UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

ANGLO-AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW

Key Information

Module code: ISSU0048
Taught during: Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019
Module workload: 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader: Dr Martin Petrin
Department: Faculty of Laws
Credit: 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level: Level 2, second year Undergraduate
Pre-requisites: An understanding of Law or business to first year undergraduate level would be preferred but is not essential.
Assessment: Supreme Court debate (25%), Final exam (75%)

Module Overview

This module introduces students to key areas of business law from a UK-US and international perspective, while honing their analytical, communication, and team problem solving skills. Students will become familiar with the basic structure of the legal system and key elements of contract law, product liability, intellectual property law, the insider trading prohibition, and the law governing partnerships and corporations, including cross-border mergers and acquisitions. In order to deepen students’ understanding of business law, the module will also explore multi-dimensional aspects relating to social, political, ethical and technological considerations.

These themes are developed in reference to readings drawn from judicial decisions, statutes, recent news reports, and multimedia. Students will also undertake independent research and complete written assignments in which they assume a hypothetical role such as a legislative assistant, advocate or judicial clerk. Furthermore, a highlight of the module is the Supreme Court debate, where students work in teams on pending Supreme Court cases, culminating in an in-class mock trial during which teams represent one of the parties or act as Supreme Court justices.

Week One

- The sources and basic structure of law
- Principles of contract, tort, and intellectual property law
- The dog in the microwave and other myths – products liability
Week Two
- Business organizations and their characteristics
- The principles of legal separateness and limited liability
- Do corporations have constitutional rights?

Week Three
- How do international mergers and acquisitions work?
- Securities law and insider trading
- Supreme Court debates

Module Aims
This module is conducted in an interactive, participative manner and all students will be expected to contribute regularly to class discussions. All students will be expected to have covered the assigned reading for each of the sessions. The module also features field-related excursions and tutorials, where students will solve real-world business law problems and case studies. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site and students will be directed towards class materials and additional sources as well as support and discussion forums on the Virtual Learning Environment.

Teaching Methods
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Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:
- Be familiar with key areas of law and how they affect business
- Understand the main rights and duties of business entities
- Have become acquainted with various forms of business organizations
- Have a good understanding of how to analyse and argue legal issues
- Understand the role of law and lawyers in business policy making

Assessment Methods
- Supreme Court debate (25%)
- Final exam (75%)

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Key Texts


