

Legal & Ethical Environment of Business (Spring 2022)



Are you Team Carole or Team Joe? This semester, we will explore along with Professor F. E. Guerra-Pujol the legal and ethical environments of contemporary business firms through the lens of Season 2 of one the most iconic and original TV docuseries ever produced: the hit Netflix show *Tiger King: Murder, Madness, and Mayhem*. 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. In brief, the common law establishes the default rules that apply 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) and see why this area of law is so essential for modern-day business firms, and we will then distinguish between civil and criminal liability and explore the main aspects of civil and criminal cases. We will also identify and study the main forms of doing business, including sole proprietorships, general partnerships, LLCs, and public and private corporations. Last but certainly not least, we will conclude this course with an exploration of the main theories of ethics, including applied ethics such as animal rights and corporate social responsibility.

Course Modules



In summary, this course will consist of six separate online modules as described below; for your reference, the opening date of each module and its corresponding class session are also noted below in parenthesis:

- **Module A = Sources of Law** (Orientation Class) (opens on 1/18)
- **Module B = The Common Law** (Lab #1) (opens on 2/1)
- **Module C = The Law of Ideas** (Lab #2) (opens on 2/15)
- **Module D = Going to Court: Civil & Criminal Cases** (Lab #3) (opens on 3/1)
- **Module E = Business Entities** (Lab #4) (opens on 3/22)
- **Module F = Ethics & Corporate Governance** (Lab #5) (opens on 4/5)

Notes: (1) The class session corresponding with each module appears in parenthesis; see the complete course schedule on the following page. (2) The Professor will open a new module in Canvas (UCF Webcourses) every two weeks, beginning with Module “A” on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at Noon. (3) Each module will contain supplementary reading materials, pre-recorded video lectures, and short essay assignments based on the readings and lectures.

Course Schedule (Active Learning Labs)



Course Section	Meeting Time	Meeting Place	Orientation Class	Lab #1	Lab #2	Lab #3	Lab #4	Lab #5
1	4:30 PM	BA1-239	1/18	2/1	2/15	3/1	3/22	4/5
2	6:00 PM	BA1-239	1/18	2/1	2/15	3/1	3/22	4/5
3	7:30 PM	BA1-239	1/18	2/1	2/15	3/1	3/22	4/5
4	4:30 PM	BA1-239	1/20	2/3	2/17	3/3	3/24	4/7
5	6:00 PM	BA1-239	1/20	2/3	2/17	3/3	3/24	4/7

Course Materials; Internet



Course Materials: The textbook for this course is Sean P. Melvin, *The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach*. Any edition of this textbook is fine; no Connect code required. In addition, we will also be watching all five episodes of Season 2 of the hit TV show *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 pre-recorded lectures, book chapters, law cases, legislative materials, law review articles, and other legal and ethical readings.

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



Course Assignments



During the first week of this course, the Professor will assign an “Academic Engagement Activity” as required by UCF, and the Academic Engagement Activity will be worth 1% of your grade. The remaining 99% of your grade will be based on the following set of graded assessments and will be weighted equally as follows:

LAB SURVEYS	WEEKLY ESSAYS	FINAL PROJECT
240 points	240 points	240 points
(1/3 of the grade)	(1/3 of the grade)	(1/3 of the grade)

Notes: (1) As mentioned on page 2 of this Syllabus, this course will consist of six modules, with each module corresponding to one of the six class sessions in this course. (2) The Professor will open a new module in Canvas (UCF Webcourses) every two weeks, beginning with Module 1 on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at Noon. (3) The final project will be posted on Canvas (UCF Webcourses) on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Grading Scale

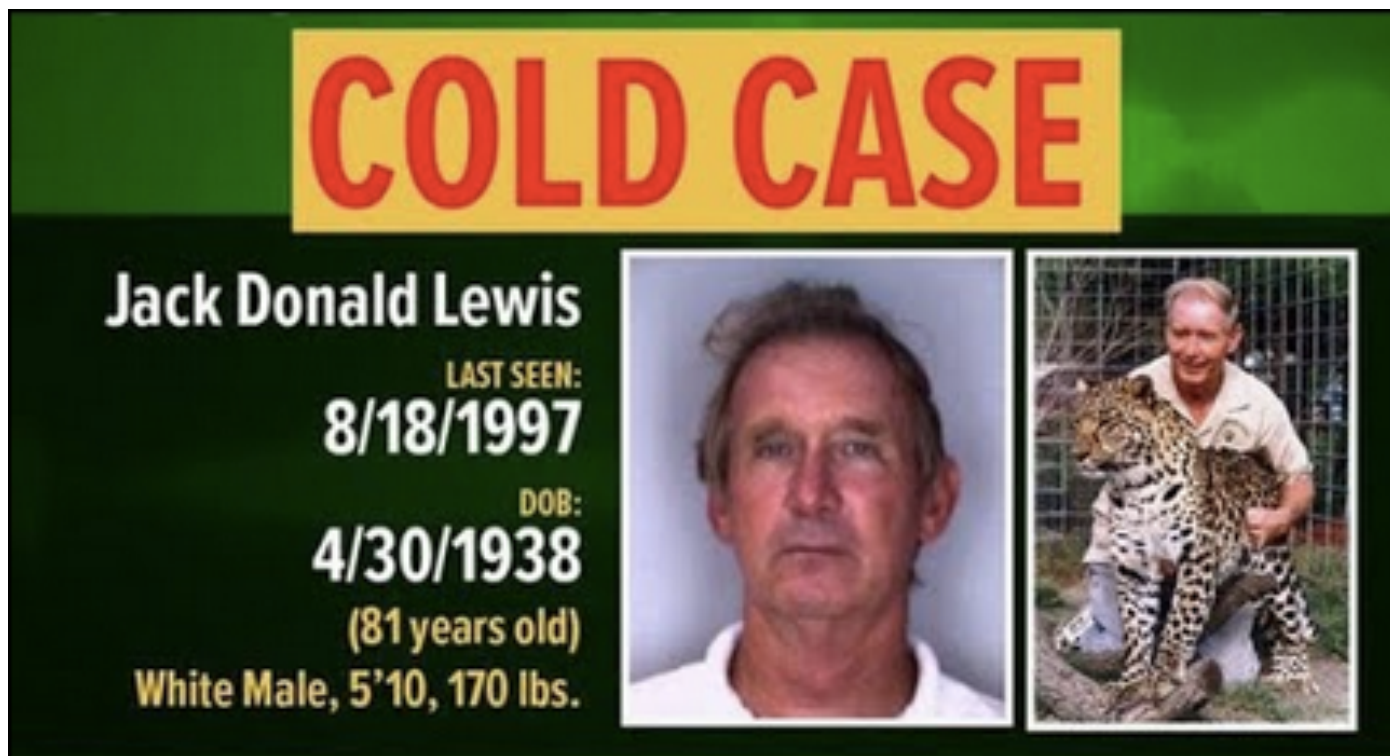


In accordance with the grading policies of the College of Business of the University of Central Florida, the grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

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



Course Policies; Email; Office Hours; Etc.



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

Attendance Policy: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance will not be required this semester.





Changes to the Syllabus: The professor reserves the right to make any changes to any part of this Syllabus at any time.

Course Email: To communicate with the professor, the email address for this course is BUL3130.Spring2022@gmail.com. The professor or his TAs will make every effort to reply within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

Deadline Extensions/Makeups: Due to the massive size of this course (over 700 students spread out over five sections), no makeups and no deadline extensions will be granted under any circumstances.

Office Hours: Office Hours will take place via Zoom on Fridays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM.

Professor & T.A. Bios

	<p>Dr. F. E. Guerra-Pujol attended UC Santa Barbara, double-majoring in political philosophy and Spanish literature and graduating with Highest Honors. After completing his Juris Doctorate at Yale Law School, he practiced business law in San Juan, Puerto Rico, representing such clients as Banco Popular, Miller Brewing Company, and Procter & Gamble. The Professor is happily married to Sydjia Robinson (#TeamJamaica) and is a father of four.</p>
	<p>Ms. Chabella Diaz recently graduated from UCF with a B.S. in Accounting and Finance, and she is now a grad student in the MSA program, assurance track. She plans to become CPA certified and to continue working at BDO. Outside of class, she enjoys working out, cooking, and binge-watching Netflix. She is happy for the opportunity to assist in this course.</p>
	<p>Ms. Antonella Vitulli is a recent graduate of UCF, double-majoring in both Accounting and Finance and graduating <i>summa cum laude</i>. Among other things, Miss Vitulli's favorite extracurricular activities include watching documentaries (especially murder shows), painting, yoga, and going to the beach. She is considering following in the professor's footsteps and going to law school.</p>
	<p>Ms. Sheniah Yirmyah received her B.S. in Accounting from Florida A&M University and is now a grad student in the MSA program at UCF. She is looking to become CPA certified after completing her graduate degree and earning a full-time position with an external auditing firm. She is excited to assist in this course, especially because she has always had an interest in different areas of law and is even considering law school as a future possibility.</p>

[THE END]