

BUL 4310 - Legal Environment of Business Summer C 2009 Syllabus

Warnings: This Syllabus is neither a contract nor an offer, and the Professor may alter it at any time.
No attorney-client relationship is created by participation in this course, access to the course website, or otherwise.
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Professor:

Philip N. Kabler, Esq.
Email: bul4310.prof@cba.ufl.edu
Office: Stuzin 212

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Shane Boutty, MBA
Email: bul4310.ta@gmail.com
Office: Stuzin 212

Undergraduate TAs:

Previous BUL 4310 students who earned an A in the course
Email: bul4310.ta@gmail.com
Office: Bryan 225

Use Email to Contact the Professor and the TAs

Where do I send emails?

bul4310.ta@gmail.com - questions about grades, exams, quizzes, and administrative concerns
bul4310.prof@cba.ufl.edu - only substantive questions about material, lectures and readings

Do NOT send an email to both e-mail accounts concerning the same question or problem.

In every email, make sure to include the following information: Your name, UFID, phone number and all previous correspondence/emails. Including this information is necessary due to the large size of the class. Emails that do not include this information may not receive a reply.

Office Hours:

Office hours will be announced on the website after the semester begins. The undergraduate TAs should be your primary source of information for questions not related to grades; their office hours will be in Bryan 225 during times announced on the website. Exams will be available for review during undergraduate TA office hours about one week after each exam. To accommodate the many online students taking BUL 4310, Professor Kabler's and Shane Boutty's (Graduate Teaching Assistant) office hours will be online via the BUL 4310 Chat Room. Both Gainesville students and online students may attend these online office hours. Professor Kabler's and Shane Boutty's online office hour times will be announced on the website. Professor Kabler and Shane Boutty will also be available to meet in their offices on campus by appointment.

Required Textbooks:

1. Fundamentals of Business Law, Miller, Roger LeRoy and Jentz, Gaylord A., Thomson-West (7th edition) (referred to in class as the FBL book) (ISBN 0-324-38172-7)
2. Business Law, Emerson, Robert, Barron's (4th edition) (referred to in class as the Barron's book) (ISBN 0-7641-1984-2)

Make sure to get the most recent version of each book. Photocopies are prohibited. Prior versions of the texts and photocopies will not be permitted to be used during the exams.

Website:

The course has a WebCT website. The website can be accessed by going to <http://vista.courses.ufl.edu> and using your Gatorlink username and password to log in. Use of this website is required. On the website, students can access the announcement board, reading assignments, online quizzes, exam information, lecture recordings, required online readings, student grades and other information. Students should access the website frequently to check for any new announcements. Any student posting that is frivolous, rude, vulgar, commercial in nature, more of a personal matter than for the class as a whole, or that the Professor otherwise deems to be inappropriate, will be removed.

Announcements During the Semester:

Important announcements will be posted on the website and/or sent via the class listserv. It is critical that you frequently check the announcements page on the website and your Gatorlink email account throughout the semester. Announcements and emails will include important course policies.

Chat Room:

WebCT has a chat room function. A link to the BUL 4310 Chat Room is located on the homepage of the website. To accommodate the many online students taking BUL 4310, Professor Kabler's and Shane Boutty's (Graduate Teaching Assistant) office hours will be online via the BUL 4310 Chat Room. Both Gainesville students and online students may attend these online office hours. These online office hours are a good opportunity for Gainesville students and online students who cannot come to campus for office hours. Students may also chat with other students throughout the week in the BUL 4310 Chat Room.

Discussion Board:

There is a public discussion board on the website. Please use the discussion board to post substantive and administrative questions that will benefit the entire class. Do not post questions about individual matters. Please send an email if you have a question pertaining to your own grade, quiz, or exam. Any student posting that is frivolous, rude, vulgar, commercial in nature, more of a personal matter than for the class as a whole, or that the Professor otherwise deems to be inappropriate, will be removed. Postings will be removed as they become outdated.

Attending Live Class

Live Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Periods E1 and E2, in Bryan 130. Feel free to come to the live class, no matter what section you are actually enrolled in. Please feel free to ask relevant questions and/or raise matters for discussion.

WARNING:

The lectures and original materials created by the Professor are your Professor's property, and are protected by applicable intellectual property rights (including copyright). The lectures and original materials created by the Professor shall not be used for any commercial purpose. Violation subjects you to various penalties, including termination of all Gatorlink privileges, per University of Florida rules (see "Policies for use of Gatorlink," www.gatorlink.ufl.edu/policy.html). Your access to the lectures and the website cannot be transferred to anyone else who may use that access for a commercial purpose.

Special Accommodations:

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to the Professor or the TA when requesting accommodations.

About your Professor:

Philip N. Kabler is an attorney practicing in Gainesville, Florida. Professor Kabler holds law licenses in Florida, Connecticut, and Virginia (Associate Status), as well as admissions to various Federal Courts including the United States Supreme Court. He graduated from Brandeis University (Waltham, MA) in 1982, Magna Cum Laude with High Honors in Philosophy, and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School (Philadelphia, PA) in 1985. Prof. Kabler has practiced since 1985 in both law firm and in-house settings in Norfolk, VA, Hartford, CT, Miami, FL, and Gainesville, FL. He was an administrator with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice - District III for five years. Prof. Kabler taught at the University of Florida - Warrington College of Business Administration from 2007-2008 (Legal Environment of Business) and at Santa Fe College (Gainesville, FL) from 1998-1999 (Introduction to Juvenile Process), 2004-2009 (Business Law I), and 2008-2009 (Employment Law). Throughout his career he has been involved in a large variety of professional, community, and arts activities, including in board and officer capacities. Recently he was appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to the Florida Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

About your Graduate TA:

Shane Boutty is a current student of the University of Florida Levin College of Law. He has assisted attorneys in legal research and case preparation ranging from family law to complex business litigation, and continues to teach and develop courses for Florida certified contractors. Before attending law school, Shane graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Business and subsequently graduated from the University of Florida Warrington College of Business Administration with a Masters Degree in Business Administration. He was elected to both the Beta Gamma Sigma and Golden Key Honor Societies, and has been featured on the University of Florida's Web site banner, program brochure, and in the WCBA newsletter. Shane has been a management

team member for a Fortune 500 company, as well as owning several corporations himself. Shane's future plans include pursuing careers in corporate litigation and legal academia.

General Course Goals:

By the end of this course, the student should be familiar with some basic legal concepts, such as contracts and torts. The following are some *specific objectives* for students to attain:

1. Be able to recognize and apply basic principles of law to various problems which businesses, entrepreneurs, and operations professionals may face.
2. Consider ethical constructs in the legal and business environment.
3. Evaluate the roles and activities of lawyers.
4. Explain how courts function and how lawsuits proceed; prepare a plan to bring or respond to a lawsuit.
5. Recognize the formation, dissolution, and contractual or tort liability of agency relationships.
6. Understand the fundamental elements of and defenses to torts.
7. Identify the essential concepts of criminal law.
8. Distinguish the basic forms of business organizations.
9. Evaluate the roles of shareholders, directors, and officers.
10. Understand legal and ethical considerations in corporate governance.
11. Be able to identify, analyze and evaluate the elements of a contract; know what to look for involving contract issues, such as what binds and discharges the parties to a contract.
12. Understand the basic communications issues confronting businesses.
13. Identify the basic forms of real and personal property.
14. Be familiar with employment discrimination and protection legislation and enforcement.
15. Understand the nature, role, and functions of risk and risk management in business.
16. Understand the role of proactive business planning.

Course Structure:

The course is split into 3 parts. There is one exam for each part of the course. Each part includes a number of modules; each module covers a specific subject. The ten modules are below.

Part 1:

Module 1: Jurisprudence
Module 2: Judicial Process
Module 3: Agency
Module 4: Entities

Part 2:

Module 5: Contracts
Module 6: Communications

Part 3:

Module 7: Assets
Module 8: Employment
Module 9: Risk Management
Module 10: Implementation & Planning

Reading Assignments:

FBL = Fundamentals of Business Law, Miller, Roger LeRoy and Jentz, Gaylord A., Thomson-West (7th edition)

Barron's = Business Law, Emerson, Robert, Barron's (4th edition)

Module	Required Readings	Supplemental Readings (Optional)
Module 1	FBL chapters 1, 3 Barron's chapters 1-2, 28	FBL chapter 32
Module 2	FBL chapter 2 Barron's chapter 3	None
Module 3	FBL chapter 22 Barron's chapters 14, 19	FBL chapters 4, 6
Module 4	FBL chapters 24-27 Barron's chapters 13, 15-18, 22, 27	FBL chapters 20-21
Module 5	FBL chapters 7-12 Barron's chapters 4-9	FBL chapters 13-17
Module 6	FBL chapter 4	None
Module 7	FBL chapters 5, 28-29 Barron's chapters 20, 23, 26	None
Module 8	FBL chapter 23 Barron's chapters 24-25	FBL chapter 22
Module 9	FBL chapters 30-31 Barron's chapter 21	None
Module 10	None	None

Each module's reading assignment also includes materials posted on the website. These online materials are required readings and will be tested on the exams and quizzes.

Please have each module's reading assignment read by the date each module begins, unless the Professor states otherwise during lecture. Please see the Course Schedule below for dates of when each module begins.

Course Schedule:

Course Overview: May 12 (first hour)
Module 1: May 12 - May 14
Module 2: May 14 - May 19
Module 3: May 19 - May 21
 Note: 5/21/09 session will be pre-taped; taping session to be announced
Module 4: May 21 - June 4
 Note: 5/21/09 session will be pre-taped; taping session to be announced
Exam 1 Review Session: June 4 (second hour)

Quiz A: Due June 7 by 9pm
To receive credit, Quiz A must be submitted via the website by this time

Exam 1: June 10 (arrive at 7:20pm)
Gainesville students: Room assignments will be posted on the website
Online students: Confirm your testing date, time, and location with your online program

Module 5:	June 11 - June 18
Summer Break:	June 22 - June 26
Module 6:	June 30 - July 2
Exam 2 Review Session:	July 2 (second hour)

Quiz B: Due July 5 by 9pm
To receive credit, Quiz B must be submitted via the website by this time

Exam 2: July 6 (arrive at 7:20pm)
Gainesville students: Room assignments will be posted on the website
Online students: Confirm your testing date, time, and location with your online program

Module 7:	July 9 - July 14
Module 8:	July 16 - July 21
Module 9:	July 23 - July 28
Module 10:	July 28 (second hour)
Course Summary:	July 30 (first hour)
Exam 3 Review Session:	July 30 (second hour)

Quiz C: Due August 2 by 9pm
To receive credit, Quiz C must be submitted via the website by this time

Exam 3: August 4 (arrive at 7:20pm)
Gainesville students: Room assignments will be posted on the website
Online students: Confirm your testing date, time, and location with your online program

Exams:

There are three exams: exam 1, exam 2, and exam 3. Each exam is “cumulative-light” - about 20% of each exam will cover materials from previous exams and about 80% of each exam will cover materials from that exam’s part of the course including reading assignments, online materials, and lectures. Exams consist of multiple choice questions. Except for online students, exams are given in Gainesville on the University of Florida campus. Room assignments for Gainesville students, based on last names, will be posted on the website. Room assignments for online students are provided by the students’ online programs. Please be at your room on time.

Students must take the exams during the scheduled exam times in their assigned testing rooms to receive credit. Only for exceptional reasons will exam make-ups be provided. Exam make-ups are not guaranteed.

Exams are LIMITED open-book exams. The ONLY items allowed to be used during the exams are the FBL book, the Barron's book, and a non-electronic English and/or foreign language dictionary. No personal notes, commercial notes, commercial indexes, or loose paper are allowed to be used during the exams. You can hand-write your notes into the books that you bring to the exams.

You may tab your textbooks and bring your tabbed textbooks to the exams. However, you may only use tabs that are smaller than 1 inch by 1.5 inches. All tabs must be created by you and only have material on them that is originally produced by you. Everything written or typed on a tab must be for the purpose of identifying and marking a page, and for no other reason. You may not write or type notes on any tabs. No materials, except for tabs, may be added to any textbook.

MATERIALS ALLOWED INTO THE TESTING ROOMS ARE RESTRICTED. No backpacks, large purses, containers, pouches, bags, etc. are allowed in the testing rooms. THE ONLY ITEMS allowed to be brought into the testing rooms are the FBL book, the Barron's book, a non-electronic English and/or foreign language dictionary, and writing utensils. ANY other items are PROHIBITED. Students who bring other items (e.g., backpacks) will be required to leave those items at the front of the test room, by the proctors. No make-ups will be offered to students violating these rules. Contact the Teaching Assistant by e-mail well ahead of time with any problems.

University of Florida academic guidelines (e.g., the honor code) strictly apply at all times. Any student who uses anything during the exams other than the FBL book, the Barron's book, a non-electronic English and/or foreign language dictionary will be dealt with in accordance with UF's academic guidelines. Also, any student who brings prohibited items into the testing rooms will be dealt with in accordance with UF's academic guidelines. Any student violating these exam rules will not receive credit for the exam. Proctors may examine students' textbooks before and during the exam.

Quizzes:

Online quizzes will be administered on the website. There are three quizzes. All three quizzes are optional - points earned from a quiz will be added to the corresponding exam's grade as extra points. Each quiz is non-cumulative, has 20 questions, and is 2 hours long. Each quiz is worth 10 points. University of Florida academic guidelines (e.g., the honor code) strictly apply at all times. Students must take their quizzes on their own without the help of others. Students may use their textbooks and other class materials during the quizzes. Once you complete a quiz, your answers will be graded electronically. The answers to the quizzes have been thoroughly reviewed. If you get a question wrong but believe you should receive credit, you may send an email; however, the questions and the answers have already been reviewed. The quizzes will include questions on all materials in specific modules, as follows:

- Quiz A: Modules 1-4
- Quiz B: Modules 5-6
- Quiz C: Modules 7-10

Grades:

Final grades are based on a point system, not a percentage system. There are 300 possible points in the course; the points are as follows:

Exam #1: 100 points (plus up to 10 extra points from Quiz A)

Exam #2: 100 points (plus up to 10 extra points from Quiz B)

Exam #3: 100 points (plus up to 10 extra points from Quiz C)

Grades for each exam and quiz will be posted on the website throughout the semester. The extra points earned from the quizzes are not a part of the grading scale. Thus, it is possible to earn 300 points without completing the quizzes. And with the quizzes, it is possible to earn 330 points.

The final grading scale, based on points (not percentages), is as follows:

A	270 and above
A-	260 to 269.999
B+	250 to 259.999
B	240 to 249.999
B-	230 to 239.999
C+	220 to 229.999
C	210 to 219.999
C-	200 to 209.999
D+	190 to 199.999
D	180 to 189.999
D-	170 to 179.999
E	169.999 and below