School of Business Mission Statement
The Beacom School of Business' mission is excellence in undergraduate and graduate education that develops successful future business leaders. We deliver high value to our students, employers, and community through distinctive teaching and learning supported by significant intellectual and professional contributions and meaningful service.

Course Description: Legal Environment of Business is the study of legal topics as they apply to the business environment. Topics include an introduction to law, the U.S. court system, legal process, government regulation, and criminal, tort, and contract law.

Instructor: Tyler Custis, J.D., M.B.A.

Contact Information: Feel free to contact me at any time by phone or e-mail. I am also available to meet in person upon request. Please DO NOT contact me via D2L mail or the pager tool.

Phone: (605) 517-1574
E-Mail: tyler.custis@usd.edu


Class begins on May 15th and ends August 4th. The final examination is scheduled to be completed by the students during final exam week. The test must be completed between 8am on Monday, July 31st, and 5pm on Friday, August 4th. Do not expect the final examination time to be changed; make your plans accordingly.

Please Note: This course is available to students who have been accepted into a major in the Beacom School of Business. If you have not yet been accepted or are taking this course for other reasons, you must complete a waiver form and submit it to the Student Services Center in Beacom 101. Early submission is strongly recommended. If there are problems relating to your enrollment in the course, you will be notified. If you have not submitted a waiver form, you may be dropped from the course at your own expense. Waiver forms are available in the Student Services Center (Beacom 101) or on-line.
on the Business School Channel under the Student Services Center heading on the U.Portal. Accepted 
graduate students taking courses as prerequisites or electives are excluded from the waiver program. 

Course Goal: The goal of this course is to provide the student with a comprehensive introduction to 
the American legal system. Emphasis is placed on those topics which are particularly relevant to 
business transactions.

Lecture: 
Each week a lecture will be delivered on Monday at 5:30pm. It is not required that you “attend” these 
virtual classes. However, you will need to watch the recorded lecture at a convenient time. 

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories. 
2. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) describe the American legal and political systems. This includes an understanding of civil and 
criminal litigation processes, the basic structure of state and federal governments, and a basic 
understanding of the federal Constitution; 
2) describe how a business operates within the American legal framework. Students will be able 
to demonstrate knowledge of their legal responsibilities and liabilities in the areas of contracts, 
crimes, torts, employment law, and product liability law; 
3) demonstrate an understanding of their social and ethical responsibilities while engaged in 
business. This requires students to have an ability to apply representative legal theories when 
resolving business problems’
4) demonstrate an appreciation of the advantages and disadvantages of resolving disputes within 
the American legal system; and 
5) appreciate the complexity and resources needed in the leading and teamwork of peers in 
planning, coordination, direction, and execution of a challenging integrated business 
enterprise.

Undergraduate Exit Exam. The material presented in this course is part of the common body of 
knowledge for this discipline. Mastering the information presented in this course lays the foundation 
for your future success as a knowledgeable, well-rounded business professional. The course is 
designed to encourage you to commit this valuable information to your long-term memory. In 
addition to demonstrating mastery of this information throughout the course, you will also be required 
to demonstrate your retention of this critical common body of knowledge by achieving a satisfactory 
score on the Beacom School of Business’s exit exam which is part of BADM 482 Business Policy and 
Strategy. Achieving a satisfactory score on the exit exam is a graduation requirement. Be on notice 
you will see this subject matter again!

Student Responsibilities:

Exams (2 x 100 points each) 200 points
Discussions (3 x 20 points)  
Quizzes (5 x 20 points)  
Case Brief  
**Total**

60 points  
100 points  
20 points  
**380 points**

Grades will **NOT** be rounded. In borderline cases, it is the prerogative of the professor to give the higher of the two possible points **IF** such student has evinced to this professor a sincere effort to learn the material covered in this course, including taking full advantage of all extra credit opportunities. **No student's grade will be rounded up if they have not completed ALL possible extra credit opportunities.**

**Questions Concerning Grades:** All student grades are posted on in the gradebook through Desire2Learn that may be accessed at [https://d2l.sdbor.edu/index.asp](https://d2l.sdbor.edu/index.asp) to ensure grade point accuracy. Students have only five days (5) from grade posting to bring any errors to the instructor's attention, otherwise any errors are **waived.** Waiting until the end of the semester is not an option.

**Examinations:** Two exams will be given in this course as a means to practice what we have learned. The exams may use both objective and essay questions. All material assigned and presented is eligible for testing on the exam. If the material isn't important to know then it wouldn't be presented or assigned. Students will have one hour to complete an exam. The exams given during the semester must be **completed** by 11:59PM on Sunday of the week in which they are given. The final exam must be completed by 5:00PM on Friday, August 7th. Unless otherwise notified, students can expect to see exam grades posted in their D2L grade book within one week of the exam.

**Exam Policy:** University approved trips or hospitalization of the student generally are the only absences that will justify a make-up exam. You must notify the Instructor by phone or e-mail prior to an exam if you cannot take the exam at the scheduled time. Failure to give prior notice of your absence will result in a **zero** for that exam. Failure to take two exams at the regularly scheduled time is an indication that you do not have adequate time or desire to properly prepare for this class and you should consider dropping the course.

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**IMPORTANT:** The two examinations are to be taken in the presence of an approved proctor. The examinations are to be taken without any notes, books, Internet access, or other materials, devices, or resources. No makeup exams will be offered. Failure to take the examinations during the scheduled time frames will result in zero (0) points. Be sure to schedule time for the exams.

Exams must be taken in the presence of an approved proctor. All students, except those testing at the Vermillion Testing Center, must submit a proctor form on or before May 23, 2016. The proctor form can be found at [http://www.usd.edu/~media/files/usd-online/proctor-form.ashx?la=en](http://www.usd.edu/~media/files/usd-online/proctor-form.ashx?la=en) Complete this form and send it to Continuing Education at the address provided on the form by May 15th.
If your other classes also require a proctor, can now list multiple classes on one proctor form. If a student has multiple proctors, they must fill out a form for each proctor. If students live in Pierre, Rapid City, or Sioux Falls, they are no longer required to go a University Center Testing Center. However, students living in Vermillion will still be required to come to the USD testing center. If a student plans to test at a University Center Testing Center (Sioux Falls, Pierre, or Rapid) CDE needs to know in advance which center will be utilized for testing. Students can submit a proctor form or notify CDE via email or phone that they will be testing at a specific University Center. Proctors can be a professional testing center, librarian, full time instructor at a university or college, K-12 principal or superintendent, full time K-12 teacher, K-12 guidance counselors, or full time member of the clergy. For students in the armed forces, education officers or an officer of a higher rank are also permissible. CDE no longer approves human resources representatives or secretaries. To take the exams, you will go to your proctor’s location. The proctor is responsible for administering the test. In order to maintain academic integrity and quality in the Internet program, do not submit the name of a relative, close friend, or neighbor. All exams must be taken in a professional setting, not in a private home. Additionally, the examinations are closed book and you will not be permitted to use books, notes, the computer, electronic devices, or other materials for these examinations.

**Quizzes:** A quiz will be given for selected chapters assigned. Quizzes are worth 20 points each, for a total of 120 points. Quizzes must be *completed* by 11:59 PM CT on Sunday of the week for which it is assigned. **Makeup quizzes are not allowed.** Immediately after submitting a quiz, students will be able to view their quiz score, the student’s answers, and the correct answers. Each quiz score will also immediately be posted and visible in the student’s D2L grade book.

**Discussion Bonus Points:** Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit points by participating in discussions posted in the Discussion widget of the D2L course homepage. These opportunities will be announced under the News items on D2L. Students should read the instructions pertaining to each discussion on how to earn extra credit points. Students may be awarded all or a portion of the extra credit points available for each discussion based on whether and to what extent their participation in the discussion met the guidelines posted by the instructor. Extra credit points will be posted and visible in the student’s D2L grade book within one week of the due date for the discussion assignment.

**Course Sequencing:** This course is organized to operate on a weekly schedule. For purposes of this course, each week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Lectures and weekly reading quizzes will be posted at or before 8:00 AM CT on Monday of the week for which they are assigned. To the extent they are posted in advance, students may complete reading quizzes before the week in which they are assigned. However, no points will be awarded for reading quizzes completed after their due date. In other words, students may complete quizzes as scheduled or ahead of schedule, but not behind schedule. Exams will not be posted early and must be completed during the scheduled time.

**Weekly Work Activity:** Students are expected to complete the reading assigned from the text as well as any additional reading assigned for that week. Students are responsible for reading all of the assignments. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure these materials and all assigned chapters are mastered. Any problems or questions from any of the assigned readings should be addressed with
the Instructor. Reading assignments will be given for each class session. Extra credit will also be offered throughout the semester.

NETIQUETTE REGARDING DISCUSSION BOARDS, EMAILS, ETC.: General Netiquette guidelines can be found in the CE Online Orientation (http://www.usd.edu/~media/files/usd-online/online-orientation-guide.ashx?la=en). The expectations are to follow the basic rules of netiquette and to be courteous to all those in the class. Please type in complete sentences and follow the discussion board guidelines. Use only appropriate acronyms, for example DE for distance education and F2F for face to face. If you need assistance with a spell-checker, you can download a browser based spell-check at http://www.iespell.com or use FireFox. Please treat all communications in this class as you would in the business world. In other words, the expectations for communications are to be formal, using proper grammar, spelling and netiquette. For examples of proper netiquette, please refer to the CE Online Orientation at http://www.usd.edu/~media/files/usd-online/online-orientation-guide.ashx?la=en

Honor Code, Ethical Considerations, and Cheating Policy: Ethical behavior is an important part of the course not only as it relates to business behavior, but also as it relates to conducting one’s own personal conduct. Consequently, students are expected to conduct themselves in an honest, dignified and professional manner. Such behavior includes respecting the rights of others and the diversity of other cultures, nationalities, and beliefs, in particular in your work on the discussion boards. See the Beacom Student Code of Ethics. (portal link: http://link.usd.edu/1157). The BOR Student of Conduct Code also applies. Such behavior includes respecting the rights, opinions and beliefs of others, as well as the diversity of others. Failure to comply puts you at risk of being removed from the course. Cheating will result in being dropped from the course with a letter grade of “F.”

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as using the words and/or ideas of another representing them to be your own, without proper credit to the author or source. Plagiarism and cheating indicate a lack of respect for ethical considerations and social responsibilities. These practices will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, either intentional or unintentional, will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Because it is impossible to evaluate a plagiarized paper, no credit can be given.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person’s idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words (Writing Tutorial Services, Indiana University). If you have any questions or doubts regarding the appropriateness of citing a source or using a footnote please refer to a style manual such as MLA or APA. USD adheres to citation guidelines as prescribed by the particular discipline, (i.e., MLA or APA). All of these guidelines are available in the I.D. Weeks library or the bookstores. These texts outline how to cite references from a variety of sources, including the Internet. You are to use proper citation techniques for your paper. To learn more about citing sources appropriately go to the I.D. Weeks Library website: http://www.usd.edu/library/

For more information about MLA and APA, see the following websites.
  Modern Language Association (MLA) www.mla.org
Privacy of Student Records: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) provides that each student’s educational records remain private. No individual or group outside the educational institution shall have access to nor will the institution (including professors) disclose students’ educational records without written consent of the students. Because the professor cannot ensure that the student is the only one with access to the student’s email account, grades will not be provided via email. The student may access his/her final grade using WebAdvisor or WebCT.

Freedom in Learning: Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Special Assistance or Needs: Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester. For more information contact: Ernetta L. Fox, Director, Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center, (605) 677-6389, www.usd.edu/ds; dservices@usd.edu.

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