Finance 240: Business Law
Barcelona, Spain
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Course Overview & Syllabus

This is the first time that a 200 level course is being offered as a study abroad choice. With that, I have created a somewhat unusual format for the student to learn and satisfy the Finance 240 credits. Hands down, if you have to take Finance 240 to move to upper division, this is the course for you. If there is one thing I know, you don’t want to take Finance 240 during the Fall 2019 semester.

What I have found after teaching this subject for so many years is that during a regular semester this course is taught very aggressively in that the course covers a broad variety of topics. During this study abroad course I have created a course with the framework that I believe makes for a much better understanding of the material without the stress that Finance 240 produces for students during the academic year.

The goal of this course is to present materials that contained the ideas of our founding fathers in assembling the necessary pieces to launch their experiment in a new form of government that they called Democracy.

The one thing that is lacking in the traditional business law class is foundational context. You will learn the reasons why the founders thought a democratic form of government would be more humane in that the laws would be fairly created and applied. That everyone would be subject to the law or in other words, no one would be above the law.

The course will be broken down into four sections. The first section will be the foundations of democracy. The second section will focus on the United States Constitution. The third section of the course will introduce you to international law concepts and the use of conventions and treaties necessary to conduct business on an international level. Lastly, the fourth section of the course will be based on the comparison of US law that is based on precedent and civil law countries that make up the European Union (EU).

Classes will be held Monday through Thursday from 10:00 to 13:00. There will be both cultural and professional visits that will take place a couple of times during the week. When a visit is scheduled, it will be in the afternoon after lunch from 14:00 to 17:00. Friday through Sunday is your personal time to travel and explore.
When you have completed this course you will walk away with a deep appreciation for a democratic form of government. You will have a deeper appreciation for the many things that we take for granted in a free society. Hopefully, you will walk away from this program with an understanding of how important it is to engage and participate in the world, why it is a privilege to have the right to vote, and why your vote really means something.

In short, the ultimate goal of this course is to connect you with the history of the birth of the nation so you will be able to assess the evolution of the experiment with the knowledge of the original architects ideas in 1776. Then you can judge for yourself the strengths and weaknesses of the founder’s theoretical ideas that were translated into practice, and its evolution to the present day.

Finance Department Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Identify legal issues that impact financial and other risks affecting business
2. Analyze relevant case law for the purpose of finding legal precedents that will be used to determine and outcome
3. Interpret statutory laws for purposes of risk avoidance, and establish control mechanisms

At the end of the course students should be able to:
1. Communicate effectively
2. Be a critical thinker
3. Analyze legal and ethical problems
4. Have a global perspective, and
5. Be knowledgeable about the essentials of business.

Course Materials:

A majority of the course material will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents. There will be only one text unless it is offered before the program in digital format.

Grading:

It is imperative that you make a good faith effort to attend all classes. Attendance, class preparation, and participation will be taken into consideration when determining your final grade. In addition, there will be one exam on the last day of class.
The following is the Fowler College of Business, Finance Department grading policy for Finance 240:

- A 93-100
- A- 90-92
- B+ 88-89
- B 83-87
- B- 80-82
- C+ 78-79
- C 73-77
- C- 70-72

Students must earn a minimum of a C (73-77) in order to register for upper division coursework.

Faculty Bio

Seth M. Kaplowitz is an attorney and former real estate executive with an extensive background in real estate development and construction. He began teaching at Fowler College of Business at San Diego State University shortly after his return from Asia in 2010 where he was developing real estate in Hong Kong, Shanghai, China, and Phuket, Thailand.

In addition to teaching at San Diego State University, he has been visiting faculty at the Berlin School of Economics and Law, Berlin, Germany; Kings College, Dickson Poon School of Law, London, England; Wuhan University, Wuhan, China; University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain; and has led several study abroad programs. Mr. Kaplowitz is a partner in Blumberg Law Group, LLP, Solana Beach, California where he specializes in domestic and international business matters.