

Module Code	BSP1004
Module Title	LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
Semester	Semester 2, 2015/2016
Modular Credits	4
Faculty	School of Business (Strategy and Policy)
Timetable	Timetable
Module Facilitators	Ter Kah Leng, Jack Teo, Selvaraj, Chia Hue Siew
Weblinks	<input type="text"/>
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Learning Outcomes

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Course Objectives

This module is intended to equip students who will be future business managers with legal knowledge that is relevant to commercial transactions so that they can understand the rights and obligations of a business and pre-empt potential legal problems by taking appropriate preventive measures. The module will also discuss the interaction between law, business and ethics and address comparative, regional and international and eCommerce issues in order to prepare students for a globalised and digitalised business environment.

Learning Outcome

The intended learning outcome is for students to gain sufficient legal knowledge to be able to spot potential legal problems as and when they arise in the course of business and to know when and how to seek legal advice.

Teaching Modes

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The module will be taught seminar style. Students are expected to participate actively. Please refer to document " Assessment Requirements" posted on the IVLE Module home page

Schedule

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Please refer to IVLE Lesson Plan

Synopsis

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The module introduces you to the legal environment of business and the relationship between law, business and ethics. When transacting business, disputes are bound to arise and we the module will discuss cost-effective commercial dispute resolution methods such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and their significance in the international business context. The module will also highlight the importance of giving proper instructions when seeking legal advice and the adverse effects on business interests in failing to do so.

One of the first questions that an entrepreneur will ask is what sort of vehicle should be chosen to run his business. The module will cover sole-proprietorships, partnerships, companies, limited liability

partnerships, limited partnerships and joint ventures. A cost-benefit approach will be used to show the differences between these various structures. In addition, some corporate governance issues, director's duties and insider trading will also be addressed when considering companies.

A business will be dealing with a whole range of persons, including suppliers, bankers, financiers, distributors, marketers, insurers, transporters, warehousemen, landlords, contractors, franchisees, agents, employees and consumers. A business's relationship with all these parties is primarily governed by contracts and it is estimated that nearly 85% of business disputes are contractual in nature. Thus, it is crucial that a business has a good understanding of how contracts work and the general principles of contract law, as well as those relating to the sale of products and services. For this purpose, a sample international contract will be used to acquaint students with the terms commonly used in these contracts. As international business is increasingly conducted via the Internet, a business manager should be generally aware of the significance of the developing area of Internet law.

A business manager should also understand other areas of law affecting his business. These include the negligence liability of manufacturers, distributors, importers, developers, contractors, employers, accountants, stockbrokers and bankers; the protection of intellectual property rights (such as copyrights, patents, trademarks) and confidential information and regulations under the Competition Act.

Syllabus

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The topics include:

- Introduction to the legal environment of business. Relationship between law, business and ethics
- Business organisations including companies
- Contracts: formation (including cyber contracts), terms, vitiating factors, discharge and remedies
- Product liability
- Business torts including Internet defamation
- Employment law
- Protection of Intellectual Property
- Competition law

Assessment

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Group Assignment: 20%

Individual Class Participation: 30%

Final examination: 50%

For details, please refer to document "Assessment Requirements" posted on IVLE Module home page

Preclusions

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SSB2212 or BH1004 or BZ1004 or BK1006 or GEK1009 or GEM1009k or SSD1203 or BSP1004A or BSP1004B

Workload

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3-0-0-3-4

Workload Components : A-B-C-D-E

A: no. of lecture hours per week

B: no. of tutorial hours per week

C: no. of lab hours per week

D: no. of hours for projects, assignments, fieldwork etc per week

E: no. of hours for preparatory work by a student per week

Plagiarism Notice

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You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. Please refer to document "Plagiarism notice" posted on IVLE Module home page

Additional guidance is available at:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/adminpolicy/acceptance.html#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>

Online Module on Plagiarism:

<http://emodule.nus.edu.sg/ac/>

Text & Readings

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Title and Author	Edition/Year	ISBN	Publisher	Type
Introduction to Business Law in Singapore Author: Ravi Chandran	5e / 2015		McGraw-Hill	Compulsory