

## **C550 Business Law Syllabus**

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### **Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to help you meet the following objectives:

- to become familiar with basic legal principles governing the law of contracts, torts, and product liability law
- to become aware of the legal implications of events and decisions
- to become aware of the institutional framework in which law is created, changed, and applied
- to become aware of the factors that influence legal outcomes
- to reason independently the outcome of legal problems
- to develop effective strategies for avoiding and addressing legal problems in business
- to help you reason about ethical issues that arise in business

### **Conduct of the Course**

C550 consists of **Five Lessons** to be completed over 12 weeks. You will be given approximately **two weeks** to complete the assignments for each lesson except for Lesson 2. You will be given **four weeks** to complete Lesson 2, which is assigned over the holiday break.

**Lesson 1** introduces legal reasoning and the legal process, focusing on the requirement of in personam jurisdiction. In **Lesson 2** you will examine liability for intentional torts and negligent torts, with written assignments focusing specifically on (1) the intentional tort of defamation and (2) the tort of negligent hiring in the employment context. **Lesson 3** addresses basic issues in contract formation under common law and issues in contract formation under the Uniform Commercial Code. **Lesson 4** considers defenses to contract formation, specifically the requirement of reality of consent and public policy considerations raised by illegal contracts. **Lesson 5** covers product liability law and ethical issues in business. This lesson is based on a product liability case filed in Georgia state court in 1990 and is designed to review principles of product liability and ethical issues in the case.

**You are required to complete the assignments for each lesson and to submit them on or before the date required in the following Schedule. You may work ahead but you must complete and submit assignments by their due date.**

## **Schedule of Assignments:**

**Lesson 1:** November 28-December 15 (**due December 15**)

**Lesson 2:** December 15-January 15 (**due January 15**)

**Lesson 3:** January 15-January 30 (**due January 30**)

**Lesson 4:** January 30-February 15 (**due February 15**)

**Lesson 5:** February 15-March 4 (**due March 4**)

**Assignments:** Assignment Readings (text) refer to chapters in the textbook, *Business Law and the Regulatory Environment*, Mallor et al, (11th edition.). Additional Readings are contained in Oncourse. General **textbook** assignments are as follows:

1. **Lesson 1:** Introduction to Legal Reasoning; Jurisdiction (Chapters 1-2)
2. **Lesson 2:** Intentional Torts and Negligence (Chapters 6-7)
3. **Lesson 3:** Introduction to Contract law (Chapter 9-11)
4. **Lesson 4:** Defenses to Contract Formation (Chapters 13-15)
5. **Lesson 5:** Product Liability; Ethical Issues in Business (Chapters 4; 20)

## **Class Discussion**

I hope that everyone will take advantage of the **discussion forum** to post questions to fellow class members or to comment on the assigned readings or assignments. For some specific assignments, you can earn **bonus points** by answering specific questions or by posting specific comments within the time period for that particular lesson. (In general, students should post such answers or comments to such questions on the course bulletin board **during the two weeks prior to the due date for the lesson assignment.**) Students are also encouraged to comment on and critique other student and instructor comments during the course of class discussion. If your ideas are critiqued, you are encouraged to reply if appropriate.

## **Contacting the Instructor**

If you have specific questions or concerns about the material or assignments, please e-mail me directly at [powellf@indiana.edu](mailto:powellf@indiana.edu). I will not be using the "Oncourse mail" function. If I need to address a problem or concern for the entire class, I will do so on the Announcement Page.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the total points accumulated for the course. You may earn a maximum of 100 points for each Lesson (excluding any bonus points.) Total maximum points available for the course are 500 points excluding bonus points.