

# JINAN UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Business Law

**Lecturer:** Michael Barry

**Time:** Monday through Friday (June 18, 2018-July 20, 2018)

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Total Contact hours:** 60(50 minutes each)

**Credits:** 4

**Location:** Huiquan Building 518

**E-mail:** [barry@msmary.edu](mailto:barry@msmary.edu)

### Course Description

In today's rapidly-evolving and globalized business world, in which commerce crosses so many national and international boundaries, an understanding of the numerous applicable legal issues is crucial. This course provides an introduction to international business law from a practical and realistic, very modern perspective. The goal is to furnish students with the information and analytical tools necessary to grasp the legal considerations important to contemporary businesses and business transactions.

In addition to providing a general introduction to the American legal system, this course will focus on specific business-oriented legal topics such as contracts, e-commerce, corporations, partnerships, intellectual property, international/world trade law, cyber piracy, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

### The textbooks:

Business Law, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Cheeseman (published in 2013 by Prentice Hall/ Pearson) ISBN-10: 0132890410, ISBN-13: 9780132890410

### Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

### Grading Policy

Grades will be determined as follows: **30 % for the midterm exam, 30 % for the final exam and 30%** for a research paper and presentation on a topic of comparative law between US Business Law and Peoples Republic of China Business Law. In addition, **10% of the grade will be for attendance and active participation.** Our Classroom sessions are designed to be **highly interactive**, with a large Component of direct participation and discussion from every student. I will further use videos and movies to reinforce the major principles of the course and enhance the learning experience.

### Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Failed	E	Below 60

### Course Schedule

#### Week 1

Chapter1: Legal Heritage and the Digital Age

Chapter2: Courts and Jurisdiction

Chapter3: Judicial,Alternative,and E-Dispute Resolution

Chapter7: Intellectual Property and Cyber Piracy

Chapter8: Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes

Chapter9: Nature of Traditional and E-Contracts

Chapter10: Agreement

## **Week 2**

Chapter11: Consideration and Promissory Estoppel

Chapter12: Capacity and Legality

Chapter13: Genuineness of Assent and Undue Influence

Chapter14: Statute of Frauds and Equitable Exceptions

Chapter15: Third-Party Rights and Discharge

Chapter16: Remedies for Breach of Traditional and E-Contracts

Chapter17: E-Commerce and Digital Law

## **Week 3**

Chapter34: Small Business,Entrepreneurship,and General Partnerships

Chapter35: Limited Partnerships and Special Partnerships

Chapter36: Corporate Formation and Financing

Chapter37: Corporate Governance and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act

Chapter38: Corporate Acquisitions and Multinational Corporations

Chapter39: Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships

## **Week 4**

Chapter40: Franchises and Special Forms of Business

Chapter41: Investor Protection,E-Securities,and Wall Street Reform

Chapter42: Ethics and Social Responsibility of Business

Chapter43: Administrative Law and Regulatory Agencies

Chapter44: Consumer Protection and Product Safety

Chapter45: Environmental Protection

Chapter46: Antitrust Law and Unfair Trade Practices

### **Week 5**

Chapter 29: Agency Formation and Termination

Chapter 30: Liability of Principals, Agents, and Independent Contractors

Chapter 31: Employment, Worker Protection, and Immigration Law

Chapter 32: Labor Law and Collective Bargaining

Chapter 33: Equal Opportunity in Employment

Chapter 54: International and World Trade Law

### **Academic Honesty**

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.