

Community College of Rhode Island
Criminal Justice & Legal Studies Department

Law of Business Organizations

On-Campus Course Syllabus

(Web-Enhanced through Blackboard)

Instructor: Dr. Daniel J. Donovan
Room 3081 Phone 825-2315
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Web Site: <http://www.donovanlegalstudies.com>

TEXT: Business Law Today: Comprehensive 8th Edition
CCRI Customized Paperback with selected chapters
Authors: Miller & Jentz

Course Summary

This course involves a study of the formation and operation of the different legal forms under which a business enterprise may be organized: sole proprietorships, general partnerships, limited partnerships and companies, and corporations of various types. The course will also include a study of the legal relationships that arise as business is conducted: principal & agent; employer & employee; and employer & independent contractor. The legal duties, rights, and liabilities of the parties involved in these relationships will be explored.

We will start the course with a historical introduction to Agency and Employment Law so that the student can understand the origins of many of today's legal rules involving this area. After this introduction, the chapters on Agency and Employment Law in the business law textbook that are listed on the next page will be covered. Next, the course will explore the variety of legal forms that a business could take and the factors which must be explored in deciding on the appropriate legal form for a particular business venture. The formation, dissolution, and operation of General Partnerships will then be addressed. The course will then deal with the most complex and most financially dominant form of business organization - the corporation.

The objective of the course is to have the student become familiar with and understand the legal terms and concepts used in the areas of law being studied, so that the student will be able to comprehend and deal with the impact of the law on his or her personal and business life. All persons who work for a living, whether as an owner or an employee of a business, need to understand their rights and responsibilities under Agency and Employment Law. Those who own businesses must know, and those who work for a business should know, how a business is legally organized and what effect the legal form has on them.

This is a web-enhanced course as we will be using the Blackboard learning management system as a supplement to the course. All PowerPoint presentations and handouts will be placed on Blackboard for students to review, and all tests and assignments will be through Blackboard.

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Course Reading Assignments*

Handout	Law of Agency Introduction	
Chapter 28	Agency Relationships in Business	p. 682
Chapter 40	Employment, Labor & Immigration Law	p. 951
Chapter 29	Sole Proprietorships & Private Franchises	p. 711
Chapter 30	Partnerships	p. 727
Chapter 31	Limited Liability Companies & Special Business Forms	p. 750
Chapter 32	Corporate Formation and Financing	p. 764
Chapter 33	Corporate Directors, Officers & Shareholders	p. 791

* Individual chapters may be purchased in electronic format at www.ichapters.com

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Course Information and Requirements

Course Testing & Assignments: There will be three multiple choice tests given during the semester, and all three tests must be taken to complete the course. If all three tests are not taken, the student will receive a withdrawal for the course, unless the student has a valid excuse for not completing the tests and arranges with the instructor for an incomplete grade. There will also be two written assignments given during the semester

Blackboard Learn: Course tests will be taken online through Blackboard and assignments will be submitted there. Tests will be open for one week and assignments will be open for two weeks. Any assignment submitted late or test taken late will have 10 points deducted.

Grading Policy: Each of the three tests will count for one-fourth of the final course grade. The two written assignments count for the remaining 25% of the grade. Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, CCRI now uses Plus/Minus Grading as set out the college catalog.

Attendance Policy & Grading: The instructor will take attendance for all class sessions. Attendance will be used in grading in two ways. First, if a student's grade is borderline between two grade levels, a good attendance record in that case would result in the student receiving the higher of the two grades. Second, any student who misses more than three weeks worth of the scheduled class sessions will have their final grade for the course reduced by one full grade level, and any student who misses more than five weeks worth of the scheduled class sessions will receive a withdrawal for the course. Each evening class session, which meets only once a week, will be counted as two classes. If a student leaves an evening class after a break, this will be counted as one absence.

Voice Mail & E-Mail: If a student needs to get in touch with the instructor, he or she may leave a voice mail message at 825-2315 at the Warwick Campus of CCRI. The instructor's office is in Room 3081 at the CCRI Warwick Campus. The instructor's e-mail address is: ddonovan@ccri.edu. Use of e-mail is encouraged as it is easier for the instructor to respond to questions or requests at any time.

Classroom Behavior: It is the responsibility of the instructor to protect the learning environment in the classroom from disruptive behavior for the benefit of all of the students in the class. Examples of disruptive behavior include: sleeping in class, talking between students or passing notes, excessive or chronic lateness, grandstanding, use of cell phones for text messaging or otherwise (which shall be turned off or set on vibrate during class), verbal or physical threats, and derogatory language. The instructor reserves the right to ask a student to leave class due to disruptive behavior, eject a student from the course, or mark down a student's grade as may be appropriate for the circumstances in the sole discretion of the instructor. Students will not use laptop computers in the classroom without first obtaining permission from the instructor.

About the Instructor: Professor Daniel J. Donovan holds a law degree (Juris Doctor) from Rutgers Law School in New Jersey. Prior to law school, he received a degree in political science from Villanova University in Pennsylvania. He was admitted to practice as a lawyer in Rhode Island in 1972. He was involved in continuing legal education for lawyers for 12 years and authored several books and pamphlets for lawyers including "Title Searching in Rhode Island" and "R.I. Landlord & Tenant Law". Your instructor has taught at CCRI full time since 1989 teaching business law, paralegal studies, and law enforcement courses, and had previously taught part-time at CCRI and other colleges. Your instructor is the author of five textbooks: Legal Research in Rhode Island, Survey of the Law of Property & Estates, Civil Procedure for R.I. Paralegals, Survey of RI Law of Torts, and Introduction to Paralegal Studies.