

Syllabus – WINTER INTERSESSION 2024-2025

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up to date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course Information

The meaning of law and the structure of the legal and regulatory system are studied with a view toward the impact of law upon the operation of business. Key philosophies of ethics and social responsibility are examined through the lens of stakeholder analysis and other analytical tools. This course examines the institutional foundations of law including court systems, court procedures, and constitutional law. The application of law to shape the legal environment of business through government regulation and legal liability is examined through exploration of tort and product liability, worker protection, and business organization law.

Instructor Information

Professor: Mark Spurling, J.D.

Email: mark.spurling@uconn.edu

Office Hours/Availability: By appointment

Course Materials

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

The Legal Environment Today: The Legal Environment Today 10th Edition By Roger LeRoy Miller and Frank B. Cross

https://uconn.bncollege.com/c/The-Legal-Environment-Today/p/MBS_9390651_dg?currentCampus=8207

Required Materials:

- **All students:** Computer with webcam and internet capabilities for accessing course materials and completing assessments.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING:

Links to reading material will be posted in learning modules in our course HuskyCT site. It is your responsibility to access each link and read the associated content as it relates to topics covered in lectures.

Course Format and Objectives

The course evaluations consist of 4 assessments and 1 HuskyCT discussion post and 2 reflection papers. There is no cumulative final exam in this course.

In order to provide further enrichment to the learning experience and to increase the depth of mastery of course content, 1 discussion post and 2 reflection papers are required. These assignments allow students to familiarize themselves with various business practices and how the legal and ethical environment of business may be interpreted through various stakeholder lenses allowing students to develop an ability to become more aware of these issues in business and society.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to understand and speak the 'language of law' with respect to key terms and concepts. Furthermore, students will have an ability to recognize the relevance of law and ethics in their lives today as members of society and as emergent members of the business community. As such, students should be able to apply their knowledge to understand real-world legal issues and increased ethical awareness aimed at improving the business world and society as a whole.

Course Outline

ASSIGNED CHAPTERS for 10th Ed:

- Chapter 1 Business and Its Legal Environment
- Chapter 3 Ethics and Business Decision Making
- Chapter 2 Courts & Alternate Dispute Resolution
- Chapter 4 Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business
- Chapter 5 Torts/Product Liability
- Chapter 6 Criminal Law
- Chapter 8 Intellectual Property
- Chapter 17 Small Business Organizations
- Chapter 18 Corporations
- Chapter 14 Agency
- Chapter 15 Employment/Labor Law

Exam 1 January 3rd : Legal Environment (sources of law), Ethics, Courts & ADR

Exam 2 January 8th : Constitutional, Tort

Exam 3 January 13th : Criminal, Intellectual Property

Exam 4 January 17th: Small Bus Orgs, Corps, Agency, Employment/Labor

No cumulative final examination

MATERIALS COVERED ON EXAMINATIONS:

Each examination will test assigned chapters in the text, materials covered in class lectures, class videos and relevant handouts/assigned links, videos.

Completion of papers and exams must be your own work. **You must complete papers and exams with your own knowledge and NO help from other individuals.**

Course Requirements and Grading

Course Components	Weight
2 Reflection Papers: (16% total)	21 %
HuskyCT Discussion Post: (5% total)	
<p style="text-align: center;">Four Exams (79% total, 19.75% each)</p> <p>Exam 1: January 3rd Exam 2: January 8th Exam 3: January 13th Exam 4: January 17th</p>	79%

Written Assignments:

“AMAZON EMPIRE” documentary: Deadline: paper must be uploaded via safe assign to HuskyCT by January 6, 2025 11:59 P.M.

Eight percent (8%) of grade. Failure to post by the January 6, 2025 deadline will result in a final grade reduction of 8 points (on a 100 point basis scale).

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/amazon-empire/>

This assignment is NOT a film review or book review, but an expression of your personal reactions to experiencing the documentary. Your paper should indicate what you have learned about the legal system or what opinions you have formed about the legal system or what previously held opinions about the legal system have been either challenged or confirmed as a result of this assignment. Papers should be 2-3 pages, double spaced, typewritten, with one-inch margins and 12 point font (no longer than 3 pages – 600 word minimum, 750 word limit).

WRITTEN PAPER:

“Hot Coffee”: **Deadline: must be uploaded via safe assign to HuskyCT by JANUARY 14, 2025 11:59 P.M.**

Eight percent (8%) of the grade. Failure to provide the paper by the **JANUARY 14, 2025** deadline will result in a final grade reduction of 8 points (on a 100 point basis scale).

<https://tubitv.com/movies/310498/hot-coffee>

https://www.amazon.com/Hot-Coffee-Joan-Claybrook/dp/B07GJ1GZX3/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=HOT+COFFEE+DOCUMENTARY&qid=1610985285&s=instant-video&sr=1-1

https://kaltura.uconn.edu/media/hot_coffee/1_5u0b5jn2/148787961

This assignment is NOT a film review or book review, but an expression of your personal reactions to experiencing the documentary. Your paper should indicate what you have learned about the legal system or what opinions you have formed about the legal system or what previously held opinions about the legal system have been either challenged or confirmed as a result of this assignment. Papers should be 2-3 pages, double spaced, typewritten, with one-inch margins and 12 point font (no longer than 3 pages – 600 word minimum, 750 word limit).

“HARD NOX” documentary: Deadline: Discussion post must be uploaded to HuskyCT by January 17, 2025 11:59 P.M.

Five percent (5%) of grade. Failure to post by the January 17, 2025 deadline will result in a final grade reduction of 5 points (on a 100 point basis scale).

<https://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Hard%20Nox>

Your discussion post should be thoughtful and should indicate how you feel about VW’s business practices. Evaluate the video through the viewpoints of the various VW stakeholders. Post should be 200-300 words.

Optional Extra Credit Reaction Paper (you may choose 1):

Successful completion may add up to 8 points to your exam total points. **Deadline: must be uploaded via safe assign to HuskyCT by January 17, 2025 11:59 P.M.**

Please note a mere factual summary or review of the media involved does not meet the assignments requirements. *This assignment is an expression of your personal reactions to experiencing the movie or book. Your paper should indicate what you have learned about the legal system or what opinions you have formed about the legal system or what previously held opinions about the legal system have been either challenged or confirmed as a result of this assignment.* Papers should be 1-2 pages, double spaced, typewritten, with one-inch margins and 12 point font (no longer than 2 pages – 250 word minimum, 300 word limit).

PBS Frontline documentary “BLACK MONEY”:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-black-money/>

OR

“DARK WATERS” film:

Your paper should be thoughtful and should indicate how you feel about Dupont’s business practices. Evaluate the video through the viewpoints of the various Dupont stakeholders.

<https://www.amazon.com/Dark-Waters-Mark-Ruffalo/dp/B081FJP1YN>

<https://www.hulu.com/movie/dark-waters-ce68e001-b87a-4298-a354-54d4cfd62f25>

Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
92.5-100	A	4.0
89.5-92.499	A-	3.7
86.5-89.499	B+	3.3
82.5-86.499	B	3.0
79.5-82.499	B-	2.7
76.5-79.499	C+	2.3
72.5-76.499	C	2.0
69.5-72.499	C-	1.7
66.5-69.499	D+	1.3
62.5-66.499	D	1.0
59.5-62.499	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the HuskyCT learning modules and assignment folders. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly.

If an exam is not administered in the class room it will be available on the dates set forth with respondus lockdown browser between 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Students will be allowed 60 minutes to complete the assessment; ensure you start your exam in a timely manner to complete by 5:30 p.m.

Professor Spurling reserves the right to change dates when needed as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an announcement in HuskyCT with an associated email. You are expected to regularly check email for the duration of this course for communication from Professor Spurling.

All assignments are to be completed by the identified due date. No assignment will be accepted late unless documentation of a **serious situation** which caused you to miss the deadline is provided to Professor Spurling. Upon review of the situation, Professor Spurling will determine **whether or not** an extension, makeup or alternate assignment will be allowed.

Feedback and Grades

To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to 'My Grades' in HuskyCT. Exams are automatically graded upon submission. Reflection papers require grading by Professor Spurling. Generally, students can anticipate grades associated with these submissions to be posted one week after submission.

Weekly Time Commitment

You should expect to dedicate a minimum of 27 hours a week to this course. This expectation is based on the various course activities, assignments, and assessments as well as the University of Connecticut's policy regarding credit hours. More information related to hours per week per credit can be accessed at the [Online Student website](#). *Overall, your success is directly correlated with your level of commitment. Students will perform best when treating this like a job and giving it the priority it needs in your schedule.*

Student Authentication and Verification

The University of Connecticut is required to verify the identity of students who participate in online courses and to establish that students who register in an online course are the same students who participate in, complete the course activities and assessments, and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

1. Secure access to the learning management system using your unique UConn NetID and password.
2. Completion of weekly quizzes and exams will require Respondus LockDown Browser with Monitor (webcam). Students must provide an approved photo ID* at the start of each of these assessments.

Proctoring Assessments:

Exams will be completed using Respondus LockDown Browser with Monitor (Webcam). You must show your approved photo ID* at the start of each assessment to confirm your identity. Professor Spurling will be viewing recordings to confirm identity and adherence to assessment policies including thorough environmental scans. Failure to follow strict exam instructions, including thorough environmental scans, may result in no credit for the exam. Exams must be taken during our regular scheduled class time.

*Approved photo identification includes the following: husky one card (UCONN ID), passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Credit Hours and Workload
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships • Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on

disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

Software/Technical Requirements (with Accessibility and Privacy Information)

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard ([HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement](#), [HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) ([Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement](#), [Adobe Reader Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) ([Microsoft Accessibility Statement](#), [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#))
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).
- WebCam

For information on managing your privacy at the University of Connecticut, visit the [University's Privacy page](#).

NOTE: This course has NOT been designed for use with mobile devices.

Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the [Help Center](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you benefit from having the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.