program. The Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals has a number of projects on which students can volunteer. Students may also choose their own placements, subject to the professor's approval. No matter which community service provider students work with, students must be settled in their placements by the beginning of Week 4.

SERVICE LEARNING JOURNAL AND REFLECTIVE ESSAY

Students will keep a weekly journal, write a reflective essay and make a presentation to the class. The journal will detail the days, hours and tasks that you engaged in at your community placement. In these journals, students will

be encouraged to make connections between these experiences and the coordinated set of course readings. I will review these journals at least three times during the semester, at weeks 5, 9 and 13. The journals will not receive a letter grade (they will be designated as “up to date” or “incomplete”); rather, they will provide opportunities for class discussion and personal reflection.

At the end of the course, students will submit (and discuss with the class) a reflective essay (worth 25 percent of the final grade) on the social responsibility of achieving equity and justice in a complex legal system of conflicting interests and finite resources.

TEXT

The assigned textbook for this class is Anderson’s Business Law, **19th Edition** (Comprehensive Edition), by Twomey, Jennings, Fox, however students may use any recent edition of the text, from the 18th Edition through the current edition. If you choose to buy the current edition of the book or an electronic version of the textbook, available at cengagebrain.com, please note that the chapter numbering is different and noted parenthetically in the Assignments section of the syllabus. When in doubt, use the title of the chapter as your guide.

HOMEWORK

Because we are all using different editions of the same textbook, please note that the homework problems you must complete are on Blackboard in the Assignments section. These may differ from the case problems you have at the back of the chapter in your textbook so please be sure to do the correct ones.

Homework is due on the date specified on the syllabus and is **to be uploaded to the appropriate Assignment link on Blackboard**. Students are encouraged to bring an additional copy of their homework to class to facilitate note-taking. We will discuss homework in class and it is helpful to have a copy to reference and correct as the discussion progresses. **All answers must include the legal reasoning used to reach the answer** and must demonstrate clear and concise writing and proper use of English and spelling.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ON-CALL STUDENTS

Proper preparation is essential to creating an interesting and engaging learning environment. Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapter in advance of the class where the material will be discussed. Every student should be prepared to be called on in class to discuss any portion of the week’s lesson. In addition, each week a number of students will be designated as “on-call.” These students will be responsible for answering questions and leading class discussion about the previous week’s homework and reading.

EXAMS, REFLECTIVE ESSAYS AND GRADING

There will be two exams during the term and a final exam at the end of the term. The final exam will be cumulative. **There will be no make-up exams without documented proof of inability to attend the exam due to medical or other emergency reason.** The exams and the final reflective essay (discussed above) are each worth 25 percent of the final grade. Each student’s final grade will be eligible to be **raised or lowered** one grade step (e.g., from B+ to A- or from B+ to B) based upon the class preparation, on-call performance, reflections and attendance. The community-service component is mandatory and, no matter what grade is earned on exams (and for class preparation, on-call performance, reflections and attendance), a student **CANNOT PASS THE COURSE** without completing 20 hours of community service. In other words, you cannot take a grade deduction for not having completed the service.

ATTENDANCE

Class participation is essential so attendance at class is strongly recommended. Because of the nature of the material, it is virtually impossible for a student to do well on the exams without the benefit of the class discussions. Attendance will be taken at every class. If you have documented proof of a medical or serious emergency that resulted in the inability to attend class, your absence will be excused.

EMAIL

In the event of an emergency or a schedule change, I may contact you by email. All students are required to have a Pace email account and to check it regularly or to forward their email from their Pace email account to a personal email account.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

In order to foster a respectful classroom environment, cellphones are strictly prohibited during class. Please turn all cellphones off at the beginning of class and do not check them during class. If you need to know the time during class, please consult your watch. In the event of an emergency situation, speak to me before class begins to make a special arrangement, put your cellphone on vibrate and step outside to answer your phone call or text. Anyone using a cellphone during class time for any reason (other than an emergency of which the professor has been advised in advance) will be asked to leave the classroom and return at the next class meeting.

OFFICE HOURS

I will have office hours in Room W-476 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM to 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM to 2 PM. I am often on campus and am available to schedule phone conferences or meetings as necessary. Email jmagaldi@pace.edu to schedule. Students are encouraged to exchange phone numbers and email addresses with classmates to answer routine questions and to obtain notes for classes they missed. **Do not email me for notes about a missed class or for information that can be found on the syllabus.**

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University's commitment to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities includes providing reasonable accommodations for the needs of students with disabilities. To request an accommodation for a qualifying disability, a student must self-identify and register with the Coordinator of Disability Services for his or her campus. No one, including faculty, is authorized to evaluate the need and arrange for an accommodation except the Coordinator of Disability Services. Moreover, no one, including faculty, is authorized to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services on behalf of a student. For further information, please see Information for Students with Disabilities on the University's web site.

SYLLABUS

The most recent version of the syllabus will be posted on Blackboard. The schedule is provisional and may be modified during the semester.

Classes	Date	Topic	Chapter and Blackboard Readings	Homework Due Date
1, 2	September 7 September 12	Introduction to the Course The Court System Arbitration/Mediation	2 (and BB reading)	Due 9/12: Chap 2: 1, 3, 5, 8, 9
3, 4	September 14 September 19	Crimes	8 (7) (and BB reading)	Due 9/14: Chap. 8(7): 1, 2, 3, 4, 10
--	September 21	NO CLASS – ROSH HASHANAH		
5, 6	September 26 September 28	Torts Community Service Placement Obtained Prior to Beginning of Class 8	9 (8) (and BB reading)	Due 9/26: Chap. 9(8): 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 13
7, 8	October 3 October 5	Nature and Classes of Contracts Offer and Acceptance	12 (11) (Section A only) 13 (12) (and BB reading)	Due 10/3: Chap. 13(12): 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9
9, 10	October 10 October 12	Capacity and Genuine Assent	14 (13) (and BB reading)	Due 10/10: Chap. 14(13): 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11
11	October 17	Reflections #1 Log #1 Due Review for Exam		
12	October 19	EXAM #1 – CHAPTERS 2, 8, 9, 12, 13 (2, 7, 8, 11, 12)		
13, 14	October 24 October 26	Consideration	15 (14) (and BB reading)	Due 10/24: Chap. 15(14): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12
15, 16	October 31 November 2	Breach of Contract and Remedies	20 (19) (and BB reading)	Due 10/31: Chap. 20(19): 2, 4, 6, 10, 11
17	November 7	Reflections #2 Log #2 Due Review for Exam #2		
18	November 9	EXAM #2 – CHAPTERS 14, 15, 20 (13, 14, 19)		
19, 20	November 14 November 16	Personal Property and Bailments	21 (20) (and BB reading)	Due 11/14: Chap. 21(20): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12

Classes	Date	Topic	Chapter and Blackboard Readings	Homework Due Date
	November 21 November 23	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK		
21, 22	November 28 November 30	Real Property (Excluding Mortgages)	49 (48) (and BB reading)	Due 11/28: Chap. 49(48): 2, 4, 5, 6, 10
23, 24	December 5 December 7	Intellectual Property	10 (9) (and BB reading)	Due 12/5: Chap. 10(9): 1, 4, 5, 7, 8
25	December 12	Intellectual Property	BB reading only	Due 12/12: Beastie Boys and GoldieBlox Controversy
26	December 14	Reflections #3 Review for Final Exam		
--	December 19	NO CLASS – FINALS WEEK		
Final Exam	December 21	FINAL EXAM – CHAPTERS 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 49, 10 (2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 48, 9) REFLECTIVE ESSAY DUE FINAL LOGS DUE		