



New York University

A Private University in the Public Service

Course Details	Law, Business & Society SOIM-UB 9006 4 points
Instructor Contact Information	Name: John Leary Email: jleary@whitecase.com Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM
Class Time	Tuesdays, 1:00-4:00 PM
Course Description	<p>The Law, Business and Society course builds on prior coursework within the Social Impact Core Curriculum by challenging students to think about legal systems and appreciate how they have evolved and continue to evolve in relation to business and society. The interaction between law and business is multi-dimensional involving social, political, ethical and technological considerations. Students will examine how key areas of business law influence the structure of domestic and international business relationships, while honing their analytical, communication, conflict resolution and team problem solving skills. The students will learn how businesses play an active role in shaping the very laws that govern them through lobbying, public relations and the media.</p> <p>The learning objectives of this course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To familiarize students with some of the legal dilemmas that can arise in the course of business practice;2) To introduce students to how professionals effectively navigate complex problems that lack a clear right answer; and3) To provide students with the opportunity to articulate and defend courses of action coherent with their own values. <p>These themes are developed in reference to a series of readings drawn from judicial decisions, statutes, recent news reports, multimedia (videos, podcasts, etc.) and materials specifically drafted for this course by NYU Stern faculty. The course readings are posted on Blackboard, and students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings for that class session and reflected upon their meaning. Class discussion is a critical component of this course.</p> <p>Each class session may include a variety of activities, including: discussion, in-class reading and writing, role-playing, and other participatory exercises. These activities will be designed and facilitated by the professor to allow students to engage in reflective dialogue with each other. The overarching themes of this dialogue include: the relationship between law, business and society; the foundations of individual rights; and the role each of society's stakeholders play in infringing or protecting such individual rights.</p> <p>Written assignments build upon the classroom discussion. Each assignment requires that the students assume a hypothetical role such as a legislative</p>

	assistant, editorial writer, advocate or judicial clerk and present persuasive arguments justifying a position on a particular issue. In some assignments students will argue opposing positions to encourage debate.
Grading Components	<p>1. Individual Legal Assignments</p> <p>Students will complete three written “assignments,” 3 to 4 pages in length (typed in 12-point font and double spaced with 1” margins), which analyze specific issues introduced in the course, synthesize these issues in reference to the cases and the readings, and present reflective arguments about legal issues within the context of business and society. Each of these assignments will be completed individually.</p> <p>All students are required to submit their papers using the Assignments tab on Blackboard. Integrated within Blackboard is Turnitin, an online plagiarism prevention and detection software that enables faculty to compare the content of submitted assignments to data on the Internet, commercial databases, and previous papers submitted to the system. Additional information about expectations regarding academic integrity appears below.</p> <p>2. Group Work Assignment: U.S. Supreme Court Debate</p> <p>In addition to the Legal Assignments, students will work in groups to debate pending U.S. Supreme Court cases. Students will present their team’s legal position as either appellee or appellant to the class. Students will work together and share the responsibility. Debate preparation will take place throughout the second half of the semester. The debates will take place during the last 2 days of class.</p> <p>3. Final Exam</p> <p>4. Classroom Participation</p>
Instructor Bio	John Leary is the managing partner of the Shanghai office of White & Case LLP, an international law firm headquartered in New York.
Grading Expectations	<p>A: Excellent performance showing a thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics of the course; all work includes clear, logical explanations, insight, and original thought and reasoning.</p> <p>B: Good performance with general knowledge and understanding of the topics; all work includes general analysis and coherent explanations showing some independent reasoning, reading and research.</p> <p>C: Satisfactory performance with some broad explanation and reasoning; the work will typically demonstrate an understanding of the course on a basic level.</p> <p>D: Passable performance showing a general and superficial understanding of the course’s topics; work lacks satisfactory insight, analysis or reasoned explanations.</p> <p>F: Unsatisfactory performance in all assessed criteria.</p>

Activities	Optional and suggested trips and events will be discussed throughout the semester.
Attendance Policy	<p>NYU Shanghai has a strict policy about course attendance that allows no unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence will result in the deduction of three percentage points from the final grade. More than two unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.</p> <p>Students should contact their instructors to catch up on missed work but should not approach them for excused absences. All absences due to illness require a signed doctor's note from a local facility as proof that you have been ill and have sought treatment for that illness. Non-illness absences must be discussed with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs or the Program Director prior to the date(s) in question.</p> <p>Students are expected to arrive to class promptly both at the start of class and after breaks. Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes early can be considered an unexcused absence.</p> <p>Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an exam by the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, your instructor will decide how you will make up the exam.</p> <p>This attendance policy also applies for classes involving a field trip or other off-campus visit. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the agreed meeting point on time.</p> <p>There will be no adjustment of attendance records after the end of the semester. If you wish to contest a marked absence, you must do so before you leave Shanghai; if you think that there may be a discrepancy about your attendance in class on a given day, ask the NYU Shanghai academic staff to let you look at the attendance record.</p>
Submission of Late Work	<p>Written work due in class must be submitted during class time.</p> <p>Late work should be submitted <i>in person</i> to the Academic Affairs Office during regular office hours (9:30-6:00, Monday-Friday). The staff will mark down the date and time of submission in the presence of the student.</p> <p>Work submitted within five weekdays will be penalized one portion of a grade for every day that it is late (so if it is late by one day, an assignment marked an "A" will be changed to an "A-," and so on). Work submitted more than five days after the due date without an agreed extension will be given a zero.</p> <p>Please note that final essays must be submitted on time.</p>
Plagiarism Policy	<p><i>Plagiarism</i>: the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.</p> <p>Students must retain an electronic copy of their work until final grades are posted on Albert. They must be prepared to supply an electronic copy if requested to do so by NYU Shanghai. Not submitting a copy of their work upon</p>

	request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are in line with the policies of your home school.
Required Text(s)	Blackboard readings.

	Class Date	Lecture / Participation	Assignment
		INTRODUCTION TO LAW	
1	Tuesday 8/30	Sources of Law, Federal & State Courts, Stare Decisis & Precedent Jurisdiction, Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution	Blackboard Readings
2	Tuesday 9/6	US Constitution, Federal, State & Individual Rights Criminal Law	Blackboard Readings
		CONTRACTS	
3	Tuesday 9/13	Introduction to Contracts Agreement and Consideration	Blackboard Readings
4	Friday 9/16	Legality, Capacity, Statute of Frauds & Parol Evidence Rule Defenses	Blackboard Readings
5	Tuesday 9/20	Performance & Conditions, Remedies	Blackboard Readings
	Tuesday 9/27	Holiday – No class	

	Tuesday 10/4	No class	
	Friday 10/7 (Make- Up Day for Tuesday classes)	No class	
6	Tuesday 10/11	Agency and Fiduciary Duty	Blackboard Readings
		TORTS & PRODUCT LIABILITY	
7	Tuesday 10/18	Introduction/Intentional Torts Negligence/Strict Liability & Defenses	Blackboard Readings
8	Tuesday 10/25	Product Liability	Blackboard Readings
		EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS	
	Tuesday 11/1	Study Break – no class	
9	Tuesday 11/8	Employment Law	Blackboard Readings
10	Tuesday 11/15	Intellectual Property	Blackboard Readings
		BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS	
11	Tuesday 11/22	Overview & Partnerships Corporations/Limited Liability Companies	Blackboard Readings
12	Tuesday 11/29	Securities Fraud	Blackboard Readings
13	Tuesday 12/6	Debates	Blackboard Readings
14	Friday 12/9	Debates	Blackboard Readings
	Tuesday 12/3	Final Exam	

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