



## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

### Foundations of Business Law and the Legal Environment



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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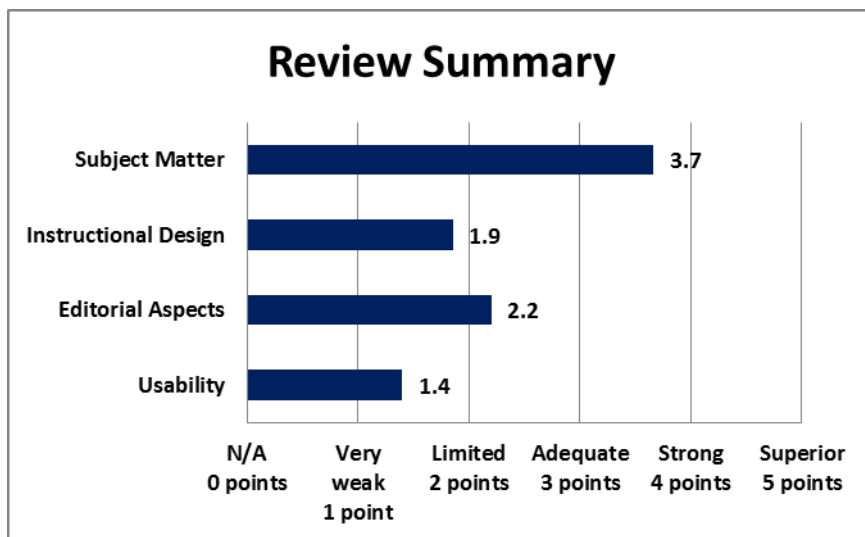
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

December 2015

### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [BUS 125](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?				X		
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?				X		

Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)					X	

Total Points: 22 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The textbook covers all the relevant areas of a business law course, including constitutional law, crimes, torts, contracts, negotiable instruments, agency and real estate. It would provide all the information necessary to a student for this type of course.
- However, I think this textbook focuses too much on the court system and the legal process. Chapter 3 could be shortened significantly--when I was reading this chapter, I felt like I was back in the Civil Procedure class in law school. Undergraduate students do not need this much detail. Additionally, there were sections in Chapter 6 that continued to talk about the court system and legal process.
- In Chapter 4, I think there was too much focus on the development of the commerce clause. All a student needs to know is (1) what is the commerce clause, and (2) how does it affect interstate commerce.
- I loved Chapter 6 on crimes. It talked about each crime and gave a summary of what it took to be convicted of the crime. I would focus a little more on mens rea (the required bad intent) though.
- Overall, the subject matter was presented in a reasonable fashion--nothing too detailed, but just enough to cover the topic.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?				X		
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)		X				
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?				X		
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?		X				
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?				X		
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)		X				
Is the textbook searchable?		X				

Total Points: 13 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The textbook is slightly basic in its language. It could be a bit more sophisticated in its wording. I felt like I was reading a dumbed-down textbook at a few points.
- The visual presentation of this textbook is not very good. The fonts are not consistent throughout the textbook. If this textbook was printed out, it would be pages and pages of white, with very little color interspersed.
- There is no table of contents. This is an absolute must for any textbook. Students needs to know how the textbook is going to proceed. I spent too much time trying to figure out what topics were presented in this textbook.
- The self-test questions and answers are much too basic and are not thorough whatsoever. This textbook

seems designed to cover the basics of the law, but doesn't focus much on the exceptions within the law. (And exceptions are where the real law is.) More self-test questions (and not just simple multiple-choice questions) are required to assist students with the materials.

- I am not a fan of presenting the entire text of two or three case opinions at the end of each chapter. At this level, students are not interested in reading the entire case. I think a better way to present the materials would be boxes within the text which summarize key cases. This way, students are reading only the relevant portions of the cases that matter. And, it helps to break up the long sections of text within the textbook.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)			X			
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)		X				
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	X					

Total Points: 11 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- See prior comments regarding a lack of table of contents. There also is no glossary.
- Formatting needs to be worked on. Sometimes, sections would start at the bottom of a page, while the rest of the page was blank. There are inconsistent fonts used which affect presentation.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?				X		
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)		X				
Can the textbook be printed easily?		X				
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?		X				
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?		X				

Total Points: 7 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- The only version which was available to me was an online version. I could have printed the online version, but it would not have been as easy had there been a .pdf version.
- There are no instructions on how to navigate the textbook as it appears it is only navigable by scrolling up and down. There need to be links to jump from section to section (from a table of contents).
- I was not aware of any ability to annotate the textbook because it was an online version only.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?				X		
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)

How willing would you be to adopt this book?			X			
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Total Points: 5 out of 10

## Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- The textbook gives a good overview of all topics of business law. Many of the chapters are written such that the basic information is presented easily, without too much clutter or focus on exceptions. It is written in an accessible manner which makes it easy to read.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- While the textbook is focused on the basics of business law, it often omits many of the exceptions which form a large part of business law. This textbook needs to add case summaries within the text to help illustrate the law, and not just rely on the full opinions of cases at the end of each chapter.
- Additionally, the formatting of the online textbook is off. Text is not appropriately aligned and there are erroneous white spaces all over the textbook.
- There appears to be no real companion materials for this textbook, including test banks. It is an adequate textbook for the basics, but it has a general feel of being cheap.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)  
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For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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