

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	BSc Economics & Finance, BSc Finance & Investment, BSc Accounting & Finance
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Legal & Ethical Aspects in Business
Course Code:	BUSM 5104
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course concentrates on the legal framework within which businesses take place with legal liability as a core concept. Topics include business set-up from a legal perspective and conflict resolution. Further development of the concept of legal liability revolves around contractual, tort, and criminal liabilities. Corporate law is covered with the understanding of directors and shareholders as members of companies together with company resolution. Recent developments in technology law are incorporated such as data protection and digital law. A sustainability approach is added as corporates are enhancing their governance and financial reporting regarding the triple bottom line including social corporate responsibility and environmental reporting. This course embeds the UN SDGs 3, 5 and 16. This course places an emphasis on the impact that corporations have on their stakeholders, particularly consumers and employees (SDG 3) together with relevant employment regulations (SDG 5) and the ensuing transparency which is expected from businesses by the different stakeholders (SDG 16).

Prerequisites:

LIBA 4301 Academic Research and Writing AND 40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

This is a four-credit course designed to develop an awareness of how the law impacts businesses providing both legal certainty but also establishing limits to commercial activity. Beyond that, legal implications of both technological and sustainability legal developments are introduced to equip the student with the tools needed to operate in an increasingly multifaceted business environment.

Programme Outcomes:

A.5.(ii), B.5.(i), C.5.(i), D.5.(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

Course Learning Outcome	Programme Learning Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand critically the limits and tools that the law provides to carry out businesses successfully and responsibly. 	A.5.(ii)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically analyse situations where economic consideration might conflict with legal and ethical aspects to understand the different constraints that businesses might face. 	B.5.(i)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an ability to apply legal concepts to business situations and present arguments cogently with appropriate evaluation of sources and/or data. 	C.5.(i)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret information presented by listed businesses in a critical way regarding reporting and disclosure in view of ethical issues including capacity of self-reflection. 	D.5.(i)

Indicative Content:

- The concept of legal liability with an understanding of contractual, tortious, and criminal liability in business.
- The different business set-ups from a legal perspective including sole traders, partnerships and limited companies – a comparative critical study.
- Corporate Law – A study of the board of directors and shareholders and their relationship through corporate governance. Importance of sustainability reporting – an introduction. Termination of companies and insolvency.
- Contractual aspects in business: Elements and terms and termination of business contracts. Sale of goods contract and application to consumer contracts. The international transaction context.
- Product liability – Elements and consequences of tort liability. Application to consumer law.
- Criminal liability within the business world – Product safety, unfair commercial practices, and data protection law.
- Greenwashing and environmental law.
- Technology and privacy law.
- Intellectual Property Law: Basic concepts (patent, design, trademark, copyright) and consequences of breach of intellectual property law.
- Employment law: Main elements and terms of the employment contract – the concept of vicarious liability.
- Environmental law – the producers' responsibility

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

Adams, A., Caplan, S. and Lockwood, G. (2023) *Law for business students*. Harlow: Pearson.

Bell, S. *et al.* (2024) *Environmental law* Stuart Bell, Donald McGillivray, Ole W. Pedersen, Emma Lees, Elen Stokes. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

MacIntyre, E. (2018a) *Business law*. Harlow, Essex, United Kingdom: Pearson.

MacIntyre, E. (2018b) *Essentials of business law*. Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson.

Woerdman, E., Roggenkamp, M.M. and Holwerda, M. (2022) *Essential EU climate law*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Journals

FT www.ft.com

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>

Corporate Governance: *An International Review*

Journal of Corporation Law

Business Law International

Websites

The European Union’s official web portal. Available at: <http://europa.eu> (Accessed: November 2024)

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. Available at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/> (Accessed: November 2024)

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First Edition	Nov 2024	

