

Course Outline

Course Code	: BSP1702/BSP1702X
Course Title	: Legal Environment of Business
Semester	: Semester 2, Academic Year 2023/2024
Faculty	: Damien Xing (Course Coordinator), Jack Teo, S Sharma, Fatima Minhas
Department	: Strategy & Policy
Email	: dxing@edu.sg
URL	: https://bschool.nus.edu.sg/strategy-policy/faculty/
Telephone	: -

Overview

This course is intended to equip students who will be future business managers with legal knowledge that is relevant to commercial transactions so that they can, not only understand the rights and obligations of a business, but also take appropriate actions, both before and after the problem arises – so as to reduce possible negative impact on the business or to advance the interests of the business. The course will also discuss the interaction between law and ethics and further some international (particularly Asian) comparisons and e-commerce issues will be addressed in order to prepare students for a world which is highly globalised and digitalised.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- (1) predict the legal outcomes for common problems that may arise in a typical business setting;
- (2) take appropriate measures (both law and non-law related) to deal with such problems before/after they arise; and
- (3) articulate views relating to the subject at least in a class setting.

Part 1

The course starts off introducing the legal environment in which a business operates and topics covered include the relationship between business and law on one hand and ethics and law on the other.

In addition, the different commercial dispute resolution methods, including mediation and arbitration, will be highlighted, the latter being particularly significant in the international business context.

Further, issues pertaining to legal advice, in particular, the importance of giving proper instructions and how otherwise, the interests of a business may be adversely affected, will also be addressed.

Part II

One of the first questions that an entrepreneur would face, namely, what sort of vehicle should he choose to run his business. The business structures covered are sole-proprietorships, partnerships, companies, limited liability partnerships, limited partnerships and joint ventures. A cost-benefit approach will be used to highlight the differences between these various structures.

Part III

A business would deal with a whole range of persons, including suppliers, bankers, financiers, distributors, marketers, insurers, transporters, warehousemen, landlords, contractors, franchisees, agents, employees and consumers. A business's relationship with all these parties is primarily governed by contract and it is estimated that nearly 85% of business disputes are contractual in nature. Thus it is crucial that a business manager has good understanding of how contracts work.

Topics covered include general contractual principles as well as contractual principles relating to specific situations such as those relating to the sale of products and services.

Part IV

Besides incurring liabilities or acquiring rights under a contract, a business may also incur liabilities or acquire rights on other grounds.

Topics covered encompass, negligence liability of a business, including that of manufacturers, distributors, importers, developers, contractors, employers, accountants, stockbrokers and bankers.

General Guide & Reading

A. Textbook

Ravi Chandran, Introduction to Business Law in Singapore (McGraw-Hill, 6th Edition)

B. Reference Books

Walter Woon on Company Law (Sweet & Maxwell, Revised 3rd Edition)

Andrew Phang, The Law of Contract in Singapore (Academy Publishing, 2nd Edition)

Atiyah and Adams' Sale of Goods (Pearson, 14th Edition)

Assessment

Assessment Components	Weightage
Take-home Group Assignment I	20%
Take-home Group Assignment II	10%
Individual Class Participation	20%
Final Examination (MCQ & Short Questions)	50%

Further details about Assessment will be shared in Seminar 1.

For Take-Home Group Assignments, each group would usually consist of 5 students.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty is essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of

information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubt, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

Schedule and Outline

Lesson/ Week	Date	Topic	Chapter	Activity (preparation / cases & assignments / follow-up readings & resources)
1	-	Introduction to Law, Ethics and Dispute Resolution	-	-
2	-	Setting up a Business I	-	-
3	-	Setting up a Business II	-	Complete Tutorial 1 before class
4	-	Entering into a Contract	-	Complete Tutorial 2 before class; Watch video on ‘Contract Variation’ after class
5	-	Understanding Terms of Contract	-	Complete Tutorial 3 before class; Watch video on ‘Implied Terms’ after class
6	-	Avoiding Factors Affecting Contracts	-	Complete Tutorial 4 before class; Watch video on ‘Parties to Contract’ after class
Recess	-	-	-	-
7	-	Terminating the Contract	-	Complete Tutorial 5 before class
8	-	Suing for Breach of Contract	-	Complete Tutorial 6 before class
9	-	Contract Drafting – Reading and understanding a standard contract	-	Complete Tutorial 7 before class; Attempt Sample Contract Exercise and watch video on ‘Contract Drafting’ before class
10	-	Dealing with Product Liability	-	-
11	-	Preventing other Liabilities (Negligence, Vicarious Liability)	-	Complete Tutorial 8 before class
12	-	Wrap Up, Practice Paper	-	Complete Tutorial 9 before class
13	-	Revision & Submission of Take-home Group Assignment II	-	-