Welcome to Business Law 211. This is a “late-start” 100% online class. It begins March 2 on a shortened schedule and concludes June 4. That means we will be covering material much more quickly than in a traditional 16-week semester. The course is 100% online, so all assignments will be completed over the internet.

In this course, we will learn about the foundations of the American legal system, and particularly how legal principles affect the conduct of business. We will cover key legal areas, such as contracts, banking transactions and business organizations. As well, we will explore emerging areas of business law, including e-commerce. Our goal is twofold: first, we want to learn basic legal principles that affect business; second, we want to understand how to identify potential legal concerns as they affect business. In learning, we will use objective assessments (multiple choice), discussion boards, case problems and written research and analysis to measure success.

To participate in class, you will need:

- Access to a computer with a minimum of 56 kbps connection (Broadband recommended) with either Internet Explorer 5.0 or Mozilla Firefox;
- Microsoft Windows 95 or higher with Microsoft Word;
- Access to Blackboard and PowerPoint;
- Familiarity with the above programs (if not, please consider enrolling in COUNS 070); and
- The textbooks and all materials for this class are included for you on Blackboard. You do not need to purchase any materials. Free links will be provided to you through your course site. You will have the option to purchase hard copies of the text if you choose, but are encouraged to try the free online version first (you can print out select pages as you wish).

You will need to log in at least three times a week to keep up with your assignments, announcements, discussions and other postings. Subject to the time frames set in the Syllabus (e.g., you will have one week to complete exams), you may log in at any time you wish. There are no group assignments, but you will communicate asynchronously (not necessarily at the same time) with your classmates.
Please note also that there is no final exam, but there will be multiple chapter exams each week.

This class uses Blackboard, and you are required to take the Blackboard orientation at http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/OnlineOrientation/

The course will be located at http://bb.canyons.edu.

A Syllabus and other detailed information will be available on the Blackboard site for the course on the first day of class. As you will read on our course site, I encourage you to contact me immediately with any questions or concerns. I will make every effort to respond to your message within 24 hours. If you have a question, please ask. Do not hesitate to call me directly either.

If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully participating in this class, please let me know immediately. If you are not sure whether an online class is right for you, call me. All inquiries are confidential.

Finally, I have been teaching law courses online for six years. In that time, I have seen a number of students do very well in an online format, while others have struggled. Why do students thrive, while others fall behind? There are two keys to success beyond mastery of the subject. First, make a schedule and stick with it. Since we do not meet as a class, you are directly responsible for keeping yourself on track to complete the work. I will prod you if you fall behind, but the responsibility ultimately rests with you (students also tell me the development of personal responsibility is one of benefits of online courses). Second, ask questions. Do not get lost in cyberspace. I cannot see a puzzled look on your face when you are online. If you have a question or concern, you must communicate it to me. I have tried to anticipate and answer many of your potential concerns, but new questions arise. Ask me!

Good luck in class. I look forward to seeing you online.

Sincerely,

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