

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Faculty of Social Science
Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies Program
MOS 2275b (001) Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
BUSINESS LAW I

Course Outline: January – April, 2012

FACULTY: Instructor: Cristin A. Keller, BSBA, MBA, JD
Office: SSC Room 2250
Office Hours: 5:15 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, or
by appointment
Telephone: 519.852.0114 (cell)
Email: ckeller@london.ca

CLASSES: Day/Time: Wednesday 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: SSC 3028

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the field of business (commercial) law with emphasis on the principal features of Canada's legal system, the law of torts, the law of contract, and four special contractual relationships: the employment relationship, labour law, the sale of goods, and consumer protection.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an understanding of Canadian business law and general legal principles as they apply to business.
2. To be able to identify and analyze legal problems and issues as they relate to business.
3. To understand various legal relationships found in the business environment.
4. To understand various different types of business contracts.
5. To familiarize students with legal issues including torts, negligence, contracts, forms of business organization, property, debtor and creditor, labour and employment, intellectual property, e-business and dispute resolution.

PREREQUISITE(S):

This course is restricted to BMOS and MAS Programs, Honours Geography (Urban Development) or Technical Entrepreneurship Certificate (TEC) and Diploma in Labour Relations.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Business Law in Canada, 9th Edition
Richard A. Yates, Teresa Bereznicki-Korol, Trevor Clarke
Pearson Prentice Hall

READINGS:

You should read and are responsible for all assigned readings as well as material distributed and discussed in class.

EVALUATION:

You will be evaluated on the basis of two midterm tests (30% each) and a final exam (40%). There will be no re-weighting of exams. If you fail to write a midterm test and/or a final exam on the scheduled date or on an approved makeup date, you will receive a mark of zero.

Midterm exam #1 will be written on Wednesday, February 18, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend this exam and have been granted permission by the Social Science Academic Counseling Office to write a makeup exam (see procedure below), the makeup exam will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Midterm exam #2 will be written on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend this exam and have been granted permission by the Social Science Academic Counseling Office to write a makeup exam (see procedure below), the makeup exam will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The final exam will be held during the final exam period April 14 – April 30, 2012.

Exams will be multiple-choice and closed-book. No electronic devices or paper aids (i.e. dictionaries) will be allowed at the midterm tests or final exam.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

There is not a class participation mark for this course. However, the course will be much more interesting and enjoyable if you read the material in advance and come to class prepared with questions, comments and opinions. Disagreeing with me and offering counter arguments is both welcomed and encouraged. (I love a good debate!)

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes/handouts for that class.

Please refrain from using your computer during class for personal activities such as reading/writing emails, surfing the Web, playing games, etc.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and you are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

Office of the Registrar
Student Development Centre

www.registrar.uwo.ca
<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

ACCESSIBILITY:

DAN Management and Organizational Studies strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 #82147 for any specific questions regarding an accommodation. More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available at: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DAN MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM:

The following information is provided by the Management and Organizational Studies program. All policies and procedures noted will be strictly followed.

General Information

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to meet your academic responsibilities, i.e., unable to write term tests or final examinations or complete course work by the due date, you should follow the instructions listed below. You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented before academic accommodation will be considered. Read the instructions carefully. In all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the scheduled examination, test or assignment.

1. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance. The course outline should include the preferred method of contact (e-mail, phone, etc.).
2. Inform the instructor prior to the date of the scheduled time of the test or examination or due date of the assignment. If you are unable to contact the instructor, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Bring your request for accommodation to the Academic Counselling Office, Room 2105, Social Science Centre, telephone 519 661-2011 or fax 519 661-3384. Be prepared to submit documentation of your difficulties.
4. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

TERM TESTS and MID-TERM EXAMS

1. If you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor (preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test). If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her

- at the department office.
2. Be prepared, if requested by the instructor, to provide supporting documentation (see below for information on acceptable forms or documentation). Submit your documentation to the Academic Counselling Office.
 3. Make arrangements with your professor to reschedule the test.
 4. The Academic Counselling Office will contact your instructor to confirm your documentation.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

1. You require the permission of the Dean, the instructor, and the Chair of the department in question to write a special final examination.
2. If you are unable to write a final examination, contact the Academic Counselling Office in the first instance to request permission to write a special final examination and to obtain the necessary form. You must also contact your instructor at this time. If your instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Be prepared to provide the Academic Counselling Office and your instructor with supporting documentation (see below for information on documentation).
4. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Chair and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay.

Note: Make sure you know the date, time and location of the special examination. For more information see [Examinations - Common Situations](#).

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Advise the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignment on time (prior to the due date of the assignment).
2. Submit documentation to the Academic Counselling Office.
3. If you are granted an extension, establish a due date.
4. Extensions beyond the end of classes must have the consent of the instructor, the Department Chair and Dean. A Recommendation of Incomplete form must be filled out indicating the work to be completed and the date by which it is due. This form must be signed by the student, the instructor, the Department Chair, and the Dean's representative in the Academic Counselling Office.

SHORT ABSENCES

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. This must be done by the appropriate deadlines. (Refer to the Registrar's website for official dates.) The Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed of your difficulties.

DOCUMENTATION

- **Personal Illness:** If you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or

personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. Once your documentation has been assessed, the academic counsellor will inform your instructor that academic accommodation is warranted.

- If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>. The doctor must provide verification of the severity of the illness for the period in question. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.
- **In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member:** Obtain a medical certificate from the family member's physician.
- **In Case of a Death:** Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director.
- **For Other Extenuating Circumstances:** If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask an Academic Counsellor.

Note: Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offense (see below) and you will be subject to academic sanctions.

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- You need to know if your instructor has a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outline. If not, ask your instructor.
- You should also be aware of attendance requirements in courses such as Business and English. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.
- If you are in academic difficulty, check the minimum requirements for progression in your program. If in doubt, see your Academic Counsellor.
- If you are registered in Social Science courses but registered in another faculty (e.g., Arts or Science), you should immediately consult the Academic Counselling Office in your home faculty for instructions.

FAILED YEAR

Procedures for completing a [Waiver of the Progression Requirements](#) (DEADLINE IS JUNE 30). [Click here for BMOS Waiver of Progression Requirements.](#)

In your petition letter, you must address all of the following questions:

- What were the extenuating circumstances which contributed most significantly to your poor academic performance.) When did the problem(s) arise? Appropriate supporting documentation (eg. medical note from a doctor to document problems, or a letter from a family member or close personal friend to support compassionate grounds) must be submitted with the petition. If you need more information regarding the submission of appropriate documentation, please contact the Dean's Office.
- Answer the following questions:
 1. What attempts did you make at the time you were encountering problems that affected your academic performance to contact your instructors, Academic Counsellors, the staff in Student Development Centre (Learning Skills Counsellors), the Ombudsperson, or Student Health Services?
 2. What academic accommodation did you request at the time you were experiencing major problems that were affecting your academic performance?
 3. What steps did you take to minimize the impact on your academic work of the difficulties that you were encountering?
 4. Approximately what percentage of classes did you attend in each course?
 5. What assignments/tests/labs/quizzes/exams did you complete in each course?

6. Please record the grades you received for assignments/labs/tests/quizzes/exams, etc in each course. If you failed to complete all the course requirements, explain and provide reasons.
 7. Please list the final grade earned in each course in which you were registered during the past academic year.
- Why do you think you would be successful in University-level academic studies, if your petition was granted?
 - What are your academic goals?
 - What is your long-term degree/program objective?
 - In what specific program do you wish to register during the coming year?
 - What specific courses do you wish to take during the coming year?

NOTE: In (b) and (c), do not list courses or programs for which you are not currently eligible. You must check the prerequisites for the program and courses you wish to take.

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ASSIGNED READINGS AND CLASS TOPICS

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
1. January 11	General Introduction	Chapter 1
2. January 18	The Legal System and the Resolution of Disputes	Chapters 2 and 3
3. January 25	Tort Law and Professional Liability	Chapters 4 and 5
4. February 1	Tort Law and Professional Liability	Chapters 4 and 5
5. February 8	MIDTERM EXAM #1 (30%) 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Room TBD The make-up date for Exam #1 will be Saturday, February 18, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
6. February 15	Contracts I – The Formation of Contracts	Chapters 6 and 7
7. February 22	Reading Week – No Class	
8. February 29	Contracts II – Factors Affecting the Contractual Relationship	Chapters 8 and 9
9. March 7	Agency, Methods of Carrying on Business I	Chapters 11 and 12
10. March 14	Methods of Carrying on Business II - Sole Proprietorships, Partnerships and Corporations	Chapters 11 and 12
11. March 21	MIDTERM EXAM #2 (30%) 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Room TBD The make-up date for Exam #2 will be Saturday, March 31, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12

12. March 28	Sale of Goods, Consumer Protection, Debtor and Creditor Law	Chapters 15 and 16
13. April 4	Employment Law Real, Personal and Intellectual Property	Chapters 10 and 13
14. April 11	Information Technology and the Internet	Chapter 14
Final Exam Period: April 14 – 30, 2012	FINAL EXAM (40%) Date and room TBD	Chapters 1 – 16