

Introduction to Business Law

Political Science 104U
Spring 2021
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.

Lecture Zoom Link:



Professor Maysa E. Nichter
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E-mail: mnichter@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 10 am – noon
Office Hours Zoom link:



TAs

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Course Description and Goals

Welcome to Introduction to Business Law! Over the next ten weeks, we will cover a wide range of topics and exciting legal issues that businesses (and their lawyers) come across on a regular basis. The intent of this course is to provide a general overview of selected topics so that students gain familiarity and comfort prior to law school. Simultaneously, our in-class exercises and discussions will serve as an opportunity to strengthen students' analytical and advocacy skills. This course may also be strongly beneficial to students who plan to pursue graduate studies and/or work outside of the legal profession.

Class session will involve introduction of concepts, followed by practice exercises. Students are expected to complete any assigned reading and any exercises before class to enable active participation in course discussion and activities.

Unlike law school, where students often compete for the highest grade, this course is structured so that everyone can succeed and in fact, are more likely to succeed when they are open with discussion and constructive criticism.

Digital Platform: The digital platform for this course is **Canvas**, at canvas.ucsd.edu. Course readings and assignments will be found there, as well as recorded lectures and presentation materials, and you will also submit all assignments there as well.

Course Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic
1 (Week of 3/29)	Introduction Business Life Cycle Ethics and Social Responsibility
2 (Week of 4/5)	Corporations, LLCs, Limited Partnerships Contracts: Formation, Rights, Performance, and Breach
3 (Week of 4/12)	Contracts: Continued and Practice Exercises
4 (Week of 4/19)	Negotiations and Simulations
5 (Week of 4/26)	Review/ Midterm Exam
6 (Week of 5/3)	Intellectual Property
7 (Week of 5/10)	Consumer Protection Laws Negligence, Strict Liability, Product Liability
8 (Week of 5/17)	Environmental Protection Laws Antitrust Considerations
9 (Week of 5/24)	Topics in Employment Law and Discrimination
10 (Week of 5/31)	Course Review/Final Preparation
Monday, 6/7 11:30 am – 2:30 pm	Final Exam

Grading

- Midterm Exam (1 essay, 5 multiple-choice questions) = 50 points (33.33% of grade)
- Take Home Final Exam (2 essays, 10 multiple-choice questions) = 100 points (66.67% of grade)

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with University rules and regulations. A non-exhaustive list of behaviors that violate

standards of academic integrity includes: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, obtaining an unfair advantage, aiding and abetting dishonesty, falsification of records and official documents, and unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative records or systems. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Information about UCSD's academic integrity policies can be found at: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>.

You are strongly encouraged to take issues of academic integrity seriously. Violations can end up on your academic record and may become a red flag for employers and graduate schools.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

All necessary accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (<https://osd.ucsd.edu/>). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department well in advance of any exams or assignments. The OSD Liaison for the Political Science department is Joanna Peralta; please connect with her via the Virtual Advising Center as soon as possible.

Academic Advising

During office hours, I am happy to answer questions about this course or provide general career guidance. Students who have questions pertaining to Political Science academic advising are asked to reach out the Department's Undergraduate Advisor, Natalie Ikker, who can be reached via the Virtual Advising Center. Academic advising questions often include (but not limited to): add/drop deadlines, course enrollment policies, planning major and minor requirements, quarter-by-quarter plans, department petitions and paperwork, and referrals to campus and student support services.

Inclusive Classroom Statement

The TAs and I are fully committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspectives, experiences, and identities. We urge each of you to contribute your unique perspectives to discussions of course questions, themes, and materials so that we can learn from them, and from each other. If you should ever feel excluded, or unable to fully participate in class for any reason, please let me know during office hours, by email, or through any anonymous manner.