

## Syllabus for CRN 11030 – BUL 3130

### Legal and Ethical Environment of Business

#### General Course Information

**CRN** 11030

**Course Title** Legal & Ethical Environment of Business

#### Description

Introduction to the contemporary legal and ethical environment of business. Topics may include the legal system, ethics, constitutional law, criminal and civil law, intellectual property, environmental law, contracts, and agency and employment law. (Junior standing required)

~Waitlist turns on only after CRN fills. Please see Academic Calendar for Waitlist shut down time.~ Instructions:  
<http://www.fgcu.edu/Registrar/waitlistforstudents.html>

**College** Business

**Division** Business

**Subject Area** Business Law

**Course Number** BUL 3130

**Credit Hours** 3

<b>Meeting Information</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>
	JAN 06, 2020	MAY 01, 2020	M	7:30pm - 10:15 pm	LH 2201

#### Distance Learning/Off Campus Course Information

**Is this a DL Course?** No, it is an on-campus course.

## Instructor Information

**Instructor** Jessica Homer, J.D., CCEP  
Adjunct Instructor

**Contact Information** [jhomer@fgcu.edu](mailto:jhomer@fgcu.edu) 239-745-4495

**Office Location** Edwards 114

**Office Hours** Office Hours - FA 2018

Tuesday/Thursday 12-1 or  
By appointment (I am on campus M-F 8-5)

**Teaching Philosophy** I annoyingly love learning, and if you have not caught the bug yet, I hope you do in this class! This class is labor intensive- basically a full law school class in each chapter. We will cover some complex legal issues and I strive to make these relatable through real life stories and examples. I have two main goals for this semester:

1. To prepare you for your ETS exams.
2. To prepare you for real world scenarios where these topics can arise.

I expect students to be fully prepared for class (i.e. read the chapters assigned to each class, prior to class). All students should be prepared to participate in class discussions. Students are expected to bring pencils and scantrons on exam days.

**Additional Instructor Info** Email Communication: Please use my FGCU email address ([jhomer@fgcu.edu](mailto:jhomer@fgcu.edu)) to contact me. Also, I will contact you using your Eagle email address specified on the class list, as well as through Canvas, so please make sure that your email account is active.

Not Legal Advice: No attorney-client relationship is formed by any communications between a student and the professor. Although the professor is an attorney, students should not ask for help, advice, or guidance with a personal legal problem, and should not send their professor confidential or privileged information. All lectures, discussions, conferences, and any other communications with the professor, whether oral, written, electronically transmitted, or otherwise, are for educational and general

informational purposes only, and do not constitute legal advice. Any suggestion of, or response to, hypothetical fact situations are necessarily limited in scope, and should not be construed as legal advice. If a student requires legal advice, the student is encouraged to consult with their attorney.

## Course Materials

**Required Course Materials** **Textbook for BUL 3130:** Melvin & Guerra-Pujol, *The Legal Environment of Business, A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice*, Third Edition, (McGraw-Hill).

## Course Policies, Learning Objectives, and Agenda

**Grading, Attendance, and Other Policies** **Attendance and Assignments**  
**Business Law is a difficult subject.** Attendance and completion of assignments are considered minimum requirements for all students. Adequate preparation and regular class attendance and participation are essential to your success in the class. Students are expected to develop their own exam study guides from notes taken in class and the material assigned in the textbook. Course letter grades are assigned based on test/exam, paper, and scores and compliance with University rules. Regular and punctual attendance and participation are expected.

**Assigned Readings:** Be prepared to discuss the cases and problems in each of the assigned chapters.

### Exams

Three exams will be given in this course. Each exam will be weighted equally (as noted below) in calculation of the final grade. The exams will consist of objective, multiple-choice questions. Note: The third exam may be cumulative. Quizzes may be given for extra credit. The final grade will be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

### Participation: 20%

(Participation includes: submitting online homework assignments, class participation, and class attendance. Each student will be called on to cover one case worth half of this grade.)

<b>Exam 1</b>	20%
<b>Paper</b>	20%
<b>Exam 2</b>	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	20%

**Extra Credit:** There will be available extra credit options throughout the semester, including a paper.

**Honors Students:** If you are taking this course as an Honors Embedded Course, you will complete a memo and board presentation. You are tasked with investigating the potential environmental impacts of a particular business. You will write a memo and then present the information to the Board of Directors. This must include legal ramifications of failure to comply, and a recommended course of action taking ethical, business, and other considerations into account.

Exam questions will be based on subjects discussed in class and the assigned reading material, but they are based primarily on the subjects/topics discussed in class. **Coming to class and reading/studying the assigned material are two excellent strategies for doing well in this class. The exam is not the time to discover that you do not understand the subjects covered in this class. If you do not understand the material, you are encouraged to ask questions. Many other students in the class probably have the same question but are too shy to ask questions. By asking questions you will be helping clear up confusion for yourself and other classmates.**

Test questions and Scantrons are the property of the instructor/university and are not returned to students. Students may not make copies of test questions. Students are encouraged to review the Scantron and test questions during office hours or by appointment. Test scores may be posted on Canvas. Course letter grades are posted on Gulfline in accordance with the Registrar's deadline.

Tests are required to be completed during the designated time allotted. The instructor keeps the tests and Scantrons. Tests are closed book and closed notes in class but may be open book and open note at the discretion of the instructor if the exam is administered online or is "take home". Students may be assigned seats for testing purposes. Tests are timed assessments of learning. Students may not talk with anyone (except the instructor) during the tests.

**Grading scale:**

- A 90-100
- B 80-89
- C 70-79
- D 60-69

F Below 60

**Exam Make ups** - With PRIOR arrangement and notice, exam make ups MAY be given. However, this option is available only for major emergencies (e.g., illness or death in the family).

**Exams** may be given in class or online at the discretion of the professor.

The **Syllabus** may be changed at the discretion of the Professor as circumstances warrant, the topics may be taught in a different order, and exam schedules may be changed.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Understand the various classifications and sources of law and explain the principle of *stare decisis*.
2. Discuss and explain the ethical responsibilities of business.
3. Describe the Federal and typical state court systems, and explain the various types of jurisdiction.
4. Compare and contrast litigation and the forms of alternative dispute resolution.
5. Explain the basic principles of constitutional law that related to business.
6. Explain the three basic functions of administrative agencies.
7. Identify and describe intentional torts, negligence, and strict liability.
8. Understand the basic elements of contract law.
9. Understand the law of principal and agent.
10. Identify the various types of business associations and explain the factors relevant to deciding which form to use.
11. Identify and explain the varied interests in real property.
12. Understand the major federal environmental laws and their potential liability for business.

**Learning Objective**

1. E: Demonstrate knowledge of legal and ethical issues; demonstrate knowledge of



**Assessment Strategy**

1. Exams, class participation, or some other type of graded work

global legal factors influencing business; or explain the importance of environmental responsibility.

2. P: Solve business problems using analytical tools applying legal principles.



2. Exams, class participation, or some other type of graded work

3. C: Deliver effective oral or written presentations on legal problems related to business.



3. Exams, class participation, or some other type of graded work

4. K: Integrate knowledge of legal concepts across the various business disciplines.



4. Exams, class participation, or some other type of graded work

**Additional Information**

IMPORTANT STATEMENTS, POLICIES, RESOURCES, AND DESCRIPTIONS UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

**I. Departmental Policies and Resources**

1. CALCULATOR. Texas Instruments BA II PLUS.  
NOTE: The required calculator is the only electronic device allowed to be used during class. **UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR, THE USE OF ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (phones, pads, laptop computers, etc.) is PROHIBITED DURING CLASS.**

2. The schedules for the departmental courses offered (information on semester, day/night, other), ACG, TAX, and BUL (BS) - are on the ACG BS program link on the LCOB web page. Click on "curriculum map" on left.

3. Planning for pre-registration and graduation is your responsibility: The above schedules and LCOB advisors, along with the course prerequisite sequences described in the FGCU Catalog and degree program sheets, should assist you in ensuring that your plans are successfully implemented. Course substitutions and prerequisite exceptions will be granted only for exceptional circumstances that are clearly beyond the student's control. Poor or lack of planning is not one of those circumstances.

4. Useful FGCU Resources:  
Florida Gulf Coast University Catalog

(<http://www.fgcu.edu/catalog/>)  
Florida Gulf Coast University Student Guide Book  
(<http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/JudicialAffairs/>)  
Florida Gulf Coast University Code of Conduct  
(<http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/JudicialAffairs/>)

## II. Departmental Statements

This course introduces the student to legal and ethical concepts that form the foundations of business conduct in the US. It also supports the content covered in the ETS exam used to assess the BS degree program for the College of Business.

When assessing the LOs above, if 90% of the students answer 80% of the question(s) correctly the assessment is exemplary; if 80% of the students answer 80% of the question(s) correctly the assessment exceeds expectations; if 70% of the student answer 80% of the question(s) correctly the assessment meets expectations; if less than 70% of the students answer 80% of the question(s) correctly, the assessment is below expectations; and if less than less than 60% of the students answer 80% of the question(s) correctly, the assessment fails.

### ETS statement

ETS Exam in GEB 4890

The knowledge you are gaining in the business foundation and core courses in principles of accounting, computers, economics, finance, information systems, law, management, marketing, and operations serves to prepare you for the Educational Testing Service (ETS) exam. All business majors are required to take the ETS exam at the end of GEB 4890 in order to graduate with a BS degree.

While your performance on the ETS exam will not impact your grade in GEB 4890, please take this exam very seriously. It is a primary tool used to assess the BS degree program in the College of Business. It is imperative that you do your best in answering the questions. Otherwise, the results will not be reliable and the assessment will not be robust, a result that may jeopardize our SACS accreditation and the Academic Learning Compact we made with the State of Florida, along with having a negative impact on our AACSB accreditation (more about AACSB at:

<http://www.fgcu.edu/cob/> and click on the AACSB logo at the top left).

Those students performing above 80% on the ETS exam will receive a letter of commendation from the Chair and/or Dean recognizing this achievement which can be used as a resume item.

### **III. University Statements**

#### **1. Academic Dishonesty/Cheating Policy:**

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under the Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures sections. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

#### **2. Disability Accommodations Services:**

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in the Wellness Building. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or Video Phone (VP) 239-243-9453. In addition to classroom and campus accommodations, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to create their personal emergency evacuation plan and FGCU is committed to providing information on emergency notification procedures. You can find information on the emergency exits and Areas of Rescue Assistance for each building, as well as other emergency preparedness materials on the Environmental Health and Safety and University Police Department websites. If you will need assistance in the event of an emergency due to a disability, please contact Adaptive Services for available services and information.



### **Video and Audio Taping of Class Lectures**

Students are not allowed to audio tape or video tape class lectures - with the exception of any student that has a documented disability and the OAS determines the best reasonable accommodation for the student is to allow them to audio tape or video tape class lectures. Additional exceptions may be granted in the discretion of the professor. When tape recording is allowed, a Tape Recording Agreement Form must be signed by the student.

### **Counseling and Psychological Services**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free counseling and therapy services (including psychiatry) to all FGCU students. Please walk in to the second floor Howard Hall office any week day between 8:30am and 4:30pm to schedule an initial contact appointment. Visit the CAPS website at [www.fgcu.edu/caps](http://www.fgcu.edu/caps) for more information. CAPS offers a 24/7 Helpline at 239-745-2377(EARS).

### **3. Student Observance of Religious Holidays**

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

### **4. Center for Academic Achievement**

The Center for Academic Achievement (CAA) provides academic support services to all FGCU students. Students can take advantage of our free peer tutoring and Supplemental Instruction sessions for lower-level math and science courses, as well as workshops to facilitate the

development of skills necessary for college success. If you would like to participate in any of our programs, learn about tutoring services, or meet with an Academic Retention Coordinator, please visit the CAA in Library 103 or call us at (239) 590-7906. Our website is [www.fgcu.edu/caa](http://www.fgcu.edu/caa).

## 5. University Nondiscrimination Statement

Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to ensuring equity and fairness for all University employees, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. As such, the University prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sex (including sexual harassment/assault), gender identity/expression, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic predisposition with regard to admissions, employment, programs or other activities operated by the University. This prohibition extends to enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Questions or complaints should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). The OIEC's phone number is (239)745-4366; the OIEC email address is [OIEC@fgcu.edu](mailto:OIEC@fgcu.edu).

## IV. LCOB Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

**Vision:** The Lutgert College of Business will be known for excellence in applied business education.

**Mission:** The Lutgert College of Business educates and engages students and businesses in a collaborative community. We offer high quality educational programs that prepare our students to thrive in their professional careers.

### Core Values/Guiding Principles:

**Diversity:** Foster a climate that enhances awareness of and respect for diversity of people and ideas, actively encouraging it among our students, faculty, and staff.

**Service to the Community/Connected:** Address current regional issues through extensive outreach activities and by building relationships on a local, regional, and global basis to facilitate the economic vitality and growth of Southwest Florida.

**Sustainability:** Educate and develop future business

professionals to recognize the value of and need for social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Global perspective: Emphasize the ability to perform effectively across cultures in addressing global business challenges building on the “second circle\*” model.

Integrity/Accountable: Maintain the highest standards of ethics, honesty, mutual respect, and accountability for our college’s faculty, staff and students.

Knowledge/Innovative: Provide an academic environment emphasizing teaching and scholarship that enhances student learning and the reputation of the college.

\*The second circle model was created by Dr. Richard Pegnetter as a process that expands the traditional college/university to international university partnership model to include the regional business community of Southwest Florida with the regional business community of our international partner thus expanding the interaction to a “second circle”.

#### **V. ACG BS Program Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles, and Goals**

Vision: Be the program of choice that prepares students to master the accounting subject matter and to become successful in their careers.

Mission: Prepare students for entry level careers in public accounting, service organizations, government, and industry and/or post-baccalaureate education by ensuring that:

1. Graduates are technically competent and possess the full range of business and professional skills; and
2. Faculty members employ cutting edge instructional methods and technologies, anchored by a balanced mix of applied/educational/basic research outcomes and institutional/professional/academic/community service.

Guiding Principles:

1. Support the preservation of the AACSB accreditation.
2. Continue to add value to our stakeholders (students, employers, parents, and the community).

Goals to Implement the Principles:

Goal 1. Perform continuous review and evolutionary improvements in curriculum design based on the assessment of program learning outcomes and analysis of external input.

Goal 2. Faculty members will on average exceed the scholarship standards for continued employment.

Goal 3. Faculty and students will be involved in professional and academic organizations and produce industry specific experience outcomes.

#### AGENDA – BUL 3130 – SPRING 2020

**Note:** The **Syllabus** may be changed at the discretion of the Professor as circumstances warrant, the topics may be taught in a different order, and exam schedules may be changed. **Exams** may be given in class or online at the discretion of the Professor.

**Textbook for BUL 3130:** Melvin & Guerra-Pujol, *The Legal Environment of Business, A Managerial Approach: Theory to Practice*, **Third** Edition, (McGraw-Hill).

**Assigned Readings:** Be prepared to discuss the cases and problems in each of the assigned chapters.

**Note: Readings and Questions, etc., for all assigned chapters will be posted in the modules on Canvas and will make use of the McGraw/Hill “Connect” program.**

\*\*\*\*Students are expected to come into each class having read, and prepared to discuss, all material in the assigned chapters\*\*\*\*

Class 1 (1/6)	<b>Mandatory Quiz - Online on Canvas (due Friday, January 10, 2020)</b> Syllabus/course Overview Ch. 1 - Legal Foundations
Class 2 (1/13)	Ch. 3 - The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, and Venue Ch. 4 - Resolving Disputes: Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
(1/20)	<b>MLK Day- no class (extra credit if you participate in a day of service)</b>
Class 3 (1/27)	Ch. 5 - Business, Societal, & Ethical Contexts of Law Ch. 2 - Business & the Constitution
Class 4 (2/3)	Ch. 17 - Administrative Law Catch-up & Review
Class 5 (2/10)	<b>Exam 1 - Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, &amp; 17</b> <b>Paper Assignment released today</b>
Class 6 (2/17)	Ch. 22 - Criminal Law & Procedure in Business
Class 7 (2/24)	Ch. 6 - Overview & Formation of Contracts Ch. 7 - Contract Enforceability & Performance
3/2/19	<b>Spring break! No class. BE SAFE</b>
Class 8 (3/9)	Ch. 8 - Contracts for the Sale of Goods Ch. 9 - Torts & Products Liability <i>Extra credit paper due for 15pts</i>
Class 9 (3/16)	Ch. 10- Agency Catch up & Review
Class 10 (3/23)	<b>Exam 2 -Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, &amp; 22</b>
Class 11 (3/30)	Ch. 13 - Choice of Business Entity, Sole Proprietorships, & Partnerships Ch. 14 - Limited Liability Companies & Limited Liability Partnerships <b>Paper Assignment Due</b>
Class 12 (4/6)	Ch. 15 - Corporations Choice of business wrap up <i>Extra credit paper due for 12pts</i>
Class 13 (4/13)	Ch. 11 - Employment Relationships & Labor Law Ch. 12 - Employment Discrimination
Class 11 (4/20)	Ch. 23 - Personal Property, Real Property & Land Use Law Honors Presentations
Class 12 (4/27)	Final Review <i>Last chance to hand in extra credit paper for 10pts</i>
FINAL EXAM 5/1/20 <b>5:45pm!!!!</b>	<b>Final Exam - Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, &amp; 23</b> <b>Note time AND day difference!</b>