

BUS110 | Business Law

Course Text

No need to track down a textbook; this text is provided digitally as part of the course enrollment. Students may find used, new, or rental copies by searching for the ISBN.

Barnes, A.J., Dworkin, T.M., & Richards, E.L. (2024). *Law for Business*, 15th Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the legal principles influencing business operations and decision-making. The course covers key topics such as contracts, sales, business ethics, corporate social responsibility, and government regulation. Students will explore the foundational concepts of law and legal reasoning, delve into specific areas like intellectual property and employment law, and examine the structure and management of business organizations. This course is essential for understanding businesses' legal environment, equipping students with the knowledge to navigate complex legal challenges in today's dynamic business world.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the fundamental principles of law and legal reasoning and their application to business operations
2. Evaluate various methods of dispute settlement, including litigation, arbitration, and mediation, in the context of business disputes
3. Assess the role of business ethics, corporate social responsibility, and their integration into legal decision-making processes
4. Explain how the U.S. Constitution and criminal law impact business practices and corporate governance
5. Demonstrate an understanding of contract creation, performance, and enforcement including offer, acceptance, consideration, and remedies for breach
6. Identify and differentiate between intentional torts, negligence, and strict liability, and assess business complications
7. Analyze the legal protections available for intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, and copyrights, and their importance in business
8. Examine key employment laws and regulations, including the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees
9. Compare various business organizations, such as partnerships and corporations, and understand their legal structure and management
10. Evaluate the impact of government regulations, including antitrust laws, consumer protection, and environmental regulations, on business operations

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Academic Integrity Statement

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and academic misconduct. Failure to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy can result in a failure and/or zero on the attempted assignment/examination, a removal from the course, disqualification to enroll in future courses, and/or revocation of an academic transcript.

Course Completion Policy

In order for a course to be considered complete, **all required coursework must be attempted, submitted, and graded.** Required coursework consists of graded assignments. Any Academic Integrity Policy violations may prevent a course from being considered complete.

Assessment Types

StraighterLine courses may include any combination of the assessment types described below. Review the descriptions to learn about each type, then review the Course Evaluation Criteria to understand how your learning will be measured in this course.

Benchmarks

Benchmarks test your mastery of course concepts. You have 3 attempts, and your highest score counts.

Note: Cumulative Benchmarks (final exams) only allow 1 attempt.

Capstones

Capstones are project-based assessments that help you apply concepts to real-world scenarios. You have 2 attempts, and your highest score counts.

Checkpoints

Checkpoints are quick knowledge checks on important course concepts. All are open-book, and most have 1-3 attempts.

AI Use-Case Policies

StraighterLine Capstone assessments operate under one of three AI Use-Case Policies. These designations are selected intentionally to support learners in developing digital literacy, ethical reasoning, and authentic communication skills. Each model requires students to engage meaningfully with the course outcomes while adhering to academic standards.

Independent Work Requirement: Capstones with this designation must be completed independently without using AI tools. The goal is for learners to showcase their own understanding and skills without AI assistance. Students are expected to generate and submit original work developed solely through their own reasoning and effort.

AI-Assisted Planning Option: Capstones with this designation may allow AI tools to support brainstorming and assessment planning. If allowed, students will be asked to document any AI assistance by noting how it informed their work. Documentation must be included within the assignment or in a designated reflection field. Examples include describing how an AI tool helped organize an outline, generate ideas, or surface sources for further exploration.

AI-Integration Requirement: Capstones with this designation require AI tools as part of the learning process. Students will be asked to reflect upon their AI interactions and AI contributions to the assessment. Reflections must include which tools were used, how they were used, and what insights students gained from the process. This promotes transparency, ethical use, and metacognitive skill-building.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Your score provides a percentage score and letter grade for each course. A passing percentage is 70% or higher.

There are a total of 1000 points in the course:

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Checkpoint: Introduction to the Legal System & Judicial Process	0	N/a
Checkpoint 2: Ethics & Constitutional Law	0	N/a
Checkpoint 3: Understanding Torts and Legal Liabilities	0	N/a
Benchmark 1: Checkpoints 1-3	75	1-5
Checkpoint 4: Contracts & Offers	0	N/a
Checkpoint 5: Agreement & Consideration	0	N/a
Checkpoint 6: Mutual Assent & Contractual Capacity	0	N/a
Checkpoint 7: Illegality	0	N/a
Capstone 1: Legal Analysis of Torts	150	5, 6
Checkpoint 8: Contract Performance & Legal Remedies	0	N/a
Benchmark 2: Checkpoints 4-8	75	6
Benchmark 3: Checkpoints 1-8	150	1-6
Checkpoint 9: Warranties & Product Liability	0	N/a
Checkpoint 10: Agency & Empowerment	0	N/a
Checkpoint 11: Business Organizations	0	N/a
Benchmark 4: Checkpoints 9-11	75	7, 8
Checkpoint 12: Corporations	0	N/a
Checkpoint 13: Real Property	0	N/a
Checkpoint 14: Bankruptcy	0	N/a
Checkpoint 15: Government Regulations	0	N/a
Benchmark 5: Checkpoints 12-15	75	8, 9

Assessment	Points	Learning Outcomes
Capstone 2: Insights & Applications of Business Law	150	1, 3, 7
Benchmark 6: Checkpoints 1-15	250	1-10
Total	1000	

Course Roadmap

This roadmap provides an overview of the checkpoints and lessons covered in this course.

Checkpoint 1: Introduction to the Legal System & Judicial Process

- Chapter 1 Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
The Big Picture: Chapter 1 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Stewart v. Justice
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 1: Law and Legal Reasoning
- Chapter 2: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 2 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: California v. Texas
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 2: Dispute Settlement
- Checkpoint 1 Presentation

Checkpoint 2: Ethics & Constitutional Law

- Chapter 3: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 3 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: State ex rel. Hunter v. Johnson & Johnson
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 3: Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Chapter 4: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 4 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: South Dakota v. Wayfair
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 4: Business and the Constitution
- Chapter 5 Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 5 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Royal Truck & Trailer Sales & Service v. Kraft
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 5: Criminal Law and Procedure
- Checkpoint 2 Presentation

Checkpoint 3: Understanding Torts & Legal Liabilities

- Chapter 5: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
The Big Picture: Chapter 6 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Rockland Farm v. White's Ferry Inc
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 6: Intentional Torts
- Chapter 7: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 7 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook: Case Study AMTRAK v. Cimarron Crossing Feeders
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 7: Negligence and Strict Liability
- Checkpoint 3 Presentation

- Pathfinder: Intellectual Property Rights

Checkpoint 4: Contracts & Offers

- Chapter 9: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 9 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Hagman v. Swenson
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 9: The Nature and Origins of Contracts
- Chapter 10: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 10 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Groce v. American Family Mutual ins. Co
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 10: Creating a Contract: Offers
- Checkpoint 4 Presentation

Checkpoint 5: Mutual Agreement & Consideration

- Chapter 11: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 11 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study SDK Troy Towers LLC. V. Troy Towers Inc.
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 11: Creating a Contract: Acceptances
- Chapter 12: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 12 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Margeson v. Artis
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 12: Consideration
- Checkpoint 5 Presentation

Checkpoint 6: Mutual Assent & Contractual Capacities

- Chapter 13: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 13 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Magee Community Center LLC v. Perkins
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 13: Capacity to Contract
- Chapter 14: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 14 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook: Case Study Winthrop v. Deck
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 14: Voluntary Consent
- Checkpoint 6 Presentation

Checkpoint 7: Illegality

- Chapter 15: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 15 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study HVAC Specialist Inc. v. Dominion Mechanical Contractors Inc.
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 15: Illegality

Checkpoint 8: Contract Performance & Legal Remedies

- Chapter 16: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 16 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Freeman Holding v. FNBC Bancorp
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 16: Form and Meaning of Contracts
- Chapter 18: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 18 Pre-Reading Learning Hints

- Textbook Reading: Case Study Serio v. Copeland Holdings LLC
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 18: Contract Performance and Remedies
- Checkpoint 8 Presentation
- Pathfinder: Contracts and Their Elements

Checkpoint 9: Warranties & Product Liability

- Chapter 20: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 20 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Denny v. Ford Motor Co.
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 20: Warranties and Product Liability
- Checkpoint 9 Presentation

Checkpoint 10: Agency & Employment

- Chapter 23: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 23 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Sosa v. Onfido
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 23: The Agency Relationship-Creation, Duties, and Termination
- Chapter 24: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 24: Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study JMB Manufacturing v. Child Craft
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 24: Liability of Principles and Agents to Third Parties
- Chapter 25: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 25 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Stanton v. Jarvis Christian College
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 25: Employment Laws
- Checkpoint 10 Presentation

Checkpoint 11: Business Organizations

- Chapter 26: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 26 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study KDN Management v. WinCo Foods
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 26: Which Form of Business Organization?
- Chapter 27: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 27: Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Capital Equity Group v. Ripken Sports Incorporated
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 27: Partnerships
- Checkpoint 11 Presentation

Checkpoint 12: Corporations

- Chapter 28 Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 28 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Taylor v. Taylor
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 28: Formation and Termination of Corporations
- Chapter 29: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 29 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Segal v. Genitrix
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 29: Management of the Corporate Business
- Chapter 30: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 30 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Guidry v. Savoie

- Textbook Reading: Chapter 30: Financing the Corporation and the Role of Shareholders
- Checkpoint 12 Presentation

Checkpoint 13: Real Property

- Chapter 34: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 34 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook: Case Study: Francini v. Goodspeed Airport
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 34: Real Property
- Chapter 35: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 35 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study Morris v. Holmes
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 35: Landlord and Tenant
- Checkpoint 13 Presentation

Checkpoint 14: Bankruptcy

- Chapter 44: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 44 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study In re Rogers (Wallace v. Rogers)
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 44: Bankruptcy
- Checkpoint 14 Presentation

Checkpoint 15: Government Regulations

- Chapter 45: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 45 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study: Apple v. Pepper
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 45: Antitrust Laws
- Chapter 46: Pre-Reading: What Do You Think?
- The Big Picture: Chapter 46 Pre-Reading Learning Hints
- Textbook Reading: Case Study AMG Capital Management LLC v. FTC
- Textbook Reading: Chapter 46: Consumer Protection Laws
- Checkpoint 15 Presentation

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