



Course Syllabus

Business Law

BUL 2241 / 80461 / Fall 2026

Credit Hours: 3

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites: None

Contact Information

Instructor

Kim Allan
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Charles Hilton Center, Room 203
Response within 24-48 hrs Monday through Thursday

Office Hours	
Monday	9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. // 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. // 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Division Chair

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Course Information

Catalog Description:

This is a survey course of the legal setting in which business operates. Emphasis is on public and regulatory law and on social, political, and ethical aspects of legal issues in business. Areas covered include administrative law, antitrust law, contracts, torts, employment law, and related topics. (Check with your advisor about university transfer requirements.)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to identify and analyze relevant legal issues together with their implications for business transactions and relationships through application of underlying principles of law to solve issues involving business operations and decision-making.

More specifically, you will be able to:

- **CLO1.** Describe and apply a basic understanding of the hierarchical structure of the federal and state court systems, the identification of key sources of law, and the use of ethical reasoning and judgement regarding legal responsibilities and its impact in the workplace.
- **CLO2.** Understand and apply tort law concepts and available defenses.
- **CLO3.** Evaluate and apply intellectual property rights and demonstrate how internet law and civil and criminal law relate to privacy and business crimes.
- **CLO4.** Describe, evaluate and apply the laws and understand the principles of contract law including the nature and classification of contracts, agreement, consideration, contractual capacity, illegality, reality of consent, contracts required to be in writing, rights of third parties, and discharge and remedies of contracts.
- **CLO5.** Define and analyze the law of commercial transactions including formation and interpretation of the sales and leases contracts, title and risk of loss, insurable interests, warranties and performance, breach of contracts, remedies and security interests and its application to the business decision making process.
- **CLO6.** Identify and describe the features of negotiable instruments.
- **CLO7.** Understand and describe agency relationships and forms of law governing employment, immigration and labor law.
- **CLO8.** Evaluate the various business structures available by categorizing them, analyzing the advantages and risks associated with each, examining securities regulations and laws to prevent unfair practices, and ultimately selecting the optimal business structure based on this assessment.
- **CLO9.** Understand and evaluate the impact of antitrust and consumer laws on business practices, including strategies to ensure compliance with relevant

antitrust legislation and consumer protection laws (such as the Sherman Act of 1914, the Clayton Act, and the role of the FTC).

- **CLO10.** Understand and apply property laws relating to the nature of personal property and real property, identifying different types of ownership for each, including bailments and landlord and tenant law, and identifying the requirements and elements of wills and trusts.

Course Materials & Resources:

Textbook: Business Law Today, The Essentials, 13th Edition
Author: Roger LeRoy Miller
Publisher: Cengage
Copyright: 2022
ISBN: 978-0-357-70000-6 (Cengage Unlimited)

Students are required to have access to the MindTap online learning platform for this course.

Course Materials: Cengage Purchase Options

ISBN 978-0-357-70000-6 -- Cengage Unlimited
Cengage Unlimited subscription gives you access to the entire library of eTextbooks, all online learning platforms, plus at least four FREE hardcopy textbook rentals (you just pay the \$9.99 S&H per textbook) for a flat price.
1 term (4 months) subscription @ \$169.99
2 terms (12 months) subscription @ \$244.99

Course Materials: Where to Purchase Your Textbook

The eTextbook may be purchased from the [GCSC Bookstore](#), or directly from [Cengage](#)

Course Materials: Registering and Using MindTap

Everything You Need to Know about Registering / Using Cengage and MindTap

[Cengage: Registration and MindTap How To Use](#)

Course Materials: Cengage Technical Support

This course utilizes the MindTap online component. As you work through the course if you have any technical difficulties accessing or using this online component you should contact the Cengage Technical Support team directly as the GCSC Help Desk is unable to assist with this online component tool. If you are having issues, first:

1. Do a system check (by clicking on the question mark in the top right-hand corner and selecting system check).
2. Clear browsing history, cookies, and caches.

If this does not resolve your issue, then:

Go to [Cengage Support](#). to create a ticket, then call 1-800-354-9706.

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates -- at least every 48 hours. **Reminder:** This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week, there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within the syllabus for more information.

Communication & Feedback

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.

Student Expectations

As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC email or other designated communication channels. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

- **Student Exchange:** On the course Home page, you will find an Open Discussion forum (Student Exchange) for peer-to-peer communication. This space allows you to post questions to classmates, share insights from your experience, and contribute helpful information related to course content. Active participation is encouraged to support collaborative learning.

Instructor's Communication Plan

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions within one week of the assignment due date. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 24-48 hours (Monday through Thursday), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns. Please email through the Canvas Class email.
- **Post Regular Announcements:** To keep you updated and help you manage your time effectively; I will send out reminders via announcements. These reminders will include important dates, upcoming assignments, and any changes to the course schedule.
- **Maintain Weekly Office Hours:** I will maintain regular weekly office hours, but I can also be available by appointment. This is to ensure I'm available for any questions or concerns that may come up during the week. As an alternative, I also provide weekly online office hours and am available to meet via Zoom sessions as needed.
- **Ask the Instructor:** On the course Home page, you will find an Open Discussion forum (Ask the Instructor) that is visible to all students. This space is intended for posting course-related questions directly to the instructor. It serves as an additional communication channel to support your understanding of course content and provide clarification on assignments, expectations, or procedures. Students are encouraged to review posted questions and responses as a shared learning resource.

Assignment Feedback

Assignments, other than exams, are assessed through MindTap, an online platform, that automatically grades the assignment and provides instant feedback.

Exams are completed in Canvas and feedback is provided (in Canvas) within two days of the assignment due date.

Manually graded assignments include detailed feedback, typically within one week of the due date, either directly on the submission or in the assignment comments.

Use of AI Tools

Artificial Intelligence

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure: Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) **may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work**, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

[How to Cite AI Generated Content Using APA Format.](#)

AI tools can provide excellent study options on topics within the course.

While AI tools may be used to refine grammar and mechanics, they **should not be used to generate content for assignments**. Misuse of AI may be considered academic dishonesty.



Course Schedule

Module	DATES	ASSIGNMENT	TOPIC
Module 1	08/17 - 08/23	Get Oriented	Read all material under the Start Here Module, including familiarizing yourself with MindTap and the eText
		Watch	Watch the opening Welcome/Orientation video
		Action	Get registered with MindTap
		Action	Class Video Introductions (in Canvas)
		Reading	Chapter 1: Legal and Constitutional Foundations of Business
		Why Matters?	CH01: Why Do Procedural Laws Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 1
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 1
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 1
Module 2	08/24 - 08/30	Reading	Chapter 2: Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution Chapter 3: Ethics in Business
		Why Matters?	CH02: Why Does Jurisdiction Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH03: Why Do Ethics Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 2 and 3
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 2 and 3
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 2
Module 3	08/31 - 09/06	Reading	Chapter 4: Tort Law
		Why Matters?	CH04: Why Do Business Torts Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 4
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 4
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 4
Module 4	09/07 - 09/13 Labor Day Monday, 09/07	Reading	Chapter 5: Intellectual Property Rights Chapter 6: Internet Law, Social Media, and Privacy
		Why Matters?	CH05: Why Does Intellectual Property Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH06: Why Does Online Privacy Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 5 and 6
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 5 and 6
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapters 5 and 6
Module 5	09/14 - 09/20	Exam	Exam #1: Chapters 1-6 (opens 09/11) (in Canvas)
		Reading	Chapter 7: Criminal Law and Cyber Crime

		Why Matters?	CH07: Why Does Criminal Law Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 7
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 7
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 7
Module 6	09/21 - 09/27	Reading	Chapter 8: Agreement and Consideration in Contracts
		Why Matters?	CH08: Why Do Contracts Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 8
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 8
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 8
Module 7	09/28 - 10/04	Reading	Chapter 9: Capacity, Legality, and Enforceability Chapter 10: Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies
		Why Matters?	CH09: Why Does Capacity Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH10: Why Does Performance Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 9 and 10
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 9 and 10
Module 8	10/05 - 10/11 Fall Break, 10/08-09	Reading	Chapter 11: Sales and Lease Contracts Chapter 12: Performance and Breach of Sales and Lease Contracts
		Why Matters?	CH11: Why Do Sales Contracts Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH12: Why Do Remedies in Sales Contracts Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 11 and 12
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 11 and 12
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 11
Module 9	10/12 - 10/18	Reading	Chapter 13: Negotiable Instruments
		Why Matters?	CH13: Why Do Negotiable Instruments Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 13
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 13
Module 10	10/19 - 10/25	Exam	Exam #2: Chapters 7 - 12 (opens 10/16) (in Canvas)
		Reading	Chapter 16: Agency Relationships in Business
		Why Matters?	CH16: Why Does Agency Liability Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 16
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 16
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 16
Module 11	10/26 - 11/01	Reading	Chapter 17: Employment Law
		Why Matters?	CH17: Why Does Employment Law Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 17
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 17
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 17
		Reading	Chapter 18: The Entrepreneur's Option

Module 12	11/02 - 11/08		Chapter 19: Corporations
		Why Matters?	CH18: Why Do Sole Proprietorships Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH19: Why Does Corporate Governance Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 18 and 19
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 18 and 19
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 19
Module 13	11/09 - 11/15 Veteran's Day, Wednesday, 11/11	Exam	Exam #3: Chapters 16 - 19 (opens 11/06) (in Canvas)
		Reading	Chapter 20: Investor Protection, Insider Trading, and Corporate Governance
		Why Matters?	CH20: Why Does Insider Trading Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 20
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 20
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 20
Module 14	11/16 - 11/22	Reading	Chapter 21: Antitrust Law and Promoting Competition Chapter 22: Consumer Law
		Why Matters?	CH21: Why Does the Sherman Act Matter to Me?
		Why Matters?	CH22: Why Does Consumer Protection Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapters 21 and 22
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapters 21 and 22
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapters 21 and 22
Module 15	11/23 - 11/29	Reading	Chapter 23: Personal Property, Bailments, and Insurance
		Why Matters?	CH23: Why Do Bailments Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 23
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 23
		Business Case	Business Case: Chapter 23
Module 16	11/30 - 12/06	Reading	Chapter 24: Real Property and Environmental Law
		Why Matters?	CH24: Why Does the Clean Water Act Matter to Me?
		Hypothetical	Brief Hypothetical: Chapter 24
		Analysis	Case Problem Analysis: Chapter 24
		Exam	Exam #4: Chapters 20 - 24 (opens 11/25) (in Canvas)

Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

GRADING SCALE	
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C

60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Calculation of Grades

CATEGORY	% OF GRADE
Problem Analysis / Homework	20%
Brief Hypotheticals	20%
Business Cases	25%
Exams	35%

Assessment Instruments

All assignments must be submitted by the specified due date and time. **Late submissions will not be accepted**, and **deadlines will not be extended**. Assignments are completed using **MindTap**, an interactive online learning platform, and **Canvas**.

Problem Analysis / Homework

Why Does it Matter?

Each chapter begins with a brief vignette paired with one application question, designed to highlight the relevance and real-world applicability of the chapter concepts.

- **Attempts:** Up to 2 attempts, with the **highest score recorded** in the gradebook.
- **Access:** Completed in **MindTap** via deep links in Canvas.

Problem Analysis

These multi-step activities challenge you to identify key facts, analyze scenarios, and apply legal concepts. By altering the facts, you'll assess their impact and form your own conclusions using critical thinking.

- **Attempts:** Up to 2 attempts, with the **highest score recorded** in the gradebook.
- **Access:** Completed in **MindTap** via deep links in Canvas.

How Multiple Attempts work in MindTap

For activities with multiple attempts, it is not what you would normally think of where you complete the assignment once and then go back and complete it again. In MindTap, you have multiple attempts per question. It is like grading each question individually.

Homework Activities

Homework activities vary in format, including puzzles and research-based tasks, to help you demonstrate your understanding of course concepts through application.

- **Attempts:** One attempt.

- **Access:** Completed in **Canvas**, via deep links, where specific instructions are provided for each task.
 - Some homework may include **group activities**. If you are unfamiliar with Canvas group tools, refer to [How to View Canvas Groups as a Student](#).

Brief Hypotheticals

These short, fictional scenarios help you identify issues and apply business law concepts to hypothetical situations.

- **Attempts:** Up to 2 attempts, with the **highest score recorded** in the gradebook.
- **Grade Policy:** The two lowest grades will be dropped.
- **Access:** Completed in **MindTap** via deep links in Canvas.

Business Cases

These real-world scenarios improve critical thinking skills by requiring you to advocate, evaluate, and make decisions relating to legal concepts. These scenarios promote a deeper level of understanding into how the law affects business and the workplace.

- **Attempts:** 2 attempts per case, with the **lowest grade dropped**.
- **Access:** Completed in **MindTap** via deep links in Canvas.

Exams

Cumulative, timed exams assess understanding through 50-65 multiple-choice questions covering concepts and scenarios.

- **Attempts:** One attempt per exam, completed in one sitting.
- **Access:** Completed in **Canvas** via deep links.

Course Policies

Accessibility Statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit [GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource \(SAR\) webpage](#) to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* - A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student's records.

Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"

occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"

is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the [Student Services web page](#).

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.

- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

