


BLAW 336 Law of Business Organizations-DEAdd-2017-02-02

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Form Information

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Proposing Department/Unit*	Finance & Legal Studies	Contact Phone*	75744

Course Level*	undergraduate-level
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Distance Education Section

- Complete this section only if adding Distance Education to a New or Existing Course

Course Prefix /Number*	BLAW 336
Course Title*	Law of Business Organizations
Type of Proposal*	<i>See CBA, Art. 42.D.1 for Definition</i> online

<p>Brief Course Outline*</p>	<p><i>Give an outline of sufficient detail to communicate the course content to faculty across campus. It is not necessary to include specific readings, calendar or assignments</i></p> <p><i>As outlined by the federal definition of a "credit hour", the following should be a consideration regarding student work - For every one hour of classroom or</i></p> <p><i>direct faculty instruction, there should be a minimum of two hours of out of class student work.</i></p> <p>IUP Undergraduate Catalog Description: A study of the law dealing with commercial paper, agency, partnerships, corporations, and bankruptcy.</p> <p>Course Outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailments • Lost and Found Property • Negotiable Instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation • Holders in Due Course • Transferability • Liability • Defenses • Discharges • Banks and Electronic Currencies • Financial Reforms • Title to Goods and Risk of Loss • Employment Law • Investor Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Federal and State Agencies • Secured Transactions • Bankruptcy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer • Corporate • Corporate Forms • Corporate Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piercing the Corporate Veil • Corporate Social Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various Theories of CSR
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Rationale for Proposal (Required Questions from CBA)

<p>How is/are the instructor(s) qualified in the Distance Education delivery method as well as the discipline?*</p>	<p>Our Business Law professors are all either tenured or on the tenure track. We have one tenured full professor, Dr. Martha Troxell, one tenured associate professor, Dr. Brion Scudder, and one tenure-track associate professor, Dr. Henry Webb. All three professors have J.D. degrees, and all also have either M.B.A. or LL.M. degrees. All three professors have been teaching Business Law courses for a number of years and are academically qualified for purposes of AACSB accreditation. All three professors have taught online successfully at IUP and are well-versed in current distance learning best practices.</p>
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<p>For each outcome in the course, describe how the outcome will be achieved using Distance Education technologies.*</p>	<p>This course is a major elective for Finance majors and will satisfy the current BLAW 336 learning outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire a knowledge base in commercial paper and business organizations necessary to successfully compete in a leadership role in the business world: BLAW 336 provides students with in-depth knowledge about advanced legal concepts in the context of business such as commercial paper and business organizations. Students will be assigned to teams for the purposes of analyzing legal cases involving those legal concepts, and presenting those cases to the rest of the class via an online forum. Students will be encouraged to take a leadership role on those teams to ensure that the teamwork is accomplished in a timely and professional manner, and will need to work effectively as a team to ensure that result. Professors may also choose to incorporate a peer assessment as part of the semester grade. For the distance education component, students may meet with their teammates virtually, online, and will be instructed in the use of Google Docs' real-time editing features to assist them in working collaboratively online as they prepare their group writing assignments. Students will obtain the necessary knowledge via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, PowerPoint presentations posted to D2L, short online quizzes testing student knowledge which they must earn a minimum score on before being allowed to continue to the next lecture/set of slides, online discussion forums in which students will discuss the legal topics be covered, independent and group writing assignments, and exams.
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2. **Become familiar with, understand, and be able to communicate effectively regarding common legal terms used in business in order to facilitate business negotiations and transactions:** BLAW 336 familiarizes students with common legal terms used in a wide range of interdisciplinary business disciplines, including Finance, Management, Marketing, Business Ethics, Accounting, and Information Technology. The distance education component of BLAW 336 requires students to communicate effectively, both with themselves and with their professor, via internet-based forums and chat sessions. Students will be asked to use those media to discuss concepts they are learning about in class, and the professor will be able to review and grade the quality of students' contributions. Students may also use email and the telephone in order to communicate with their professors. Students will be assigned to teams for the purposes of analyzing legal cases and presenting those cases to the rest of the class via an online forum, and they will need to communicate effectively as a team for that purpose. Finally, the exams will require students to be able to write intelligently about the Business Law topics they are learning in the form of both short-answer and long-form essay-based exam questions.
3. **Learn and understand the legal environment in which businesses operate, from creation through operation to final disposition:** BLAW 336 will introduce students to the laws relevant to businesses throughout their entire life cycles, including business formation, business operation, and business dissolution, acquisition, or other final disposition. The distance education component will facilitate students' mastery of these laws via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, short online quizzes testing student knowledge which they must earn a minimum score on before being allowed to continue to the next lecture/set of slides, online discussion forums in which students will discuss the legal topics to be covered, independent and group writing assignments, and exams.
4. **Understand the historic sources of business organizations and their evolution to their present structures and their interrelationships with each other:** BLAW 336 will provide students with an overview of the origins and sources of business organizations, as well as how those organizations have changed and evolved over time. Historical business structures will be compared to modern business structures, and an evaluation of their respective strengths and weaknesses will be considered. The distance education component will provide this knowledge to students via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, and will assess this knowledge via a group assignment in which students will be asked to compare the respective strengths and weaknesses of historic versus current business structures.
5. **Learn about the relationship between business structures and business strategy when choosing a business form, and learn to discriminate between more and less desirable business structures for the occasion:** BLAW 336 will provide students with an understanding of the relationship between business structures and business strategy, and why a particular business structure might be appropriate for a certain business strategy. The distance learning component will facilitate students' understanding of the interrelationship between business structure and business strategy via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, short online quizzes testing student knowledge which they must earn a minimum score on before being allowed to continue to the next lecture/set of slides, online discussion forums in which students will discuss the legal topics to be covered, independent and group writing assignments, and exams.
6. **Understand the goals and objectives of the structures and uses of business organizations and their interdisciplinary interrelationships with ownership interests, management strategies, and financing business transactions:** BLAW 336 will provide students with an understanding of how business structures relate to the interests of the various stakeholders in the business, with the operational strategies of the businesses' management on both short- and long-term bases, and with the various vehicles by which the business may be financed. Students will be required to integrate concepts from multiple disciplines in order to effectively utilize a particular business structure to gain a competitive advantage. The distance learning component will facilitate students' understanding of these interrelationships via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, short online quizzes testing student knowledge which they must earn a minimum score on before being allowed to continue to the next lecture/set of slides, online discussion forums in which students will discuss the legal topics to be covered, independent and group writing assignments, and exams.
7. **To understand the United States' rules of business organizations and commercial paper in order to be able to compete knowledgeably in a global market:** BLAW 336 will provide students with an understanding of the rules and regulations applicable to both business organizations and commercial paper in the United States' legal system as necessary to compete in an increasingly global market. The distance learning component will facilitate students' understanding of these rules and regulations via pre-recorded lectures posted to D2L, short online quizzes testing student knowledge which they must earn a minimum score on before being allowed to continue to the next lecture/set of slides, online discussion forums in which students will discuss the legal topics to be covered, independent and group writing assignments, and exams.
8. **Exhibit data analysis, critical thinking, and decision making skills:** BLAW 336 requires students to analyze data in the form of existing legal precedents on a given legal issue, thereby deciphering the applicable rules of law on that issue. They must also engage in critical, analytical thinking in order to successfully apply those rules of law to a given set of facts, and they must engage in decision making in advising hypothetical clients on a proper course of action based on the likely legal outcome in a given case. For the distance education component, students will analyze legal issues via the online forums, and will participate in independent and group writing assignments in which they will analyze legal issues and recommend courses of action for their simulated clients.
9. **Understand the implications of corporate social responsibility and ethical behavior:** BLAW 336 focuses extensively on business and legal ethics. One module of the course will address corporate social responsibility, and will cover the different ethical theories of corporate governance, and business and legal ethical issues will be discussed throughout the course. Students will be given exam questions raising an ethical issue, and students will be expected to analyze that issue and recommend an ethical course of action based upon the material they have learned in class. Ethical issues will also be an important area of emphasis for student discussions via online forums and chat sessions. For the distance education component, students will discuss corporate social responsibility and business ethics issues via online forums and internet chat sessions. Teams of students will also be asked to record and upload presentations on various issues and topics for the rest of the class to view.
10. **Integrate and value a global perspective, and demographic and cross-cultural diversity in a business environment:** The BLAW 336 course will be respectful and supportive of any and all opinions and points of view, and in fact will encourage students to contribute differing and even conflicting points of view based on their cultural and/or demographic backgrounds. The professors have found that having vigorous discussions - either face-to-face or online via internet forums and chat sessions - improves the quality of the course and increases student understanding and retention, and a more diverse classroom seems to contribute to more vigorous discussions. All three professors have taught internationally and are sensitive to cultural and other demographic issues. In addition, many of the cases the students will discuss will be international cases covering a wide range of global issues. For the distance education component, these discussions regarding global and diversity issues will occur online via internet forums and chat sessions. Teams of students will also be asked to record and upload presentations on various issues and topics for the rest of the class to view.

<p>How will the instructor-student and student-student interaction take place?* (if applicable)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online forums, primarily via D2L although the professors could choose another online forum platform. 2. Online chat sessions, either through D2L, Skype, Google Hangouts, or other online chat platform. 3. Email. 4. Telephone. 5. The professors may also post to D2L instructional videos, audio narratives of their Powerpoint slides, etc.
<p>How will student achievement be evaluated?</p>	<p>Students will be assessed based on the quality of their contributions to the online forums and chat sessions and by their performance on exams. Professors may choose to incorporate a peer assessment as part of the students' grade for their team-based contributions online. Professors may develop rubrics to guide student expectations and performance where appropriate.</p> <p>Summative assessments will include quizzes on which students will have to earn a minimum score before being allowed to move on to the next lecture or set of slides, group or individual writing assignments in which students will be asked to analyze a particular legal issue, apply rules of law to a set of facts, and advise a client on the best course of action, as well as midterm and final exams. Exams will consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.</p>
<p>How will academic honesty for tests and assignments be addressed?*</p>	<p>Within the course syllabus, students will be directed to review IUP's Academic Integrity Policy. Students will be required to submit all written assignments via the plagiarism prevention website, Turnitin. In addition, Eberly is currently testing the Proctorio service, which is used to prevent cheating on online exams. Assuming Eberly continues to use Proctorio going forward, BLAW 336 will use Proctorio for its online exams.</p>

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