

Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business
LEGL 2700 (CRN: 21298), Spring 2021
10:20am – 11:10am, MWF, Miller Learning Center 0148
Lecturer: Matt Roessing

Office: B403 Amos Hall
Email: matt.roessing@uga.edu (contact me through this email, not eLC)

Office Hours: Due to the small space of my office, I will not hold in-person office hours this semester. I will be available for any questions by email or eLC discussion posts. I can arrange phone calls or videochats upon request.

Text: **The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business** (18th Ed.)
By Pagnattaro, Cahoy, Magid, Reed, and Shedd.
E-copies available to purchase or rent.

eLC: <https://uga.view.usg.edu/>

Course Description and Objectives

This course explores the intersections of law and business at a broad level with the aim of building a general understanding of how legal systems and contemporary legal issues affect business decisions. Students will develop their abilities to (a) identify and understand legal issues in an ever-changing international business environment and (b) communicate more effectively with legal counsel.

The broad objectives of this course:

1. Build awareness of legal issues;
2. Apply legal principles to the business environment;
3. Exercise critical thinking skills; and
4. Develop decision-making and analytical skills.

Class Format and Expectations

COVID-19 has disrupted our normal school routine. I've worked hard to prepare a course with opportunities for face-to-face instruction, but with flexibility and accommodation for safety concerns. This course will be "Hybrid Synchronous," meaning that a certain number of students (as determined by classroom capacity) will join me in the classroom on a rotating basis for socially-distanced face-to-face instruction during each class session, with the remaining students joining the class by Zoom during the assigned class hours. Classes will not be recorded (and may not be recorded by those joining by Zoom), so if you miss a class period you are responsible for finding out what happened from another student (not from me!). I am still waiting on final confirmation of the classroom, at which point I will provide students with the details on the assigned rotation. On your assigned day for classroom instruction, I expect you in the classroom unless you have an excuse approved by me in advance. **When joining by Zoom, you must use a camera enabled computer, have the camera on with your face in frame, and be prepared to answer questions if I call on you.**

The course will include a combination of reading, lecture, and discussion. Students will be expected to have read the assigned content prior to the class in which it is covered. Lectures will not necessarily cover all the information that appears in the assigned reading and may cover information beyond the reading. There may be writing assignments with specific due dates/times. Tests will be held on eLC during a scheduled class time, and students will be required to use Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to ensure test security.

Each topic will have a discussion post in eLC where students can submit questions to me and students can respond to each other's questions and observations. Discussion posting is optional unless I send you, by email, a specific assignment to be posted. These discussions are intended to enable students to learn from each other's perspectives and insights. Some discussions may involve looking at an issue from different viewpoints, and, therefore, it is essential that all discussions be held in a respectful manner. As the class's instructor, I may, at times, challenge your statements and views. Please remember that this is not personal criticism but an opportunity for us all to engage in critical thinking. **This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor, including changes to course delivery methods, may be necessary.**

Grading

There will be four section tests. They are primarily multiple choice but may include short answer. Each counts for 25% of your final grade. There may be one or more required discussion / assignment posts, if so, you will be notified by eLC email in advance with instructions. Failure to complete a required post will result in a three-point deduction from your final grade.

Grading Scale:

93%-100% = A
90%-92% = A-
87%-89% = B+
83%-86% = B
80%-82% = B-
77%-79% = C+
73%-76% = C
70%-72% = C-
60%-69% = D
59% or below = F

I round up at 0.5. Points are strictly applied to the grade formula. For example, an 89.5 is an A-. An 89.4 is a B+.

Tests will be administered online through eLC during the regular class period, except for the final test, which will occur during the first 50 minutes of the assigned exam period. You are required, by the UGA Honor Code, to follow proper exam procedures (no use of outside materials, no communication with other students who are taking / have taken the test.) Failure to take a test at the scheduled time, without an excuse approved by me in advance, will result in a zero on the test. **The test schedule is on this syllabus. Most tests are on Fridays – plan accordingly!**

Questions/Concerns: If you have a question or concern regarding your performance on a test or in the course generally, please email me at matt.roessing@uga.edu (not through eLC). I can only discuss grades and other academic matters with you if you are using an official UGA email address. Do not use a personal email for these communications.

Attendance, Participation and Extra Credit: Class attendance is required and expected. However, there is no grade penalty for missing class. In my experience, students who attend my classes tend to do well, and students who do not attend do poorly. I am glad to meet outside of class with students who attend class and have additional questions. However, I will not recap class content for students who missed it. I may award additional extra credit points up to the equivalent of 1% of your total grade for consistent class attendance and participation. Regular class attendance is necessary, but not sufficient, for this extra credit – I want to see evidence that you both attended and participated in class discussions. This includes attendance and participation during your assigned in-class days and by Zoom (with your camera on) on other days. If you believe you deserve extra credit for class participation, then, within 24 hours of receiving your final test grade (Test #4), email me a short written summary of your participation in the class throughout the semester. **This is the only extra credit available in the course – please do not ask for other extra credit.**

Recording Class Lectures: My lectures, whether viewed in-person or over Zoom, and any content I post to eLC, are for academic purposes and for use in this course for this term only. Do not distribute or post online. Do not record lectures unless you have an approved accommodation that you discuss with me in advance.

UGA's Honor Code & Academic Honesty: UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. **If you violate the Honor Code in any way, you will be reported to all appropriate University authorities, and my recommendation will be that you receive an F in the course.**

In addition to all other Honor Code principles, when taking an online test you are prohibited from (1) using outside materials, (2) contacting other students / people, and (3) screenshotting, videotaping, transcribing, or otherwise recording and keeping, any test questions or answers. You must complete any ID scan (using your UGA ID) and room background check required by the monitoring program.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources: If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

COVID Related Information: If you are experiencing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, **do not attend the in-person component of this class.**

What do I do if I have symptoms - Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed? Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with

Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test? Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162. UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive? Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is **required** to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

DawgCheck: Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Read the assigned content prior to the week it is covered. Lectures assume a basic knowledge of the content.

Section 1: Jan. 13 – Feb. 5

Week 1: Jan. 13-15

Chapter 1: Intro and Syllabus review, Law as a Foundation for Business

Week 2: Jan. 20 – 22

Chapter 3: The Court System
No class Jan. 18.

Week 3: Jan. 25-29

Chapter 4: Litigation

Week 4: Feb. 1-5

Chapter 6: The Constitution

SECTION TEST #1 – February 5 (Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 6)

Section 2: Feb. 8 – Mar. 5

Weeks 5 and 6: Feb. 8 - 19

Chapter 8: Contract Formation
No class Feb. 17.

Weeks 7 and 8: Feb. 22 - Mar. 5

Chapter 9: Contractual Performance and Breach
SECTION TEST #2 – Mar. 5 (Chapters 8 & 9)

Section 3: Mar. 8 – Apr. 2

Week 9: Mar. 8 - 10

Chapter 7: The Property System
No class Mar. 12.

Week 10: Mar. 15 - 19

Chapter 11: Intellectual Property

Week 11: Mar. 22 - 26

Chapter 10: Torts affecting Business

Week 12: Mar. 29 – Apr. 2

Chapter 13: Criminal Law and Business
SECTION TEST #3 – Apr. 2 (Chapters 7, 10, 11, & 13)

Section 4: Apr. 5 – May 5

Week 13: Apr. 5 - 9

Chapter 15: The Regulatory Process

Week 14: Apr. 12 - 16

Chapter 16 – Regulating Competition – Antitrust Laws

Week 15: Apr. 19 - 23

Chapter 20: Discrimination in Employment

Week 16: Apr. 26 - 30

Chapter 14: Business Organizations
SECTION TEST #4 – Wed., May 5 (Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 20)

NOTE: Unlike previous section tests, held on eLC during the class period, this section test will be held on eLC from 8am – 8:50am (exam scheduling, but normal test length)