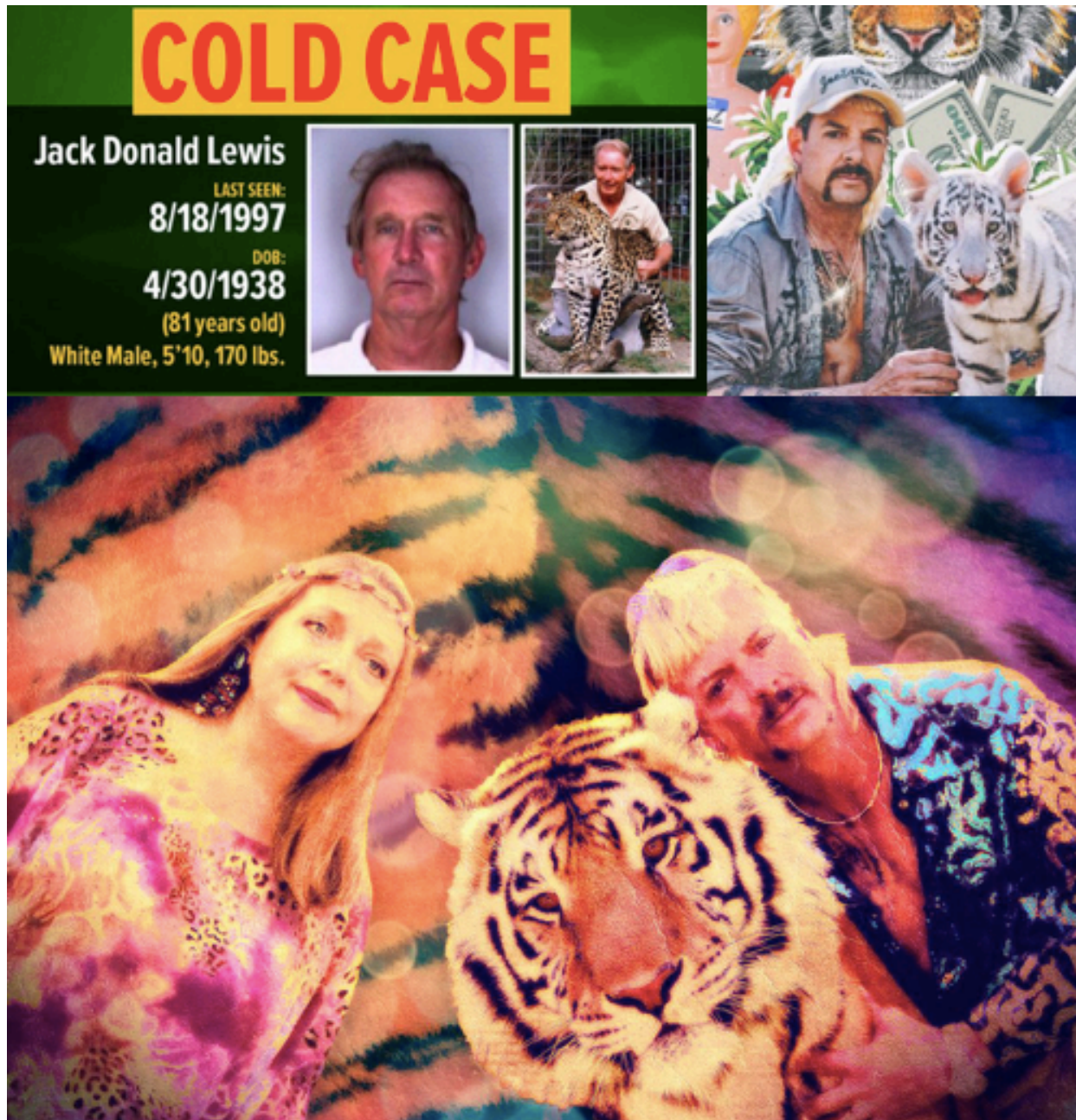


The Legal & Ethical Environment of Business (BUL3130)



Fall Syllabus
Dr. F. E. Guerra-Pujol
University of Central Florida

Description of the Course



Are you Team Carole or Team Joe? This term, we will explore the legal and ethical environments of business firms through the lens of the hit Netflix docuseries “Tiger King.” Among other things, we will identify the main sources of law that apply to most business firms, including State, federal, and international law. We will then study the common law, including contracts, torts, and property. The common law is an important area of law that applies to every single business firm, even a private zoo like Carole Baskin’s non-profit Big Cat Rescue or Joe Exotic’s for-profit G.W. Zoo. Next, we will explore the law of ideas (intellectual property rights) and see why this area of law is so essential for modern-day business firms. Also, it turns out the Million-Dollar lawsuit between the two central characters in Tiger King—Carole Baskin and Joe Exotic—involved intellectual property rights! Later, we will explore the criminal case against Joe Exotic as well as the criminal allegations against Carole Baskin. We will also distinguish between civil and criminal liability and explore the main aspects of civil and criminal cases. Last but not least, we will conclude this course with an exploration of ethics, including animal rights and corporate social responsibility.



Course Materials; Internet Connection



Course Materials: In this course, we will be using the following textbook: Sean Melvin, *The Legal Environment of Business*. Any edition of this textbook is fine; no Connect code required. Also, we will be watching all seven episodes of the first (and so far only) season of “Tiger King: Murder, Madness, and Mayhem,” which is available on Netflix, a popular on-demand movie streaming service. Lastly, the Professor will post some supplementary reading materials on Canvas (UCF Webcourses). These supplementary materials will consist of book chapters, law cases, legislative materials, law review articles, and other legal and ethical readings.

Internet Connection: Students will need access to a reliable Internet connection during this entire semester because all the assignments, video lectures, and supplementary readings in this course will be posted on Canvas (UCF Webcourses). As a result, your grade in this course will suffer if you lack reliable access to the Internet this semester.



Course Overview; Learning Objectives



This course will consist of six separate modules as follows (the learning objectives for each module are in parentheses):

- **Module 1** = Introduction to the Course (Intro to Legal Terms)
- **Module 2** = Sources of Law (Intro to State, Federal, and International Law)
- **Module 3** = The Common Law (Intro to Torts, Property, and Contracts)
- **Module 4** = The Law of Ideas (Intro to Trademarks and Copyrights)
- **Module 5** = Civil & Criminal Cases (Intro to Due Process and Burdens of Proof)
- **Module 6** = Ethics (Intro to Animal Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility)

Note: The Professor will open a new module every two weeks, beginning with Module 1 on Monday, August 31, 2020. Each module will contain one open-book quiz and one open-book discussion post. (See “Course Schedule” on the next page of this syllabus.)



Course Schedule



Module 1 (opens on Monday, Aug. 31)	Read <u>Chapter 1</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch “Tiger King,” and complete Discussion Post #1 and Quiz #1 by Sunday, Sept. 13 (11:59PM).
Module 2 (opens on Monday, Sept. 14)	Read <u>Chapters 2 and 25</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch the Professor’s lectures on “Sources of Law,” review all the cases and other reading materials in Module 2, and complete Discussion Post #2 and Quiz #2 by Sunday, Sept. 27 (11:59PM).
Module 3 (opens on Monday, Sept, 28)	Read <u>Chapters 6 and 9</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch the Professor’s lectures on “The Common Law,” review all the cases and reading materials in Module 3, and Discussion Post #3 and Quiz #3 by Sunday, Oct. 11 (11:59PM).
Module 4 (opens on Monday, Oct. 12)	Read <u>Chapter 24</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch the Professor’s lectures on “The Law of Ideas,” review all the cases and other reading materials in Module 4, and complete Discussion Post #4 and Quiz #4 by Sunday, Oct. 25 (11:59PM).
Module 5 (opens on Monday, Oct. 26)	Read <u>Chapters 3 and 4</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch the Professor’s lectures on “Civil and Criminal Cases,” review all the cases and other reading materials in Module 5, and complete Discussion Post #5 and Quiz #5 by Sunday, Nov. 8 (11:59PM).
Module 6 (opens on Monday, Nov. 9)	Read <u>Chapter 5</u> of the Melvin textbook, watch the Professor’s lectures on “Animal Rights and CSR,” review all the reading materials in Module 6, and complete Discussion Post #6 and Quiz #6 by Sunday, Nov. 22 (11:59PM).



Course Assignments



During the first week of this course, the Professor will assign an “Academic Activity” as required by UCF. (The Academic Activity will be worth 1% of your grade.) The remainder of your grade will be based on based on the following set of assignments and will be weighted as follows:

QUIZZES	DISCUSSION POSTS	FINAL PROJECT
240 points	240 points	240 points
(1/3 of the grade)	(1/3 of the grade)	(1/3 of the grade)

As mentioned on page 4 of this Syllabus, this course will consist of six modules. The Professor will open a new module every two weeks, beginning with Module 1 on Monday, August 31, and each module will contain a quiz and discussion post, and each quiz and discussion post will then remain open for two weeks. Following the completion of the last module, the Professor will assign a final project. The final project will be posted on Canvas (UCF Webcourses) on Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, and will remain until Friday, Dec. 4 (11:59PM).



Grading Scale



In accordance with the policies of the College of Business of the University of Central Florida, the grades in this course will be awarded based on the following grading scale:

GPA = Letter Grade	% Range	Points
4.00 = A	90 – 100	648 – 720
3.25 = B+	87 – 89.99	626.4 – 647.99
3.00 = B	80 – 86.99	576 – 626.39
2.50 = C+	77 – 79.99	554.4 – 575.99
2.00 = C	70 – 76.99	504 – 554.39
1.50 = D+	67 – 69.99	482.4 – 503.99
1.00 = D	60 – 66.99	432 – 482.39
0.00 = F	<60	<432



Boilerplate



Academic Integrity: If a student is caught cheating in this course, he or she will receive an automatic F for the entire course. Cheating includes the use of Course Hero, Chegg, Quizlet, and other such websites.

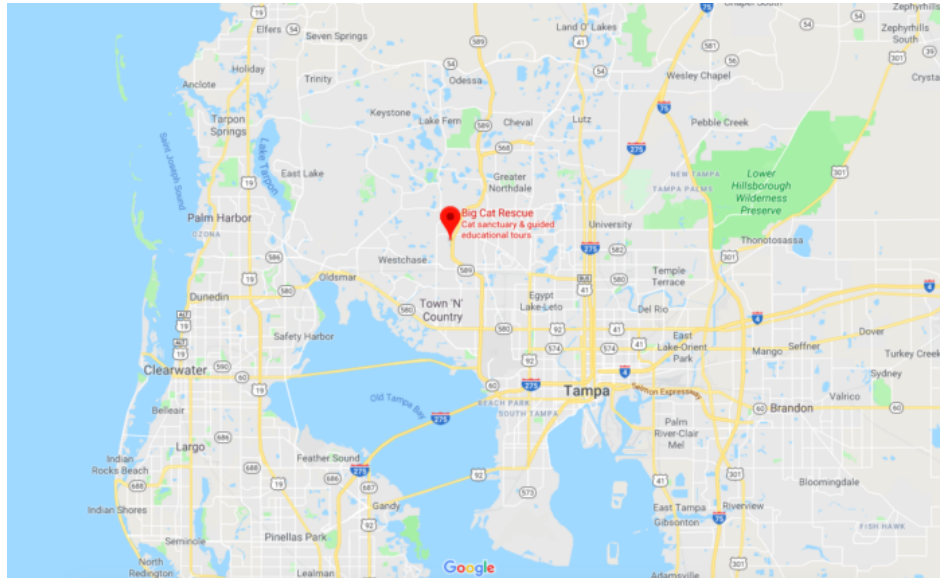
Makeup Policy: Because of the massive size of this course (almost 900 enrolled students), there will be absolutely no makeups or deadline extensions in this course. No exceptions! Period.

Students with Disabilities: The University of Central Florida and the Professor are committed to providing reasonable accommodations to all students with disabilities. Students who need a reasonable accommodation must first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). After registering with SAS, students who need a reasonable accommodation must also contact the Professor via email or in person during the first week of class. No exceptions.

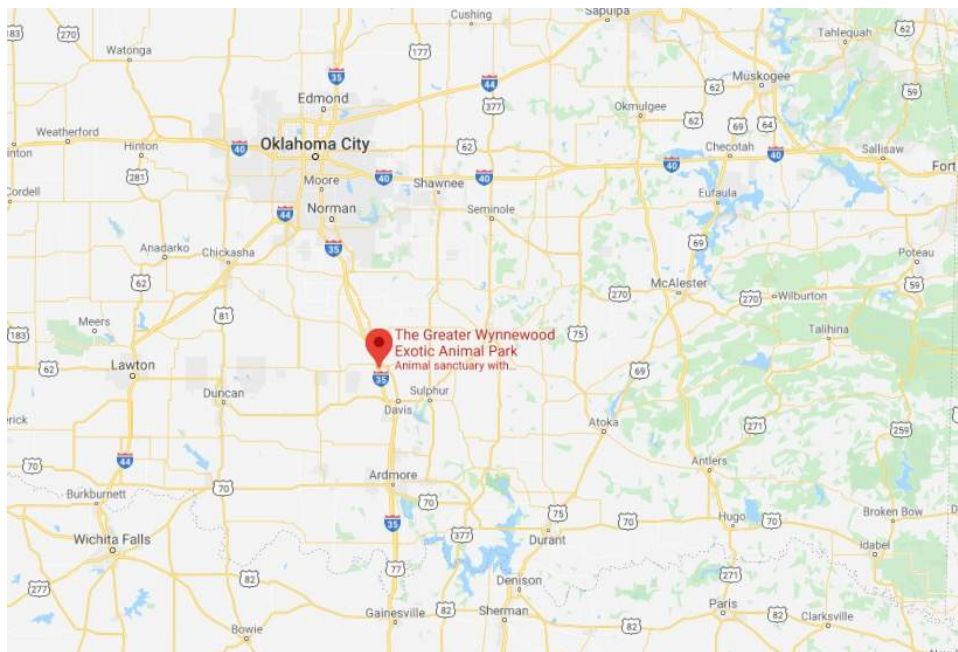


Maps; Professor/TA Bios (next page)

Big Cat Rescue (Tampa, Florida)



G.W. Exotic Animal Park (Wynnewood, Oklahoma)

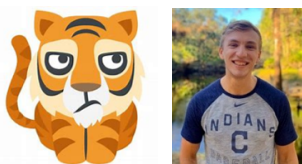


F. E. Guerra-Pujol



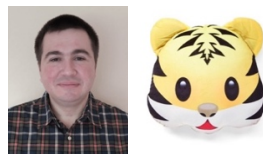
Dr Guerra-Pujol attended college at UC Santa Barbara (#GauchosForLife), double-majoring in political philosophy and Spanish literature and graduating with Highest Honors. He then studied law at Yale. Before becoming a professor and devoting himself full-time to research and teaching, he practiced business law in San Juan, Puerto Rico, representing such clients as Banco Popular, Miller Brewing Company, and Procter & Gamble. The Professor is married to Sydja Robinson (#TeamJamaica) and is a father of four, including Adys Ann (pictured above).

Benjamin Mayo



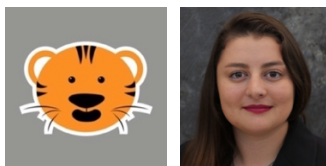
Mr Mayo is a senior, majoring in Economics and Philosophy. After completing his undergraduate studies in December, he then plans to follow in the Professor's footsteps and start law school next fall.

Oleksandr Kondrachuk



Mr Kondrachuk is currently an MBA student at UCF and has been accepted to the PhD Program in Accounting for Fall 2021. After completing his PhD, he plans to start working as an accounting professor. He enjoys reading and traveling

Morgan Travers



Ms Travers is a graduate student in the Masters of Accounting program at UCF. After graduation, she will continue to live in Orlando to work as an audit associate at RSM. She loves biking, hiking, and traveling the world.

Antonella Vitulli



Ms Vitulli is a junior, majoring in Accounting and Finance. Among other things, her favorite activities include watching documentaries, painting, yoga, and going to the beach.

[Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Professor reserves the right to make any changes to this Syllabus.]