

# SYLLABUS

MGT 330  
Spring, 2016



*“Arm yourself with prayer rather than a sword; wear humility rather than fine clothes.”*

- Saint Dominic

## Welcome to Business Law!

### *What are we doing this semester?*

I will introduce you to basic legal principles in the context of business. We will explore the important intersection between law and business, as well as discuss various ethical issues that arise in business.

This course is designed to provide you with a basic study of legal aspects and concerns of the modern business community. Study of legal systems and constitutional law serve as a background. Emphasis is placed upon contracts, agency, partnerships, and corporations as topics.

### *What are our learning objectives?*

You will gain a general fundamental understanding of the American legal system and certain areas of law, with a more thorough understanding of contract law (PCSB Undergraduate Learning Goal 1).

You will become adept at reading, understanding and applying legal cases, concepts, and definitions of law in the cases to other facts and discussion contexts. (PCSB Undergraduate Learning Goal 1).

You will become able to apply the concepts found in the text, cases, and other reading to current events and personal experience, and to think critically about applying those concepts, both legally and ethically. (PCSB Undergraduate Learning Goals 1 & 5).

## PC TRIVIA:



*You think DWC is tough? First year students used to have to wear a “beanie” like the one above, and remove it when meeting a senior. There aren’t many beanies left because it was a tradition to burn your beanie at the end of your first year.*

Tuesday 4:00-6:30 (002)  
7:00-9:30 (006)  
Thursday 4:00-6:30 (003)  
Friday 2:30-5:00 (005)  
(All classes in Feinstein 112)

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Why are we reading *In His Steps*?

We are weaving this book into the semester to offer a different perspective on ethics and decision-making in business. We are not reading the whole book. Rather, we're looking at only those chapters relating to Edward Norman, a business executive.

When we discuss each chapter, some of you will be expected to lead a discussion about that chapter (see Banner ID assignments in the Schedule below). You must be prepared to discuss what happened in the chapter, what you learned, what you found interesting, and how you could apply what you learned in a business setting.

**Your in-class performance on this task counts toward 5% of your entire grade, so please plan and read accordingly.**

**ALSO NOTE:**

- This Syllabus is subject to change in my sole discretion. Any changes will be made by email and mentioned in class, as well.
- Quizzes 1 and 2 will be graded and returned. All other grades will be maintained electronically and available by email request.
- The Final Quiz will likely be held for all classes on a single day during the exam period (to be announced). I will accommodate any students who have exam conflicts with other classes. Please email me to make make-up arrangements.



## TEXTBOOK AND OFFICE HOURS

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Textbooks are expensive. I worked with the publisher to create a custom textbook, which is about half of the full textbook cost of \$405.

The ISBN for the custom textbook is 9781305297623, and it is available new and used in the PC bookstore.

However, your cheapest option is to rent or order e-chapters here for \$5.49 each:

<https://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781285428253>

We are also reading *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon. It's available for free here (you MUST use this version):

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/sheldon/ihsteps.pdf>

### OFFICE HOURS

I'm happy to meet you anytime before your class or by appointment in Lower Slavin (outside Student Congress office) on Fridays.

### QUIZZES AND PAPER

The Quizzes will be a mix of one-word, multiple choice, or T/F questions. They will cover material from the textbook and from class. The first Quiz will have 10 questions, and the second Quiz will have 20 questions.

The Final Quiz will have 30 questions, plus a 5-point short essay. The Final Quiz is NOT cumulative.

All material from the textbook *and* from class discussions is fair game. While it will not be a memorization test, it will require you to have a working knowledge and understanding of the terminology and concepts from the textbook. (Nothing from *In His Steps* will be on any of the quizzes.)

### Final Paper

The prompt and questions will be provided to you separately before our first class.

**DUE DATE: Friday April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

This date is firm, so please plan and start working on your paper accordingly.

### Electronic Devices

You may use a laptop or tablet to take notes during class.

However, you may NOT use your cellphone to text, email, browse the Internet, or use social media.

### Academic Integrity Policy and Copyrights

Academic integrity is important and I will strictly observe it. Please remind yourselves of PC's policy on Academic Integrity here:

[http://catalog.providence.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=205#Academic\\_Honesty](http://catalog.providence.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=205#Academic_Honesty)

Materials used in this course may be protected by copyright laws. Also, you may not share class materials without my express permission. For more information, including Fair Use guidelines, visit:

[http://www.providence.edu/library/research/Documents/Copyright\\_Compliance\\_Policy\\_dec2008.pdf](http://www.providence.edu/library/research/Documents/Copyright_Compliance_Policy_dec2008.pdf)



### GRADING POINT SYSTEM

0 pts	Attendance
10 pts	Meaningful Class Participation ( <i>PCSB Undergraduate Learning Goals 2 and 3 – Oral and Written Communication Skills and Teamwork and Interpersonal Skills</i> )
5 pts	Participation in your assigned <i>In His Steps</i> discussion (quality and quantity)
30 pts	Two Quizzes (10 points and 20 points) (if missed, must be made up, downgraded 20% for unexcused absence)
30 pts	Final Quiz (downgraded 20% for unexcused absence)
25 pts	Final Paper (downgraded 20% for unexcused lateness)



*The original Friar Boy in 1935, which was a gift from the PC football team. This gift was poignant because it was reminiscent of imagery of Saint Dominic, who is often associated with the image of a dog carrying a torch in its mouth, spreading the light of the gospel to the world.*

### How To Prepare for Class

- Read the assigned materials *before* class. To make your lives easier, I am excusing you from reading anything *after* each “Chapter Summary” unless instructed in the Schedule below. So, you don’t need to read the cases, problems, etc.
- After teaching this class for several years, I have begun to see a pattern where students feel that they can skip each week’s reading because I will “teach” it to them during the class. While I will hit the most important points during class, I need to make sure you read the texts/chapters before class. *Therefore, each Quiz may contain some questions from the textbook regarding topics that we did \*not\* discuss in class.*
- Be prepared to discuss the assigned materials as well as any current topics relevant to those materials.

93-100 pts	A
90-92 pts	A-
86-89 pts	B+
83-85 pts	B
80-82 pts	B-
76-79 pts	C+
73-75 pts	C
70-72 pts	C-
67-69 pts	D+
65-66 pts	D
63-64 pts	D-
Below 63	F

## Miscellaneous Q&A

*Tell me about the credits for this course as well as some details about enrollment, withdrawals, etc.*

For each hour of credit (most courses have 3 credits) the expectation is academic engagement of at least one hour in class and two hours out of class over a period of 15 weeks (or the equivalent).

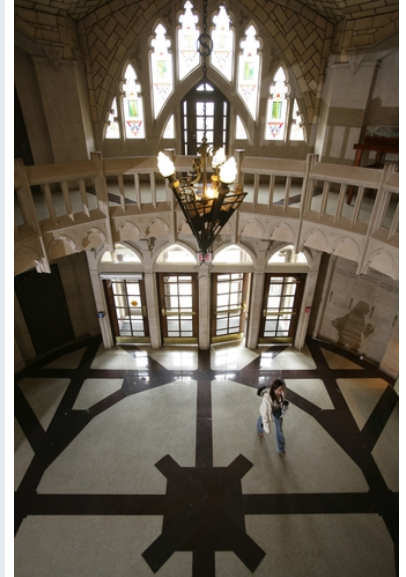
The College's deadlines for course registrations, course withdrawals, changing to pass/fail, etc. are reflected on the academic calendars, which can be accessed online at:

<http://www.providence.edu/academics/calendar/Pages/2015-2016.aspx>

Also, see <http://catalog.providence.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=209>.

### *What if you're going to miss class?*

If you're going to miss class for an excused reason (job interview, etc.), you must email me *before* the missed class. If you're sick, please email me *before* class and indicate that you are sick, keeping in mind PC's Academic Integrity Policy. It is not necessary to give me any details of your illness.



*Providence College seeks to ensure that diversity, in all its forms, is considered in every aspect of campus life by making diversity a factor in, and component of, all decision-making, and resolves to increase and retain the diversity, in all its forms, on campus.*

## HOW TO WRITE AN E-MAIL TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR T.A.

From: Student  
To: Instructor/TA

MY NAME IS NOT "HEY," "YO," "SUP" OR "DUDE." USE A PROPER GREETING!

"hey"

OMG, WHAT ARE YOU, 14? WRITE FULL SENTENCES! THE INTERNET HAS ENOUGH BANDWIDTH.

lol, when is your office huors?

btw, where is you're office?

SIGN YOUR NAME! THIS ISN'T CHAT AND WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.

BEFORE ASKING YOUR QUESTION, ALWAYS CONSULT:  
A) THE SYLLABUS  
B) COMMON SENSE  
C) THE SYLLABUS

IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND TO SPELL CHECK! SERIOUSLY, YOUR TIME IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS!!!

AAAAHHH!! HOW DID YOU GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL!?

“Piled Higher & Deeper” by Jorge Cham ([www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com))

JORGE CHAM © 2015

### ***What if there's a fire alarm?***

You should familiarize yourselves with the locations of the fire exits. Upon activation of the building fire alarm, you must exit to a position safely away from the building. If you will require assistance during an emergency, please contact me so that arrangements can be made in advance.

### ***What if you need an accommodation due to a disability?***

The Office of Academic Services (OAS), located on the upper level of the Philips Memorial Library, offers a wide variety of support services for all PC students, including group and individual tutoring, academic skills mentoring, disability support, and writing assistance.

Students who require academic accommodations based on a documented disability should make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible. All accommodations must be arranged through the Office of Academic Services.

### ***Can you electronically record the lectures?***

If you would like to video or audiotape during class, you must see me before class to discuss.

*Please be kind to the environment and print this Syllabus only if you must. And, if you must, please print in black and white only.*



## Schedule

### **Class 1: Syllabus Overview and Introduction to the Law**

- This Syllabus
- Chapter 1

### **Class 2: Business Ethics and the Social Responsibility of Business**

- Chapter 2
- Mykon's Dilemma (page 28)
- *In His Steps* Chapter 1 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 0000-1500)

### **Class 3: Civil Dispute Resolution and the U.S. Court System**

- [http://www.hideawaystorage.com/christian\\_principles](http://www.hideawaystorage.com/christian_principles)
- Chapter 3 (Skip: *Stare Decisis* (47); *In personam* jurisdiction, *In Rem* jurisdiction, Attachment jurisdiction (48); and Civil Procedure (49-53))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 2 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 1501-3000)

### **Class 4: Constitutional Law**

- Chapter 4 (Skip: Rational Relationship Test (74); Strict Scrutiny Test (75); Intermediate Test (76))

### **Class 5: Criminal Law and Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-4)**

- Chapter 6 (Skip: Applying the Law (110-11); Criminal Procedure (113-15))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 3 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 3001-4500)

### **Class 6: Intentional Torts**

- Chapter 7 (Skip: Misuse of Legal Procedure (130); Harm to Economic Interests (131-32))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 4 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 4501-6000)

### **Class 7: Negligence and Strict Liability**

- Chapter 8 (Skip: Violation of Statute (148); Duties of Possessors of Land (150); *Res Ipsa Loquitur* (151); Factual Cause (152); Scope of Liability (152-53); Keeping of Animals (156))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 5 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 6001-7500)

## Schedule (cont'd)

### **Class 8: Introduction to Contracts and Mutual Assent**

- Chapters 9 and 10 (Skip: Executed and Executory Contracts (177); Formal and Informal Contracts (177); Promissory Estoppel (177); Quasi Contracts (177-78); Option Contracts (193); Applying the Law (194); Effective Moment (197); Variant Acceptances (197-99))

### **Class 9: Contractual Capacity and Third Parties to Contracts and Quiz 2 (Chapters 6-10)**

- Chapters 14 and 16

### **Class 10: Performance, Breach and Discharge and Contract Remedies**

- Chapters 17 and 18 (Skip: Bankruptcy and Statute of Limitations (334); Limitations on Remedies (352-54))

### **Class 11: Relationship of Principal and Agent and Relationship with Third Parties**

- Chapters 19 and 20 (Skip: Change in Circumstances (375); Irrevocable Powers (375); Applying the Law (376); Effect of Termination of Agency on Authority (393-94); Ratification (394-95); Vicarious Liability of Principal for Unauthorized Acts of Agent (397-99); Criminal Liability of Principal (399); Contract Liability of Agent (399-401))

### **Class 12: Corporations**

- Chapter 33 (Skip: Organizing the Corporation, Formalities of the Corporation, and Defective Incorporation (704-708))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 8 (Discussion leaders: Banner IDs 7501-9999)

### **Class 13: Employment Law**

- Chapter 42 (Skip: Norris-La Guardia Act (931); Labor-Management Relations Act (932); Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (932); Social Security and Unemployment Insurance (941); Fair Labor Standards Act (941); Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (941-42))
- *In His Steps* Chapter 17 (Discussion leaders: All (a great time to get your class participation grade up!))

### **Class 14: Social Media Law, Contingency, Final Quiz Q&A**

- Rhode Island's Social Media Privacy Law (read all sections 1-6):  
<http://webservice.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE28/28-56/INDEX.HTM>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-switch/wp/2013/10/19/how-stores-use-your-phones-wifi-to-track-your-shopping-habits/>
- [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/15/magazine/how-one-stupid-tweet-ruined-justine-saccos-life.html?smid=tw-share&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/15/magazine/how-one-stupid-tweet-ruined-justine-saccos-life.html?smid=tw-share&_r=0)