Legal v. Ethical
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Course Background

Legal Environment of Business (INE315):
Introduction to the origins, framework & concepts of business law and the government's constitutional authority to regulate US business.

- Average 100 students per class
- Required course for all business majors
- Typically taken junior or senior year
- Lecture, interactive technology, group work, peer teaching & reviews
- Discussions (21%), written homework (25%), in-class group work (24%), paper with presentation (30%)

Course Changes

Develop Empathy:
How to see legal problems as human problems and not purely transactional situations that must be either won or avoided at all costs?

- Students often viewed law as a "zero-sum game" with little consideration of human cost.
- All Homework assignments changed to focus on the individual plaintiff's situation in actual legal cases.
- Students encouraged to envision themselves as the plaintiff.
- How can the law assist them? Are the legal options available to the defendants ethical? What can businesses do to foster a more ethical legal environment?

Results

Students began to analyze legal situations from the human perspective.

- More collaborative problem solving as in-class group work looked to create better legal business practices (+51%).
- Semester papers included. increased application of JEDI principles to the law (+82%).
- Students more willing to incorporate major-specific ethical approaches in Discussion posts (+36%).
- IDEA comment: *"I now understand law as a tool for good."*

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