

Course Outline

RSM225H1F

Legal Environment of Business I

Fall 2020

Course Meets “Live”: Wednesday 18:00 — 19:00 EST

Course Delivery: This course will be delivered in two ways. First, pre-recorded “asynchronous” videos will be posted on Quercus for students to view ahead of the scheduled class time. Students will be expected to view these videos before class. Second, live online “synchronous” lectures will take place during the scheduled time listed above. These lectures will take place using Blackboard Collaborate (accessed from Quercus).

Instructor: Shear, Dan

Email: dan.shear@rotman.utoronto.ca,

Webpage: <https://q.utoronto.ca>

Office Hours: **Online meetings with individual students can be scheduled at times mutually agreed with the instructor.**

Course Scope and Mission

The course is designed to provide students with a basic working understanding of various elements of Canadian "business law". The course will commence with an overview of the structure of the Canadian legal system, the nature of business entities and then will focus on the law of torts and the law of contract.

The course is designed to be "general" in nature and is intended to provide a relevant legal background that will enable students to function in a commercial environment (e.g. accounting, banking, marketing, not-for-profit etc.).

Course Prerequisites

RSM100Y1 / RSM100H1 / MGT 100H1

Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Required Technology

For Fall-Winter 2020, this course will be conducted entirely online. To participate fully and to complete the course successfully, you must ensure you have a computer with a working webcam, microphone and reliable access to an internet connection. For further details, please visit this link: [Recommended Technology Requirements for Remote/Online Learning](#)

Required Readings

- Smyth, Soberman Easson & McGill, **The Law and Business Administration in Canada**, 15th. Edition (©2020) – Pearson Education. [SSEM]
- Students should also refer to relevant statutory references available on the Internet. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws#tabcontent2>

Evaluation and Grades

Grades are a measure of the performance of a student in individual courses. Each student will be judged on the basis of how well they have command of the course materials.

<u>Graded Work</u>		<u>Due Date</u>
Mid Term Test	35%	Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 7:30 am to 9 am EST
Assignment	15%	December 2, 2020
Final Term Test	50%	TBA - - (2 hours)
	100%	

Course Format, Expectations and other info

Submitting Graded Work:

Students will be required to submit all graded work (assignment, tests) via Quercus. The submitted graded work will automatically be sent to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. By submitting graded work, students will be allowing their submissions to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Written Assignments:

Please note that **clear, concise and correct writing** will be considered in the evaluation of assignments and tests. You may lose points for writing that impedes communication: poor organization, weak paragraph development, excessive wordiness, hard-to-follow sentence structure, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. Students who require additional support and/or tutoring with respect to their writing skills are encouraged to visit the Academic Success Centre (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>) or one of the College Writing Centres (writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres). These Centres are teaching facilities – not editing services – where trained staff can assist students in developing their academic writing skills. There is no charge for the instruction and support.

Rotman Commerce Centre for Professional Skills Teamwork Support:

The group assignment requires students to work in teams of two (2). Working as a team is challenging; this is true both in the working world and in your academic classes. However, learning to work together in teams is an important aspect of your education and preparation for your future careers. You are encouraged to review the teamwork resources available to all Rotman Commerce students at <https://rotmancommerce.utoronto.ca/teamwork-resources> while navigating these challenges, but keep in mind that supports are also available for when you think you may need extra help.

New in the 2020-2021 academic year, the Rotman Commerce Centre for Professional Skills (RC-CPS) will offer appointments with Teamwork Mentors for any teams encountering challenges in their teamwork. Some possible reasons you might book an appointment with a Teamwork Mentor include:

- Team members have identified constraints on their time, work or accommodations they require that conflict with necessary timelines for the team.
- Teams are unsure how to divide their workload for a team project.
- Teams are concerned about how to integrate the individual contributions of each member and how to ensure team members are contributing equally.
- Teams are concerned about how to ensure all group members are aware of academic integrity guidelines (e.g. properly attributing sources) and follow them.
- Teams would like to be able to communicate more effectively with each other, particularly when navigating a remote academic environment.

To book a meeting with a Teamwork Mentor, send an email to rotmancommerce.teamworkhelp@utoronto.ca with the course code (e.g. RSM225) and team number (if available) in the subject line of the email. Any member of the team may reach out individually to book an appointment, but we also encourage teams to book their appointments as a team. You will normally receive a response within 24-36 hours, but note that during busy times of the semester the waiting period may be longer. Be proactive in booking your meeting, and do so **as soon as** challenges arise!

If you are a student registered with Accessibility Services, and extensions are one of your academic accommodations, you should consult with your Accessibility Advisor about this course. For considerations pertaining to teamwork and accessibility, please see information in the section on Accessibility Needs below under the Policies and Procedures heading.

Policies and Procedures

Missed Tests and Late Assignments

Students who miss a test or submit a late assignment for reasons entirely beyond their control (e.g. illness) may request special consideration.

In such cases, students must:

1. Notify the instructor AND the Rotman Commerce Program Office **on the date** the missed test was to have been written or the assignment was due.
2. Complete a [Request for Special Consideration Form](#) and submit it along with supporting documentation this may include either your Self-Declaration of Absence on ACORN, or [Verification of Student Illness or Injury form](#) to the Rotman Commerce Office within **2 business days** after the missed test date or assignment due date.

Students who do not provide appropriate or sufficient supporting documentation will be given a grade of 0 (zero) in the case of a missed test, and will be penalized a deduction of 20% for each day the assignment is late (including the day required for submission).

Note that documentation must clearly establish that you were ill or had other circumstances that prevented you from writing the test or submitting the assignment on the date in question. After-the-fact reports are not sufficient.

Important specific criteria for this course are:

1. MidTerm Test:

- A missed mid term test must be made up by writing the mid term test **and** submitting same as an assignment (**10% of the course grade**), and writing a 2000 word paper (essay) on a legal topic agreeable with the instructor (**10% of the course grade**). The essay must be submitted by the date specified by the instructor, unless some alternative timing is agreed to with the instructor before that date. If this timing requirement is not met, a grade of 0% will be given for this essay.
- The value of the final term test will also be increased by **15%**.
- The mid term test assignment must be submitted to the instructor within five (5) days of the mid term test date unless some alternative timing is agreed to with the instructor before the end of the five (5) days. If this timing requirement is not met, a grade of 0% will be given for this mid term test assignment.
- **Students are responsible** to contact the instructor on the day following the mid term test date in order to review logistics and to obtain a copy of the mid term test that will need to be submitted as an assignment.

2. Final Term Test:

- A missed final term test must be made up by writing the final term test **and** submitting same as an assignment (**15% of the course grade**), and writing a 2000 word paper (essay) on a legal topic agreeable with the instructor (**10% of the course grade**). The research essay must be submitted by January 8, 2021 unless some alternative timing is agreed to with the instructor before that date. If this timing requirement is not met, a grade of 0% will be given for this essay.
- A new (shorter – less than 2 hours) final term test (**25% of the course grade**) will be written at a common time as determined by the instructor/course co-ordinator.
- The final term test assignment must be submitted to the instructor within five (5) days of the final term test date unless some alternative timing is agreed to with the instructor before the end of the five (5) days. If this timing requirement is not met a grade of 0% will be given for this final term test assignment.
- **Students are responsible** to contact the instructor on the day following the final term test date in order to review logistics and to obtain a copy of the final term test that will need to be submitted as an assignment.

3. Assignment:

- Assignments must be submitted via Quercus by the end of the due date (EST). **Late submissions will be penalized a deduction of 20% for each day the assignment is late, including the day required for submission.**
- The assignments will be posted on the section's Quercus Learning Portal. Assignments must be completed in groups of two from their registered section only.

- Students who, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to submit an assignment by its due date must obtain approval from the instructor for an extension. The request for an extension must be made before the end of the due date (EST). Supporting documentation will be required as per the policy on missed tests and assignments (see above).

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a temporary or ongoing disability or health concern, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or studentlife.utoronto.ca/as.

For courses with deliverables that require you to work in teams, please note the following. If you are a student registered with Accessibility Services, and extensions are one of your academic accommodations, requests for extensions impact everyone in the group. As a result, requests for late submissions of any component of teamwork will require compelling reasons, advance notice, and must work for everyone in the team. You are encouraged to discuss with your course instructor, Accessibility Advisor, and other team members what you need in order to successfully complete your coursework. Additionally, the Rotman Commerce Centre for Professional Skills offers Teamwork Mentors (see section above) who can help you and your team discuss how to support you effectively and how to develop a work plan that meets the needs and constraints of all team members.

Volunteer Notetaking

If you're interested in helping to make our classroom more accessible, volunteer to be a notetaker!

Accessibility Services needs dependable volunteer notetakers to assist students living with a disability to achieve academic success. All you have to do is attend classes regularly and submit your notes consistently.

1. Register online as a Volunteer Note-Taker at:

<https://clockwork.studentlife.utoronto.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx>

2. Follow the link that says "Volunteer Notetakers"

3. Select your course and upload a sample of your notes

4. Once you have been selected as a notetaker, you'll get an email notifying you to upload your Notes.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please email as.notetaking@utoronto.ca or call 416-978-6186.

Volunteers may receive co-curricular credit or a certificate of appreciation.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is a fundamental value essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will continue to be valued and

respected as a true signifier of a student's individual work and academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously.

[The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the process for addressing academic offences and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes collaborating with others on assignments that are supposed to be completed individually).

On test and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) medical notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated by the following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have any question about what is or is not permitted in the course, please do not hesitate to contact the course instructor. If you have any questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from the instructor or other U of T resources such as College Writing Centres or the Academic Success Centre.

Email

At times, the course instructor may decide to communicate important course information by email. As such, all U of T students are required to have a valid UTmail+ email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UTmail+ email address is set up and properly entered on ACORN. For more information visit help.ic.utoronto.ca/category/3/utmail.html.

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Gmail or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Gmail accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that important messages from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Quercus and the Course Page

The online course page for this course is accessed through Quercus. To access the course page, go to g.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, you will be at the Quercus Dashboard. On this page you will see all of the courses you are presently enrolled in. If you don't see the course listed here but you are properly registered for the course in ACORN, wait 48 hours.

Recording Lectures

Lectures, videos and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be the instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record a lecture or copy or share with others any of the course videos or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission, and may not do so unless permission is granted. Students who have been previously granted permission to record lectures as an accommodation for a disability are excepted. This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Quercus materials, etc.

If permission for recording is granted by the instructor (or via Accessibility Services), it is intended for the individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" or share them in any way. It is forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell or share them in any other form without the instructor's formal permission.

FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)

This course, including your participation, may be recorded on video and may be available to certain students (e.g. Accessibility) in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. For all students in the course -- Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Weekly Schedule (contains info on session, dates, topics and readings)

OVERVIEW/FUNDAMENTALS

Class One (September 16, 2020)

The role of law in society: general overview of the sources of law, including common law and statutes. Overview of the court system and the process of proceeding with an action.

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 1 and 2 (please read but will not be responsible for pages 14 to 18)

BUSINESS ENTITIES

Class Two (September 23, 2020)

Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships

Choosing the appropriate business organization. Overview of proprietorships, partnerships, limited partnerships and limited liability partnerships (LLP).

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 24

Class Three & Four (Weeks of September 30, 2020 and October 7, 2020)

The Nature of a Corporation and its Formation

Overview of the nature of a corporation and related key elements of its operations, governance and relationships with other parties (e.g. minority shareholders).

Readings: SSEM - Chapters 25, 26 and 27

TORT LAW

Class Five (October 14, 2020)

The Law of Torts

Basic concepts of negligence.

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 4 (page 84 +)

Class Six – MID TERM TEST – Wednesday, October 21, 2020 – 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. (EST). NO CLASS WILL BE HELD DURING THE WEEK OF THE MID TERM TEST.

Common Mid Term Test – COMMON DATE/TIME FOR ALL RSM 225 SECTIONS. Mid term test coverage – as explained in class. Up to and including basic concepts of negligence (Class Five).

Class Seven (October 28, 2020)

The Law of Torts

Special categories of negligence. Tort law extended to intentional and unintentional interference.

Application to manufacturers and professionals.

Readings: SSEM – Other parts of Chapter 4 continued and Chapter 5

CONTRACT LAW

Class Eight (November 4, 2020)

The Law of Contracts

Basic elements of a contractual relationship - offer and acceptance.

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 6

READING WEEK (November 9 to November 13, 2020)

Class Nine (November 18, 2020)

The Law of Contracts

Legal capacity, intention, consideration and legality of object.
Mistake.

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 7 and 8 (and perhaps Chapter 9 begin)

Class Ten (November 25, 2020)

The Law of Contracts

Misrepresentation, undue influence, duress and the requirement of writing.

Readings: SSEM - Chapters 9 and 10

Class Eleven (December 2, 2020)

The Law of Contracts

Interpretation, privity and assignment.

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 10 and 11

The Law of Contracts

Discharge of contracts and breach of contract.

Readings: Chapter 12 and 13 (note remedies will only be covered in a very general manner)

Class Twelve (December 9, 2020)

Sales of Goods Act

The *Sales of Goods Act* - application to contracts; implied conditions and warranties.
Readings: Chapter 14

Review/other legal topics/Chapters – as per instructor

**Please note that the last day you can drop this course without academic penalty is
November 9, 2020.**