



# Rotman Commerce UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## Course Outline

**RSM225H1S**  
**Legal Environment of Business I**  
**FALL 2016**

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**Legal Environment of Business I L0101 M 6-8 WW119**  
**Legal Environment of Business I L5101 W 7-9 WO 30**  
Note: Please confirm classroom locations on-line.

**Rybak, Jeff**  
**Shear, Dan**

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E-Mail: Specific information to be provided in class  
Webpage: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>  
Phone: Specific information to be provided in class and/or Blackboard  
Office Hours: Specific information to be provided in class and/or Blackboard.

### Course Prerequisites

RSM100Y1 / RSM100H1 / MGT 100H1

### 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.).

### Required Readings

- Smyth, Soberman Easson & McGill, **The Law and Business Administration in Canada**, 14th. Edition (©2016) – Pearson Education. [SSEM]
- Students should also refer to relevant statutory references available on the Internet.  
<http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>

## Evaluation and Grades

Grades are a measure of the performance of a student in individual courses. Each student shall be judged on the basis of how well he or she has command of the course materials.

▪ Term Test – <b>all sections (Monday, February 13, 2017) – 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.</b> (□)	35%**
▪ Assignment ( <b>one assignment issued after the midterm date</b> )	15%*
▪ Final Examination ( <b>2 hours</b> )	<u>50%</u>
	<b>100%</b>

□ depending on conflicts – the test may be moved to 8 pm to 9:30 pm.

\*There will be one major assignment issued during the term. Specifics as to due dates (etc.) will be provided by the instructor in class. Assignment will be completed in groups of 2 students. Groups must be formed from students **with your registered sections only**.

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### **Missed Tests and Assignments (including midterm examinations)**

Students who miss a test, or fail to submit an assignment when due, for reasons entirely beyond their control (e.g. illness) may submit a request for special consideration. Provided that notification and documentation are provided in a timely manner (see below), and that the request is subsequently approved, no academic penalty will be applied.

Students must notify Rotman Commerce on the date of the missed test (or due date in the case of course work) and submit supporting documentation (e.g. [Verification of Student Illness or Injury form](#)) to the Rotman Commerce Program Office within **48 hours** of the originally scheduled test or due date. Students who do not provide Rotman Commerce or the instructor with appropriate or sufficient supporting documentation will be given a grade of 0 (zero) for the missed test or course deliverable.

**Note that in the case of illness, the physician's report must establish that the patient was examined and diagnosed at the time of illness, not after the fact, and that the student missed the test (or failed to submit the assignment when due) owing to illness. Rotman Commerce will not accept a statement that merely confirms a report of illness made by the student and documented by the physician.**

Important specific criteria for this course are:

#### 1. Term Test:

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

## 2. Assignments:

- Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class when due. **Late submissions will be penalized a deduction of 20% for each day, including the day required for submission.**
- The assignments will be provided in class or posted on the section's Blackboard Learning Portal. Assignments must be completed in groups from their registered section only.
- Students who, for reasons beyond their control, are unable to submit an assignment by its deadline must obtain approval from the instructor for an extension. 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 disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is a fundamental value essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarships at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT 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*

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> 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 would 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 UofT 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 UofT 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 the ROSI system. For more information please visit <http://help.ic.utoronto.ca/category/3/utmail.html>

Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo 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.

### **Blackboard and the Course Page**

The online course page for this course is accessed through Blackboard. To access the course page, go to the UofT Portal login at <https://portal.utoronto.ca/> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, look for the My Courses module where you'll find the link to all your course websites. If you don't see the course listed here but you are properly registered for the course in ROSI, wait 48 hours. If the course does not appear, go to the Information Commons Help Desk in Robarts Library, 1st floor, for help, or explore the Portal Information and Help at [www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students](http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/students) and review the Frequently Asked Questions.

### **Recording Lectures**

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record a lecture 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 (note: students who have been previously granted permission to record lectures as an accommodation for a disability are, of course, excepted). This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Blackboard materials, etc.

If permission 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" them in anyway. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in any other form without formal permission.

### **To Use Turnitin.com:**

Normally students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays 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.

### **For Written Assignments:**

Please note that clear, concise, and correct writing will be considered in the evaluation of the assignment. That is, 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 ([www.asc.utoronto.ca](http://www.asc.utoronto.ca)) or one of the College Writing Centres ([www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres](http://www.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.

### **For Group Work:**

The assignment requires students to work in teams of two (2) of two from the same registered section.

Learning to work together in teams is an important aspect of your education and preparation for your future careers. That said, project-based teamwork is often new to students; to work well in teams, it helps to follow a set of core expectations to best succeed at your team projects.

1. Read the document entitled, “Working in Teams: Guidelines for Rotman Commerce Students” which is available on the RC portal under the Academic Services tab.

2. When working in a team, Rotman Commerce students are expected to:

- Treat other members with courtesy and respect;
- Honour the ground rules established by the team;
- Contribute substantially and proportionally to the final project;
- Ensure enough familiarity with the entire contents of the group project/assignment so as to be able to sign off on it as original work;
- Meet the project timeline as established by the team.

3. Resolving conflicts:

Conflicts are part of the team’s process of learning how to work together. When handled well, it can generate creativity and bring-multiple perspectives to the solution.

Student teams are expected to work through their misunderstandings as soon as they arise (and prior to submission of the final project). When teams are unable to arrive at a solution that works for all members, the team must meet with the Rotman Commerce Team Coach\*\* as soon as possible. The Coach will listen to the team and help develop options for improving the team process. All members of the project team must commit to, and, utilize their action plans.

\*\*For an appointment with a Rotman Commerce Team Coach, please contact Nouman Ashraf at [nouman.ashraf@rotman.utoronto.ca](mailto:nouman.ashraf@rotman.utoronto.ca) Nouman is highly skilled at facilitating team dynamics and collaboration. Note that the Team Coach’s role is to provide guidance, support and advice on team matters – not to formally evaluate or assess teamwork for academic purposes.

## **Class Schedule**

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **Class One (Week of January 9, 2017)**

##### *Overview of the Canadian Legal System*

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 13 to 17)

### **BUSINESS ENTITIES**

#### **Class Two (Week of January 16, 2017)**

##### *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 January 23, 2017 and January 30, 2017)**

##### *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 (Week of February 6, 2017)**

##### *The Law of Torts*

Basic concepts of negligence

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 4

#### **Class Six MIDTERM – Monday February 13, 2017) – 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**common Midterm – COMMON DATE/TIME FOR ALL SECTIONS**

## **TORT LAW**

### **Class Seven (Week of February 27, 2017)**

#### *The Law of Torts*

Tort law extended to intentional and unintentional interference  
Application to manufacturers and professionals

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 4 continued and Chapter 5

## **CONTRACT LAW**

### **Class Eight (Week of March 6, 2017)**

#### *The Law of Contracts*

Basic elements of a contractual relationship - offer and acceptance

Readings: SSEM - Chapter 6

### **Class Nine (Week of March 13, 2017)**

#### *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 (Week of March 20, 2017)**

#### *The Law of Contracts*

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

Readings: SSEM - Chapters 9 and 10

### **Class Eleven (Week of March 27, 2017)**

#### *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 (Week of April 3, 2017)**

*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