

STUDY ABROAD PRAGUE

University of Economics, Prague & European Study Abroad Center Business Law Sample Syllabus

Undergraduate Course Number: 2FF304

Each course is worth 4 US/7 ECTS semester credits (for a total of 8 US/14 ECTS credits)

45 direct contact hours (includes class lectures, mandatory site visits and direct instruction)

CLASS TIMES: M-F 10:00-12:00 (plus two Saturday sessions and two PM sessions)
Professor: Dr. Kristine Zamastil, J.D.

Required Text: Business Law; Legal Environment, Online Commerce, Business Ethics and International Issues. Cheeseman, 6th ed.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the sources and classifications of law.
2. Compare law and ethics.
3. Conduct a case brief.
4. Understand trial logistics and distinguish between litigation and alternative dispute resolution.
5. Distinguish between intentional and non-intentional tort actions.
6. Distinguish between criminal and civil issues in law.
7. Understand the basics of commercial law and the classifications of commercial law.
8. Understand how a contract is formed, the binding nature of contracts, and the elements required for a binding contract.
9. Identify the various business structures and their advantages and disadvantages.
10. Discuss the nature of partnerships and agency.
11. List the elements of corporate organisation.
12. Recognise the importance of ethics and social responsibility in business.
13. Describe international commercial law and international business transactions and how they are legally binding.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE:

This course examines basic legal principles, which will enable you to recognise relevant issues and the legal implications of business situations.

This introductory course in Business Law is not designed to make you into lawyers. It is designed to help you deal with legal concepts in the context of modern business. Ideally you can learn to avoid lawsuits and expand your awareness of your rights and responsibilities in business situations. With the proper care, major legal problems can be avoided. This course will help you learn to exercise that care.

This course studies the issues involved in conducting business in the international arena including the business environment, global public relations strategies, organizational behavior, research, human resources, ethics, social responsibility, law, and information technology. The nature and economic role of the multinational corporation, including the impact of legal, political, educational, and cultural variables are examined for their influence upon business performance and managerial activity. This course will incorporate a number of guest lecturers, site visits, and case studies that illustrate the many activities of a firm across international boundaries. International Business provides students with key concepts and skills to identify international opportunities/threats, analyze their impact, formulate appropriate strategies and implement applicable action plans to achieve company goals. The course will help students understand today's competitive global environment, marketing, finance and policy. The course examines legal, logistical, organizational and cultural issues.

STRATEGY:

You are responsible for reading assigned materials **prior** to each class session. Lectures will cover the assigned reading and will introduce and discuss related topics. Practical exercises and discussions will be an integral part of the course. You are required to attend each lesson and participate in activities and discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND MARKS:

1. Overall participation, preparation and case briefs: 25%
2. Mid-term: 25%
3. Trial project: 50%

University of Economics Grading Scale:

A	90 % – 100 %
B	75 % – 89 %
C	60 % – 74 %
D/F	0 % – 59 %

Academic integrity: Ensuring academic integrity is an educational objective that ESAC takes very seriously.

Examinations – you may not use notes, look at another student's test paper or provide answers to another student during an examination. If you violate any of these rules, you will fail the examination.

Course assignments/projects – most assignments will be group projects. However, if you are asked to complete work independently, you must do so. If you collaborate with another student or submit another student's work as your own, you will fail the assignment.

Any violation of the academic integrity policy may lead to a grade of 'fail' for the course, at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Of course, exceptions will be made for illness or personal emergency. But you are, in any case, responsible for mastering the course material, and absences will not alter that. Please bear in mind that this is a very quick and intensive course, so if you do miss class sessions, you are likely to fall substantially behind.

SPECIAL NOTES:

We will be having at least one guest speaker during the course. Guest speakers are not yet included in the syllabus because we are still negotiating dates and topics. However, guest speakers and visits to the courts and law firms are mandatory components to the course and you must be present.

If there is a subject that you wish to cover in the course and you do not see it on the syllabus, please let me know and we will add it in.

Please note that the entire syllabus is subject to change at the will of your instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Always read the assigned chapters before the class. You may be called upon to brief a case and you must be prepared to do so. In addition, make sure you keep up with the stages of the trial project – your grade will depend on it.

Monday July 1 – Introduction to law

- Sources of law
- Categories of law
- Historical background
- Law and ethics in business

** Introduction to trial project

Tuesday July 2 – The court system

- Litigation procedure
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Business and dispute resolution

PM session** Trial – 1st assignment due; assign teams and get case bundles.

Wednesday July 3 – Torts

- Intentional and non-intentional torts
- Negligence

** Trial – team discussions.

Thursday July 4 – Introduction to contracts

- Contracts from start to finish

- Formation of a contract

PM session: utilization of contract in human resource management

Friday July 5 – Czech National Holiday, No class

Monday July 8 – Contracts continued

- Terms of a contract
- Defects
- Assignment
- 3rd parties

** Trial – claimant – letter of claim due.

Tuesday July 9 – Contracts continued

- Performance
- Illegality
- Discharge
- Remedies for breach

Wednesday July 10 – the law of Agency

- Creation
- Rights and duties
- Termination

** Trial – defence – letter of response due.

Saturday session: video presentation and guest speaker from Kines Legal

Thursday July 11-July 14, Trip to Vienna

Monday July 15 – Sale of Goods

- Sale of goods contract
- Sale of Goods Act 1979
- Implied conditions
- Transfer of ownership
- Passage of risk
- Remedies

** Trial – in-class preparation of claim form.

Tuesday July 16 – Midterm

** Trial – in-class preparation of defence.

Wednesday July 17 – Employment law

- Rights at work
- Protection against discrimination
- Protection against dismissal

** Trial – in-class disclosure.

Thursday July 18 – Business organisations

- Legal personality
- Forms of companies
- Forming a registered company

** Trial – in-class disclosure.

Saturday session: Introduction to the European Law system and guest speaker
George Collins

Friday July 19 International Law and how it is applied in the media, trip to Radio Free Europe

Monday July 22 – Company law

- Running a company
- Capital
- Meetings
- Shareholders

** Trial – submit questions, opening statements and closing arguments to the judge.

Tuesday July 23 – Acquisitions and group structures

- EC and international law
- Competition law

** Trial – pre-trial conference.

Wednesday July 24 – Miscellaneous topics (or catching up, if necessary)

- Intellectual Property
- Bankruptcy
- Environment

Thursday, 2 August – Trial

TRIAL PROJECT

The trial project is your principle project for the Business Law course. It is in lieu of a final examination. It is not a business case, but instead looks at negligence in the context of an automobile accident. The project will provide you with a good understanding of civil procedure in a common law system. Although your textbook is based on American law, we will be following the procedure of the English court system.

We will be following the steps below. Do the assignments as instructed and on time for full credit.

1. Define negligence. This is the black letter law term that you will be litigating. Your response should be a thoughtful and detailed explanation of the term negligence and should include two examples of negligence actions. Use your textbook. To be completed individually.

Due date: Wednesday, 11 July.

2. Read and analyse the case. These questions are to get you started in thinking about the issues of the case and what the case is worth in terms of monetary value. Please make notes in preparation for in-class discussions.

Due date: Thursday, 12 July.

- A. What issues will the claimant raise?
- B. What facts are in his favour?
- C. What facts are in the defendant's favour?
- D. What issues are relevant?
- E. What points will affect the outcome of the case?
- F. For what can the claimant recover?
- G. What will the claimant ask for in terms of relief?
- H. What are the defences available to the defendant?

3. The claimant team prepares a letter of claim. Submit to the judge and the defence by **Monday, 16 July.**

4. The defence prepares a letter of response. Submit to the judge and the claimant by **Wednesday, 18 July.**

5. The claimant team prepares a claim form. **In class Monday, 23 July.**

6. The defence prepares their defence. **In class Tuesday, 24 July.**

7. Disclosure. Exchange of witness statements and expert reports. Any additional requests for disclosure? **In class Wednesday**

8. Prepare your questions for the trial for both your witnesses and the other side's witnesses. Think about how you will handle cross-examination. Prepare 1-minute opening statements and closing arguments. **Due date: TBA.**

9. Submit list of witnesses to the judge. Pre-trial conference. We will discuss any issues here. This is your last chance for ADR – will you attempt to resolve the matter without going to trial?

10. Trial. **In class Thursday**

Points for the trial project:

Attitude and participation – 10 points

Applying the law to the facts – 10 points

Written materials and meeting deadlines – 10 points

Trial presentation – 10 points

Peer assessment – 5 points

Self-assessment – 5 points

LEARN. PLAY. TRAVEL. SERVE.