

MCS 3040 - BUSINESS AND CONSUMER LAW

Course Outline

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Course Description[back to menu](#)

This course will introduce the student with no previous legal study to the laws and legal requirements necessary in the conduct of business.

Course Objectives[back to menu](#)

The objectives of this course fall into three key areas: (1) general skills, (2) course content and (3) learning values. Each is detailed below.

1. General Skill Objectives:

Upon completion of this course you will demonstrate competencies in:

- Some of the basic concepts, principles and rules of law and their application to individuals and persons in business from the perspectives of both providers and consumers of goods and services.
- Adaptability and learning, problem solving, reading, writing skills in effectively handling course assignments, case studies and tests.
- Team work, interpersonal skills, leadership, assertiveness and conflict resolution through active participation in web based discussions and assignments.
- Research using a variety of media including Internet law collections, computer applications (Microsoft Office), decision making, critical thinking, creative thinking and visioning in applying legal concepts, laws, theories, systems and tools in generating alternatives to the solution of case studies and other assignments.

- Communicating through evolving media utilizing e-mail, internet, written and direct communications with the course professor, fellow students and research sources in completing assignments.

2. Course Content Objectives:

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

- Describe the structure of the Anglo-Canadian judiciary system and its inter-relationship with the Canadian legislative process.
- Describe the law as applicable to the formation, maintenance and ending of contractual relationships.
- Demonstrate understanding of Consumer Protection and Debtor/Creditor laws including Sale of Goods; Securing debt; Guarantees and Bankruptcy.
- Demonstrate understanding of the laws applying to Employer/Employee Relations including Master and Servant; Labour Standards; Unions and collective bargaining; Agencies and the rights and responsibilities of the parties.
- Describe the types of business organization and the processes, rights and responsibilities for each.
- Describe the legal considerations affecting negotiable instruments, personal and intellectual property rights and Insurance.
- Understand the application of Real Estate laws including the landlord and tenant relationship, liens and mortgages.

3. Learning Values (objectives)

You will continue to develop toward holistic maturity through:

- Developing an appreciation of the complex legal system in which businesses and consumers of goods and services operate.
- Displaying moral maturity in the ethical, legal and responsible approach to applying the principles and letter of laws.
- Adding to their depth and breadth of understanding of the application of law and its essential contribution to achieving personal and organizational objectives.
- Encouragement to pursue independence of thought in accomplishing both individual and team assignments with emphasis on practical originality for effective problem solving.
- A growing love of learning new law, theories, tools, applications and activities, which generate excitement in effectively solving legal, business and individual needs and problems in today's unprecedented environment of change.

Required Textbooks[!\[\]\(4729e517bc6a7cd81c8025b9646574fb_img.jpg\) back to menu](#)

Duplessis, Enman, Gunz, O'Bryne, **Canadian Business & the Law**, Nelson Thomson, (4th Edition), ISBN- 13: 978-0-17-650162-4

Additional readings of materials to be placed on reserve or as available in Government Documents Section of University Library or on Government websites, as announced on this course website.

We would also like to thank the Publisher for providing a rich set of PowerPoint slides, which we have adapted for use in this course. You will find them linked from the "coursework" page of this website, where they are being used to summarize the highlights of every chapter in your textbook.

Book Store:

<http://www.bookstore.uoguelph.ca/>

Co-op Book store:

<http://www.quelphcampus.coop/>

Course Website[!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\) back to menu](#)

This course website contains all required materials (other than the textbook). Course instruction and class discussion will be done entirely through this course website. You will also find here course reminders, updates and other learning resources.

Time Required

Though of course not everyone works and learns at the same pace, in general we recommend you plan on spending 8-10 hours per week on this course.

Online Learning Expectations[!\[\]\(84f47badaad7772cd95667a7c387a639_img.jpg\) back to menu](#)**Standard of Communications**

You are expected to communicate through the discussion area of this course website in a mature, professional manner. This means complete thoughts, complete sentences, relevant subject lines and at least a moderate amount of proofreading. You are also reminded that proper "Netiquette" includes commenting on people's ideas but not their personalities or characters. If you are ever in doubt as to what this means, please send me a sample of what you are considering for review in advance.

Academic Misconduct

Students have the responsibility of abiding by the university's policy on student academic misconduct. Academic Misconduct is broadly understood to mean offences against the academic integrity of the learning environment. This would include, but is not limited to: academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism); misrepresentation of personal performance (e.g. submitting the work of someone else, impersonation). Students are

referred to the University of Guelph policy on "Academic Misconduct" found on page 30 of the Undergraduate Calendar.

NOTE: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Communications and Feedback from Your Instructor

I will endeavour to reply to all questions in the "Ask Your Instructor" conference within 48 hours, usually sooner. However repeated questions about matters that have already been answered or that are explained in the course outline will not be answered by me.

You can expect a weekly message from me in a News message on the course homepage. Typically I will post this either Sunday evening or Monday morning.

Evaluation and Grades

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Important notice: In order to pass this course you **MUST**:

1. Participate in on-line discussions per details on the coursework page. (10%)
2. Submit one of the assignments. (25%)
3. Take one of the midterms. (25%)
4. Pass the final examination. (40%)

And these must compute to a passing grade according to the percentages provided above.

Since the grading for this course is based on a combination of assignments and exams, details are provided below and also through the Coursework page.

Further Details - Item #1, Participation

Please refer to "Expectations for Participation in This Course" linked from Week 1 of the "Coursework" page on this website. That same page is linked [here](#) for your convenience.

Further Details – Items #2 & 3, Assignment / Midterm Choices

YOU MAY CHOOSE EITHER:

- ASSIGNMENT #1 (Week 5) AND MIDTERM #2 (Week 11)

OR

- ASSIGNMENT #2 (Week 10) AND MIDTERM #1 (Week 6)

Whichever combination you select you **MUST** do both in order to pass the course. Note that each is worth 25% of your final grade. You do not need to notify me which combination you prefer, but once you have done the 1st part of the combination you cannot change your mind.

About the Assignment

- **ASSIGNMENT #1**
This will be due by the end of Week #5. It will be based on the "Topics of the Week" that we have discussed and reviewed from Week #1 inclusive of Week #5.
- **ASSIGNMENT #2**
This will be due by the end of week #10. It will be based on the "Topics of the Week" that we discussed and reviewed from Week 7 inclusive of Week #10.
- **BOTH ASSIGNMENTS**

Regarding the Assignments, you will be given a fact scenario that will address an area or different areas of the law that we have discussed and reviewed during our weekly "Topics of the Week". Participation and attention to the weekly topics is very important for your success on the assignment.

The fact scenario and assignment guidelines are linked from the Coursework page of this website.

What the Midterm(s) Will Cover

The first midterm/quiz will take place during Week #6.

It will cover Chapters 1 through to 12 inclusive of the course text, **Canadian Business and the Law**.

The second midterm/quiz will take place during Week #11.

It will cover Chapters 13, 14, 15 and Chapters 20 through to 27 inclusive of the course text.

The mid-term/quiz format will be multiple choice and true/false questions. You will be able to access it from this course website within the pre-announced dates/times. Please note that the course system will automatically "time-out" if you go beyond the scheduled hours, so please do not wait until the last minute (literally).

Further Details - Item #4, Final Exam

There will be an in-person, proctored Final Examination. The date of the Final Examination will be announced through the Open Learning log-in page (and Web Advisor, for those who have access to it).

The final exam chapters to be covered will include the following: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 28. These chapters include weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

The Final Examination format will be multiple choice and true/false questions.

Unless you return a completed [Final Examination Information Sheet](#), we will assume that you will come to the University of Guelph to write your final examination.

For those who choose to write at an off-campus location, complete and submit the [Final Examination Information sheet](#) by the due date, clearly indicating your off-campus selection*. Details regarding the date, time and location will then be forwarded to you by the Office of Open Learning. Your final examination will not necessarily be scheduled on the same day as the on-campus exam

* It is the responsibility of any student living outside Canada to secure an approved examination site and invigilator.** For more information, please contact the DE Examination Coordinator, 519-824-4120 ext. 56776 or olexams@open.uoguelph.ca.

** An invigilator must be a representative from a university, college or school.

Late Penalties

You will be penalized 10% per day for any assignment that is late, up to a maximum of 10 days, after which you will be assigned a grade of 0. If you feel you have personal circumstances warranting an extension, please contact me by personal email.

Please [click here](#) to review the University's policies about conditions of enrolment, academic integrity and grading scheme.

Assignment Submission

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If you choose to do it electronically, please use the "submit" button provided on this website. You will find there specific instructions about how to submit and how to use the proper file format. Please note that assignments must NOT be emailed directly to me and will be ignored if they are. If you are having difficulties using the "drop-box" set-up for your assignment then please contact the Helpdesk at the Office of Open Learning

Technical Requirements

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For adequate interaction with the course web site please make sure that your computer meets [the minimum requirements](#).

If you do not have these technical requirements, consider either upgrading your personal computer, or using a machine on-campus. Trying to use someone else's computer for the course may prove to be frustrating and difficult.

Please follow this quick [System Check](#) to determine if you have the right setup. (Results will be displayed in a new browser window).

Contact

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INSTRUCTOR

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Distance Education

Technical Support

Office of Open Learning
University of Guelph
Johnston Hall Room 153
519-824-4120 ext. 56939
Toll Free: (Can. & USA) 1-866-275-1478
help@open.uoguelph.ca

General Inquiries

Office of Open Learning
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Johnston Hall Room 160
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