

**COMMERCE 300 - INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS LAW**

---

Instructor:	Tamara Godwin	Term:	Fall 2016
Class Room:	7-152	Credit Hrs:	3.00
Office: Hours:	By appointment	Lecture Hrs:	Wednesday – 6-9PM
Tel:	564-0052 (work)*	E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:tamara.godwin@unbc.ca">tamara.godwin@unbc.ca</a>

\*Please try to contact me via email prior to calling me at Marcotte Law

---

*This syllabus is tentative. Students are responsible for keeping up with possible schedule changes and other information given in class.*

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to provide students with a general and practical legal foundation that will be useful to them in the world of business, focusing specifically on risk management. The objective of this course is to help you make business decisions that will reduce the likelihood of legal difficulties.

The materials in this course are designed to provide you with a working knowledge of the legal system and the legal concepts that will factor into making prudent business decisions. Upon completion of this course, you should be able to recognize potential legal issues, and have a better understanding of when consultation with a legal practitioner is prudent and necessary.

The course will emphasize the application of legal principles in real life business situations. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be better prepared to participate in managerial decisions of a business without fear of breaching the law, and to recognize problems and situations in the management of a business that require legal counsel.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE** (also known as a “Disclaimer”)

The objective of this course is NOT to make you a lawyer. While the materials will help you make decisions that take into account legal issues, if faced with a specific legal problem, it is highly recommended that students seek the assistance of a lawyer.

Any legal advice given at UNBC is for **teaching purposes only**. In many cases, for simplicity, generalizations have been made for the benefit of students to understand basic concepts. For advice relating to specific legal matters the appropriate setting is behind closed doors at a law firm.

### **COURSE TEXT**

Richard A. Yates (2016). Legal Fundamentals for Canadian Business (Fourth Edition). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

### **OR**

Richard A. Yates (2012). Legal Fundamentals for Canadian Business (Third Edition). Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature, polite, and considerate manner in class. In consideration of all those enrolled in the course, behaviour that disrupts instructional activities will not be tolerated. **TALKING DURING INSTRUCTION TIME WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES!**

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND STUDENT CONDUCT:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves with academic integrity and in accordance with UNBC's established standards of conduct. Penalties for misconduct, including plagiarism, cheating and personal misconduct are outlined in the University calendar.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Each student is responsible for creating his/her own original work. Direct copying of assignments, lab work or during exams is cheating. Students giving the work are as culpable as the receiver is and in such cases, both students will receive a grade of zero (0) for the particular exercise or work if it is the first offence. A second offence will result in the students receiving a grade of F for the course and their names will be forwarded to the appropriate College authorities.

## **TEST**

There will be two tests during the semester. The first test will be worth 15% and will cover the first three chapters of the text. This test will be short in length and is intended to give you an idea of the style of testing. The second test will be worth 25% and will cover the next three chapters of the text.

## **NEGOTIATION ASSIGNMENT**

The negotiation assignment will be distributed in class on the scheduled date. **Students must attend and participate in the negotiation on the day specified below or a ZERO grade will be assigned. There is no ability to complete this assignment outside of class or on a different day.** The assignment will be worth 20% of your final grade.

## **FINAL EXAM**

The final exam will be a 3 hour long exam and will take into account all the chapters covered in class. The final exam will be in the same format as the two tests. It will be worth 40% of your final grade. **The Final Exam will be open-book format. You will be allowed to have your text and any notes created solely by you with you in the exam.**

## EVALUATION METHODS AND % OF TOTAL GRADE

STUDENT EVALUATION		LETTER GRADE / PERCENTAGES	
Test 1	15%	A+	90 % - 100 %
Test 2	25%	A	85 % - 89.9 %
Negotiation Assignment	20%	A-	80 % - 84.9 %
Final Exam	40%	B+	77 % - 79.9 %
		B	73 % - 76.9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	B-	70 % - 72.9 %
		C+	67 % - 69.9%
		C	63 % - 66.9%
		C-	60 % - 62.9%
		D+	57 % - 59.9%
		D	53 % - 56.9%
		D-	50 % - 52.9 %
		F	0 % - 49.9 %



**PROPOSED CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Chapter Readings</b>
1	Sept 7	Introduction <i>**Attendance**</i> <i>**Review of the Syllabus**</i> <i>**Discussion of "What is Law?"**</i>	1
2	Sept 14	<b>The Canadian Legal System</b>	1
3	Sept 21	<b>Torts and Professional Liability</b> <i>Intentional Torts</i>	2 <i>Pages 38-47</i> <i>or</i> <i>Pages 38-45</i>
4	Sept 28	<b>Torts and Professional Liability</b> <i>Negligence</i> <i>Product Liability</i> <i>Professional Liability</i>	2 <i>Pages 48-65</i> <i>or</i> <i>Pages 46-66</i>
5	Oct 5	<b><u>TEST 1 (CHAPTERS 1 and 2)</u></b> <b><u>15 QUESTIONS; WORTH 15%</u></b>	NONE
6	Oct 12	<b>Formation of Contracts</b>	3
7	Oct 19	<b>Enforcing Contractual Obligations</b>	4
8	Oct 26	<b>Legislation in the Marketplace</b>	5

9	Nov 2	<b><u>TEST 2 (CHAPTERS 3- 5)</u></b> <b><u>25 QUESTIONS; WORTH 25%</u></b>	NONE
10	Nov 9	Agency and Employment	6
11	Nov 16	Methods of Carrying on Business	7
12	Nov 23	<b><u>NEGOTIATION ASSIGNMENT</u></b> <b><u>PARTICIPATION IS MANDATORY</u></b> <b><u>WORTH 20%</u></b>	NONE
13	Nov 30	Property <i>Review for Final Exam</i>	8

For final exam date – see exam schedule posted by UNBC.