

**LSB 5163: Legal Environment of Business**  
**Spring 2016**  
**Spears School of Business**  
**Oklahoma State University**

**Instructor:** Dr. Laurie A. Lucas, Associate Professor of Legal Studies and William S. Spears Chair in Business Administration

**Contact Information:**

*Office:* Room 206, Business Building

*Email:* llucas@okstate.edu

*Phone:* 405.744.1692

*Office Hours:* Live chat room: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST

*Course Site:* Desire2Learn (Online Classroom): <http://oc.okstate.edu>

*Technical and administrative support:* [spearsdistance@okstate.edu](mailto:spearsdistance@okstate.edu)

*Telephone:* 405.744.4048

**Course Overview:** This course considers the legal environment within which businesses must operate. The course reviews the nature and source of law, the operation of the judicial system, the operation of administrative agencies, selected Constitutional provisions involved in the litigation of business problems, and selected substantive legal areas having a direct relationship with business operation and ethical decision making.

**Course Prerequisites:** Admission to graduate program or consent of MBA director.

**Text and Supplementary Materials (note this book is now in the second edition):**

Melvin & Katz, *The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach* (2d ed.)

Other materials

On D2L, you also will find the following study aides:

- PowerPoints for each unit of material—*these are located with the content area of D2L—note there may be more lectures than PowerPoint files, as the PowerPoints were combined, while some of the lectures were split into parts for easier viewing.* These are in outline form and will not work as a substitute for the reading or the lecture videos
- reading objectives for each unit of material—to help narrow the reading assignments
- course handouts that are used to clarify the materials and are discussed in lectures

**LSB 5163 Course Learning Goals:**

Course Objectives	Program Learning Goal
Students should be able to explain the function of law in society.	Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking Innovation
Students should be able to discuss how the law emerges in US society by analyzing the primary sources of US law and their function.	Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking

Students should be able to compare and contrast litigation with different forms of alternative dispute resolution.	Ethics Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking Innovation
Students should be able to compare and contrast different tort theories in different contexts, including products liability.	Ethics Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking
Students should be able to define, discuss and analyze the use of contracts in the business environment.	Ethics Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking Innovation
Students should be able to explain the structure and interplay between federal and state employment laws and civil rights statutes.	Ethics Business Knowledge & Competency Critical Thinking Innovation
Students should be able to define the basic forms of property including intellectual property.	Business Knowledge & Competency Innovation

**Description of Course Requirements and Grading Rubric (Please read carefully):**

*Exams:* There will be three exams throughout the semester each worth 100 points. The exams consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (50 @ 2 = 100). Exams are constructed under the assumption that you have completed, for each unit of material, all the assigned readings and watched all the assigned video lectures.

**There are three options for exams in LSB 5613 this semester:**

1. Exams may be taken at an approved testing center using a computer (use of testing centers outside the U.S.A. is *not* allowed other than military testing centers).  
Students who live in the Stillwater area can schedule exams with the Wes Watkins Testing Center (405-744-6390) or University Testing Services (405-744-5958). If you live in the Tulsa vicinity, you can take your exam at the testing center at OSU-Tulsa (918-594-8232). If you live outside Stillwater or Tulsa, you may be able to locate an appropriate testing center using this site: <http://spears.okstate.edu/distance/guide/centers/>. If you need help locating a testing center, please contact the Spears Distance Learning office at [spearsdistance@okstate.edu](mailto:spearsdistance@okstate.edu).
2. Exams may be taken using ProctorU  
See the separate handout, **Will ProctorU Work for You?** in content area of D2L for more information about how this option works. Also, <http://www.proctoru.com>.
3. Exams may be taken in a military testing center (military students only).

You must contact the Spears School of Business Distance Learning Office to inform them of your proctoring choice and site. You may also access their twitter account: @Spearsdistance. If you have an unusual situation that may require an exception, please contact Ms. Christy Story (Christy.Story@okstate.edu) in the Distance Learning Office to discuss options.

Regardless of the option you choose, there is a 48-hour window during which each exam may be taken. Exams are **required** to be taken during the scheduled window and only one attempt during that time period will be allowed.

**Exam dates also are clearly listed on the syllabus, so please plan ahead.** Here are the specific testing windows:

**Exam 1- Tuesday, February 16–Wednesday, February 17**

**Exam 2- Tuesday, March 29 to Wednesday, March 30**

**Exam 3- Tuesday, May 3 to Wednesday, May 4**

If you have a problem or conflict with the scheduled exam dates, you are required to contact me, preferably by email, to schedule an alternative.

Regardless of the testing method you choose, the on-line exam presents only one question at a time and you are not allowed to go back to a question once you have selected your final answer choice. There are many reasons for this policy, but they are primarily technical issues with administering an exam online. *I understand that this format is different from most exams you may take and therefore the exam scores will be curved to account for this policy.* You will have up to 90 minutes to complete each exam, which is more than enough time to consider each answer before you move on to the next question.

**Missing an exam is *strongly* discouraged. Makeup exams *require* advance approval, except in cases of a *documented* emergency. In all cases, you (or a family member, etc.) must contact me—use email (best choice) or voice mail—within 24 hours of the missed exam or you will not be allowed to makeup the exam. Makeup exams are essay exams and you will be required to take the exam at an approved testing center.**

#### **Grading Policy:**

*In an academic environment, grades are awarded on the basis of student merit and not need or consequence.* The following scale will be used and no adjustments will be made unless academically appropriate.

270 – 300 (A)

240 – 269 (B)

210 – 239 (C)

180 – 209 (D)

**Online Office Hours (Chat room) and Emails:** If you are in Stillwater, you are more than welcome to send an email and schedule a mutually convenient time for an office appointment. I also have **on-campus office hours** every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Otherwise, there is a weekly live chat room—Wednesday 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST—**where you may ask questions about the course. This chat room is accessible to everyone in the course, so if you have a personal issue, contact me directly by email. If you are unable to use the chat room, you are welcome to send an email with your questions.

If you send an email, please identify the course in which you are enrolled or I cannot guarantee a timely response. Please use this subject line: [your last name]—LSB 5163. For example: Smith—LSB 5163.

Except in unusual circumstances, you can expect a reply to your emails within 48 hours. Please do not send duplicative emails within one 48-hour period.

### **University Policies:**

*Academic Integrity:* Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, [academicintegrity.okstate.edu](http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu).

*Disability Notice:* If any member of the class believes that he or she has a physical, emotional, or psychological disability and needs accommodations of any nature, the instructor will work with you and the university Office of Student Disability Services (SU 315, 744-7116 v/t) to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the accommodations as soon as possible. You also will need to contact the Student Disability Services office in order to receive accommodations. No accommodations will be made without prior notification.

*Drop Policy:* Information about university drop policy and dates is at this website: <http://registrar.okstate.edu/> Click on “class schedules,” and “short, internet, and outreach courses.” To drop this course, login to SIS, or contact the Registrar’s office, (405) 744-6876.

**Class Schedule: experience indicates that most students who fail to do well in an online course fail because they do not complete the work in a timely manner.** Some believe they need only watch the lectures or just read the text. You must do all the assigned work to pass this class. Trying to watch hours of lectures right before the test will likely yield poor results, since you need time to think about and apply what you are learning. Additionally, exams reflect the lectures, which explicate, but also add information to the textbook information.

NOTE: When the syllabus lists something as “background/lecture” that means it is not required—only suggested—reading, but it will be discussed in the video lectures and therefore should be considered fair game for an exam. *Anything discussed in the video lectures may appear on the exam.*

As noted above, when the videos for this course were recorded the production folks split them up but the PowerPoint files were incorporated as a whole in the original taping. For the first unit of material, the names for the videos and the PowerPoint files do not always match. The name for the PowerPoint file that corresponds to the video lecture is in parenthesis and all caps. One PowerPoint file might cover several video lectures. This problem exists only for the first exam.

### **Week 1: Jan. 11-15**

*Read these two chapters:*

Chapter 1 – Legal Foundations

Chapter 3 – The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, and Venue

*Watch these three video lectures:*

How to think about law in this course (about one hour) (SAME NAME)

Part 1: Court Structure (about 40 minutes) (COURT STRUCTURE AND COMMON LAW)

Part 2: Accessing the Courts – Jurisdiction (about 45 minutes) (COURT STRUCTURE AND COMMON LAW)

*Other material:*

Structure of Oklahoma Courts

Map of Oklahoma Counties

Map of Federal Circuits

### **Week 2: Jan. 18-22**

*Work this activity (posted in the content area of D2L):*

Application Exercise – Legal Precedent (work the activity BEFORE you watch the video)

*Read this chapter:*

Chapter 4: Resolving Disputes: Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Options

*Watch these three video lectures:*

Part 1: Pretrial Considerations – Dealing with Attorneys (about 51 minutes) (CIVIL PROCEDURE)

Part 2: Stages of Litigation (about 55 minutes) (CIVIL PROCEDURE)

Application Exercise – Legal Precedent (about 44 minutes) (LEGAL PRECEDENT ACTIVITY)

### **Week 3: Jan 25-29**

*Read this chapter:*

Chapter 2 – Business and the Constitution

*Watch these two video lectures:*

Part 1: Constitutional Authority (about 80 minutes) (CONSTITUTION: STRUCTURE AND POWERS)

Part 2: Constitutional Authority (about 53 minutes) (CONSTITUTION: STRUCTURE AND POWERS)

**Week 4: Feb. 1-5**

*Finish this chapter:*

Chapter 2 – Business and the Constitution

*Work this activity (posted in the content area of D2L):*

Application Exercise: civil rights (work the activity BEFORE you watch the video)

*Watch these two video lectures:*

Part 3: Constitutional Authority (about 78 minutes) (CONSTITUTION: CIVIL RIGHTS)

Application Exercise – Civil Rights (about 27 minutes) (INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ACTIVITY)

**Week 5: Feb. 8-12**

*These chapters are for background only—focus on the lectures:*

Chapter 12 – Employment Regulation and Labor Law (as background only, but FMLA is discussed on page 285-86 – discussed in lecture)

Chapter 13 – Employment Discrimination (background/lecture)

*Watch these video lectures:*

Employment Law (about 50 minutes) (SAME NAME)

Business Ethics (about 50 minutes) (SAME NAME)

*Work this activity:*

Mission & Life Goal Exercise (this is not for submission and is not graded)

**Week 6: —EXAM THIS WEEK (see below for specific testing dates)**

***Testing Window: Tuesday, Feb. 16–Wednesday, Feb. 17. The exam must be taken during the exam window. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.***

*Watch this video lecture:* Exam Strategies (about 15 minutes)

**Week 7: Feb. 22-26**

*Read these chapters:*

Begin reading Chapter 6—Overview and Language of Contracts

Chapter 25—Intellectual Property (background/lecture)

*Watch these video lectures:*

Introduction to Managing Intellectual Property

Introduction to Contracts

**Week 8: Feb. 19-Mar. 4**

*Read this chapter:*

Begin reading chapter 7: Contract Formation

*Watch these video lectures:*

Do I have a Contract?

Is the Contract Enforceable?

**Week 9: Mar. 7-11**

*Read this chapter:*

Finish reading chapter 7

Read Chapter 8: Contract Performance: Conditions, Breach, and Remedies

*Watch these video lectures:*

Contract Performance and damages

**Week 10: March 14-18: Spring Break—no assignments/no chat room**

**Week 11: Mar. 21-25**

*Read this chapter:*

Chapter 9: Contracts for the Sale of Goods (background/lecture)

Chapter 22: Consumer Protection Law (pages pgs. 607-09—for lecture on UCC Warranties)

*Watch these video lectures:*

Third-Party Rights

Contracts & the UCC

*Other reading materials:*

Handout: Assignments of rights and delegation of duties

**Week 12: EXAM THIS WEEK (see below for specific testing dates)**

***Exam Two Testing Window: Tuesday, March 29 to Wednesday, March 30. The exam must be taken during the exam window. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.***

**Week 13: Apr. 4-8**

*Begin reading this chapter:*

Chapter 10: Torts and Product Liability

*Watch this video lecture:*

Introduction to torts

**Week 14: Apr. 11-15**

*Continue Reading this chapter:*

Chapter 10—Torts and Product Liability

*Watch these video lectures:*

Intentional Torts against a Plaintiff's Person or Property

Intentional Torts against a Plaintiff's Reputation or Business

**Week 15: Apr. 18-22**

*Continue Reading this chapter:*

Chapter 10— Torts and Product Liability

*Watch these video lectures:*

Negligence and Strict Liability—part 1

Negligence and Strict Liability—part 2

**Week 16: Apr 25-29**

*Finish reading this chapter:*

Chapter 10— Torts and Product Liability

Review information on warranties in this chapter:

Chapter 22: Consumer Protection Law (pages 607-09)

*Watch this video lecture:*

Product Liability

*Other handouts:*

Federal Preemption—Summary of Recent Cases

**Final Exam Week: (see below for specific testing dates)**

**(The third exam is not comprehensive.)**

***Exam Three Testing Window: Tuesday, May 3 to Wednesday, May 4. The exam must be taken during the exam window. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.***