

FOR 485: BUSINESS AND MANAGERIAL LAW

SYLLABUS – SPRING 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Robert W. Malmsheimer

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Office Hours: To Be Announced

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION: 11:00 to 12:20 Tuesdays and Thursdays in 146 Baker Hall.

OFFICE HOURS: 12:45 to 2:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment.

INTRODUCTION: This course provides an understanding of how the American legal system affects business and management. Since today's business leaders and managers are often required to think "outside-the-box" when making decisions, the course emphasizes students' critical thinking and legal reasoning skills. Law provides an excellent mechanism for developing and enhancing these skills since the essence of law is problem solving: understanding scenarios, applying legal principles to those facts, and then determining the rights and duties of the parties involved. The course fosters these skills by teaching students the law (through class lectures, lecture notes, and studying for examinations) and then having students solve legal problems (through class discussions and examinations).

COURSE STRUCTURE: The Course is structured into three units:

- *The Foundations of Law:* The Court System, The Civil Court Process, Constitution, and Crimes.
- *The Law of Business Management:* Contracts, Employees & Employers, and Business Organizations.
- *Business and Personal Law:* Torts, Motor Vehicles, Renters & Landlords, Home Ownership, and Wills & Estates.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Describe the structure of the court system,
- Distinguish and explain the differences between criminal and civil law,
- Explain legal concepts for the categories of law covered in class, and
- Apply legal concepts to factual sequences to determine the likely outcome in a court of law.

PREREQUISITES: This course has no prerequisites. If students have questions about their ability to successfully complete the course, they should see Dr. Malmsheimer.

E-MAIL REQUIREMENT: All students are required to have a **.syr.edu** e-mail account and to check that e-mail account *regularly* for class announcements. Dr. Malmsheimer does not use Blackboard for communicating with students or any other purpose.

TEXT BOOK: There is no textbook for the class.

Grades:

Grades will be calculated based upon on the following:

1. Three examinations (250 total points).
2. Attendance (25 points).

Grading Formula: Undergraduate students will receive a letter grade based on their percentage of the total possible points:

A = 93% or greater	B+ = 89.9% – 87.0%	C+ = 79.9% – 77.0%	D = 69.9% – 65.0%
A- = 92.9% – 90.0%	B = 86.9% – 83.0%	C = 76.9% – 73.0%	F = 64.9% or less
	B- = 82.9% – 80.0%	C- = 72.9% – 70.0%	

Except as noted below (see “Extra Credit”), Dr. Malmshaimer will not adjust grades or provide students with “additional assignments” (to raise their grade). Students will receive the grade they earn based on the course requirements.

The Examinations: There are three (3) examinations during the course of the semester. Each examination is worth 100 points and consists of short answer, multiple choice, and true/false questions that assess students’ knowledge of class materials.

- **Lowest examination is worth one-half (½) other two examinations.** Students’ lowest examination grade will be worth one-half (½) of their examination grades on their other two (2) examinations. This grade will be calculated by dividing the lowest examination by one-half (½) of students’ grade; thus students’ final course grade will be based on 250 points.
- **No final examination.** There is no final examination during Final Examination Week; the last examination is non-cumulative.

Attendance: Students are required to attend class every day. To encourage student attendance, 9.1 percent of students’ grades are based on attendance. Attendance grades will be assigned as follows:

- Students who miss zero (0) or one (1) classes will receive twenty-five (25) attendance points;
- Students who miss two (2) classes will receive twenty-two and one-half (22.5) attendance points;
- Students who miss three (3) classes will receive twenty (20) attendance points;
- Students who miss four (4) classes will receive seventeen and one-half (17.5) attendance points;
- Students who miss five (5) classes receive fifteen (15) attendance points;
- Students who miss six (6) classes receive ten (10) attendance points;
- Students who miss seven (7) classes receive five (5) attendance points;
- Students who miss eight (8) to nine (9) classes will receive zero (0) attendance points; and
- Students who miss ten (10) or more classes will receive zero (0) attendance points ***and*** lose twenty-five (25) points from their total course grade.

Students who miss class for an approved reason will be excused from class. To be officially excused from class, students **must:** 1) miss class because of illness, attendance at a professional conference, death in their family, or a professor-approved reason, and 2) **email Ms. Henger** the reason for their excused absence *within seven (7) days of missing class.*

Extra Credit: Student feedback greatly improves the course. Unfortunately since ESF instituted an on-line course evaluation, the percentage of students completing these evaluations is extremely low (15-40%) for most courses. To encourage student evaluations of the course, points will be added to students’ *total points for the course* (**not** course average) based on the percentage of students who complete the course online course evaluations by the assigned due date – note percentages are based on the total number of students in the course. Extra credit will be assigned as follows:

- If 75% to 80% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive one (1) extra point;
- If 80% to 85% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive two (2) extra points;
- If 85% to 90% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive four (4) extra points;
- If 90% to 95% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive six (6) extra points; and
- If 95% to 100% of the students complete evaluations, students will receive eight (8) extra points.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: I assume that as juniors and seniors, you understand that academic dishonesty is a breach of trust between a student, one's fellow students, or the professor. By registering for courses at ESF, you acknowledge your awareness of the ESF Code of Student Conduct (<http://www.esf.edu/students/handbook/StudentHB.05.pdf>) and that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. The Academic Integrity Handbook contains further information and guidance (<http://www.esf.edu/students/integrity/>). Infractions of the academic integrity code may lead to academic penalties as per the ESF Grading Policy (<http://www.esf.edu/provost/policies/documents/GradingPolicy.11.12.2013.pdf>). If you have questions about this policy, please ask the professor because the ESF Code of Student Conduct will be strictly enforced.

CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: To maintain the best possible environment for learning, all students in this class **will**:

- Be on time for class and not leave early,
- Not have conversations among themselves during class that distract other students or the instructor,
- Not read the newspaper or other non-classroom materials (*including email or internet content*) during class,
- Turn off cell phones before entering the class, and
- Not taunt or belittle other students or use vulgarity or profanity in class.

Students who violate these standards will be given one warning. Another violation of these rules will result in the student being dropped from the class *and* being reported to the ESF Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

CLASS TAPE RECORDING POLICY: Students are prohibited from recording classes.

INTERNET USE IN THE CLASSROOM POLICY: Unless approved by the Professor, students are prohibited from accessing the Internet during class.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES: SUNY-ESF works with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at Syracuse University, who is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations. Students can contact ODS (804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315/443-4498) to schedule an appointment and discuss their needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Students may also contact the ESF Office of Student Affairs (110 Bray Hall, 315/470-6660) for assistance with the process. To learn more about ODS, visit <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>. Authorized accommodation forms must be in the professor's possession one week prior to any anticipated accommodation. Since accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

FOR 485: Business and Managerial Law Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Date	Topic
1/19	Course Introduction, Sources of Law, and The Court System
1/21	The Civil Court Process
1/26	The Constitution I
1/28	The Constitution II
2/2	Crimes I
2/4	Crimes II
2/9	Crimes III
2/11	Crimes IV
2/16	Crimes V
2/18	Examination I
2/23	Contracts I
2/25	Contracts II
3/1	Contracts III
3/3	Contracts IV
3/8	Business Organizations I
3/10	Business Organizations II
3/15	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
3/17	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>
3/22	Business Organizations III
3/24	Employees and Employers
3/29	Examination II
3/31	<i>No Class</i>
4/5	Torts I
4/7	Torts II
4/12	<i>No Class</i>
4/14	Motor Vehicles
4/19	Renters and Landlords
4/21	Home Ownership
4/26	Wills and Estates I
4/28	Wills and Estates II & Course Conclusion
5/3	In-Class Examination III