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### BGEN 361.50: Principles of Business Law

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## **BGEN 361 Principles of Business Law (Sec. 50-Online Only)**

University of Montana, Main Campus  
College of Business

**Professor Jerry Furniss, JD, MBA – Spring Semester 2018**  
(Class Meeting Times: Online Only)

### **Professor Furniss' Contact Info and Office Hours**

Open Office Hours- 1:00-2:00 pm (Monday and Wednesday). With open office hours on these two days, no appointment is needed. Just walk in and we can meet as needed. (If I am unavailable during those times because of an unexpected conflict with a required meeting, I will leave a note on where you can reach me. You can also meet with my GA, Mat, as an alternative.)

In addition, I am generally available most days. Stop by at your convenience. (You may want to text me just to double check that I will be available.) (If you text me make sure to let me know your name and the class that you are asking about.) Feel free to email or call me on classroom, advising or career matters. If my open office hours change, I will post the changes on Moodle.

Professor Jerry Furniss' Office is GBB 365; email [jerry.furniss@umontana.edu](mailto:jerry.furniss@umontana.edu) ; cell phone 406-360-7847.

### **Grading Assistant's Contact Info**

Professor Furniss' grad assistant, Mat, is your first contact in terms of upcoming assignments, postings on Moodle, etc. Mat's open office hours are posted outside Professor Furniss' office door and on Moodle for your convenience. His office hours are: TBA. He can be reached at [Mathias.Schaefer@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Mathias.Schaefer@mso.umt.edu).

## **Course Overview**

**BGEN 361 Principles of Business Law** is a freshman level **3 credit** hour course offered in the College of Business designed to provide a broad overview of business law. The course is designed to be consistent with The University of Montana College of Business's mission and Assessment and Assurance of Learning Standards.

**Pre-requisites**

Junior standing in Business (i.e., no freshmen or sophomores), meaning that one of the following is required: (i) completion of the primary lower-core business courses with a “C-” or better and a GPA of at least 2.0 in the primary lower-core business courses, or (ii) permission from the College of Business Advising Office. In the alternative, a junior minor in Business will satisfy the pre-requisites, with “junior minor in Business” defined as a student who has met all requirements for, applied to, and been accepted to the Business Minor.

**Course Description and Learning Goals/Objectives**

To develop a familiarization with the basic legal issues encountered by anyone starting and/or operating a business. Many of you may never be involved in starting a business, but understanding the start-up process provides a logical platform for covering the business/legal environment in this introductory course. We will plan to cover the following topics and expect you to have a basic understanding of the following:

- **Legal System:** US compared to other legal systems, sources of law, judicial process, the role of the US Constitution in the regulation of business, alternative dispute resolution.
- **Business Organization Issues:** Partnerships, Limited Partnerships, LLPs, LLCs, S Corp, C Corp, operating a corporation (structure, dealing with shareholders and board members), choosing between various business entities, and “going public.”
- **Contract Issues:** Elements of a contract, common law contracts, UCC contracts, impact of governmental regulation on consumer contracts (including state consumer protection laws).
- **Employment Issues:** Hiring issues (affirmative action, discrimination, ADA), sexual harassment, employment at will, wrongful discharge, workers’ compensation insurance, unionization issues.
- **Tort Liability:** Distinctions between negligent, intentional and strict liability torts; insuring liability through auto, homeowner, CGL, D&O, E&O and umbrella liability policies.
- **Money Issues:** Secured transactions under UCC Article 9, Bankruptcy, and possibly Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.
- **Property Issues:** Intellectual property law (trademarks, patents, copyrights, trade secrets), real property (listings, contracts of sale, title insurance, real estate financing, encumbrances, environmental liability), lessor-lessee issues in a commercial setting.
- **Ethics:** Distinction between legal and ethical issues.
- **Business Regulation:** Society’s endless pursuit of the appropriate amount of government regulation of business – the so-called “Goldilocks Principle.”

**UM Equal Access Policy Statement**

*The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.*

**Academic Misconduct Statement**

*All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. The University of Montana Student Conduct Code specifies definitions and adjudication processes for academic misconduct and states, "Students at the University of Montana are expected to practice academic honesty at all times."*

*(Section V.A., available at [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)). All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar the Student Conduct Code.*

**College of Business Code of Professional Conduct**

See this information at: <http://www.business.umt.edu/ethics/professional-conduct-code.php>.

**Mission Statement and Assurance of Learning**

The University of Montana's College of Business enhances lives and benefits society by providing a world-class business education in a supportive, collegial environment.

We accomplish this mission by acting on our shared core values of creating significant experiences, building relationships, teaching and researching relevant topics, behaving ethically, and inspiring individuals to thrive.

As part of our assessment process and assurance-of-learning standards, the School of Business Administration has adopted the following learning goals for our undergraduate students:

Learning Goal 1: COB graduates will possess fundamental business knowledge.

Learning Goal 2: COB graduates will be able to integrate business knowledge.

Learning Goal 3: COB graduates will be effective communicators.

Learning Goal 4: COB graduates will possess problem solving skills.

Learning Goal 5: COB graduates will have an ethical awareness.

Learning Goal 6: COB graduates will be proficient users of technology.

Learning Goal 7: COB graduates will understand the global business environment in which they operate.

**Required Course Materials**

The main text for this course is an electronic text (eText) and can be accessed on the Moodle course page by clicking on the Pearson website link (<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/>).

The latest version of the eText was written/edited by Professor Furniss and Professor Harrington and is published by Pearson. It comes with interactive exercises, videos, and discussion boards through Pearson's **MyBusinessLawLab** platform on Pearson's website. When

registering with Pearson, **please use the Pearson MyBusLawLab Course ID # provided by Professor Furniss on Moodle.**

The eText will be used extensively for readings, course discussions, and activities found on MyBusLawLab and Moodle.

To gain access to **MyBusinessLawLab** which includes the eText and online exercises, obtain your **Access Code** through **RedShelf**, which is found on your Moodle course home page. (RedShelf is a system that charges your student UM Business Services account for MyBusLawLab so that you do not have to buy access separately through the bookstore or with a credit card; more instructions explaining how the RedShelf purchasing system works are posted on Moodle under the RedShelf link.)

Copy down the **Access Code** (from Redshelf on Moodle) and then go to the Pearson website <http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/> and sign up for the MyBusLawLab course using the Course ID # provided by Professor Furniss on Moodle.

**Don't Have A Pearson Account?** If you do not already have a Pearson student account, register for an account as a Student by following the instructions on Pearson's website. You will be asked for your **Course ID** (provided by Professor Furniss on Moodle) and **Access Code** (for payment; found on Moodle using the Redshelf link).

**Already Have A Pearson Account?** If you already have a Pearson account, then log in. Once logged in, click on the **Enroll in a Course** button (top right) and enter the **Course ID** (provided by Professor Furniss on Moodle) and **Access Code** (for payment; found on Moodle using the Redshelf link).

### **Weekly Activities**

Please follow the Weekly schedule on Moodle for each week so that you can keep up with your readings, weekly discussion board questions, and interactive exercises and quizzes in Moodle and MyBusLawLab.

**Finding Moodle:** You may reach the [Moodle login page](https://moodle.umt.edu/login/index.php) from the College of Business website at <https://moodle.umt.edu/login/index.php>.

**Problems With Moodle?** Talk to the Student Lab monitors in the Gallagher Business Building (Computer Lab on the 2nd floor).

### **UM Email Rules**

Based on The University of Montana policy, students must use their GrizMail accounts (netid@grizmail.umt.edu or fname.lname@umontana.edu ) to communicate with me or my assistants. The umontana address is automatically forwarded to the GrizMail address. (Because of this university policy, we cannot respond to other emails sent by you. For instance, if you

send us an email using hotmail or gmail, we will respond by asking you to resend your email via your umontana account.)

### Exams

Three examinations will be given online through the MyBusLawLab website. **(\*\*\*There is no final exam in this course.)** The exams **will not be cumulative. The examinations may cover the recorded chapter lectures, assigned e-text chapter readings, videos, Moodle assignments, and MyBusLawLab assignments/weekly discussions.**

Exams are taken on Pearson's MyBusLawLab website and are scheduled per the **Master Schedule** found on your Moodle course page.

### Course Percentages Used to Determine Final Letter Grades

Exam 1 (MyBusLawLab)	10%
Exam 2 (MyBusLawLab)	10%
Exam 3 (MyBusLawLab)	10%
Activities (Quizzes, Videos, Other Interactions) (Moodle & MyBusLawLab)	50%
Weekly Discussion Board (MyBusLawLab)	<u>20%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	100%

### Final Letter Grade

Your final course letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) will be determined by applying the following: (90% or more = A) (80% -89% = B) (70%-79% = C) (60% - 69% = D) (59% or less = F). I Do Not use plus or minus letter grade scoring. In other words, you final letter grade will be an A, B, C, D, F. **I will not assign A+ or A-, B+, B-, etc.**

### Grading Mode

This course is offered **ONLY for a Traditional Letter Grade**. It is NOT offered on a Pass/Fail basis.

### First Week's Getting Started Quick Tips

**Moodle Course Management System:** Make sure you can successfully log onto Moodle and **find your Principles of Business Law Moodle course listing during the first week of classes.**

**Course Syllabus:** Thoroughly review the course syllabus posted on Moodle. Once we have the **Master Course Schedule** posted on Moodle, please review it.

**MyBusLawLab:** Get signed up for Pearson's MyBizLab ( <https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com> ) using the Access Code obtained from Redshelf (your Moodle course page). Make sure to sign up for the correct MyBizLab. I have posted the Course ID # on Moodle.

**Readings and Assignments:** Follow the instructions and do everything required during Week 1, found on your Moodle course page. Regularly check the upcoming weekly assignments on MyBusLawLab and on your Master Schedule posted on Moodle.

*Professor Furniss will email you regularly on important items of interest.*