

SYLLABUS - SPRING 2007
LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS 320F
DEAN BREDESON, J.D.

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Office hours

Tuesday: 10-11 (by appointment only)
Wednesday: 4-5 (by appointment only)
Wednesday: 5-6 (no appointment needed)

Exams

We will have three exams. The midterms will each be worth 25% of your course grade, and the final exam will be worth 50%. They will occur on:

MIDTERM 1 (25%) - Thursday, February 8 - in class
MIDTERM 2 (25%) - Tuesday, March 6 - in class
FINAL EXAM (50%) - Wednesday, May 9 - 2:00 PM - location TBD

*Exam format: All exams (except make up exams) will be entirely multiple choice. None of the exams will be cumulative.

*Curves: If the class average is low, I curve exams; if the class average is high, I do not. I never "curve down".

*Missed exams: An unexcused absence during an exam will result in a score of 0 for that exam. If an absence is excused, I will give a make up exam which may be up to 100% essay. To have an excused exam absence, you must notify me of the reason for your absence before the exam, and then provide written documentation of extreme circumstances.

Course Grades

At the end of the course, after all curves have been made, I will follow these cut-offs for each grade level:

lowest A: 88 average
lowest B: 76 average
lowest C: 64 average
lowest D: 60 average

The following adjustments to your exam average are possible:

A. Penalty for poor attendance. You get six "free" absences. There is no distinction between classes missed for a "good" or a "bad" reason, and there are no excused or unexcused absences from normal lectures. I strongly recommend saving at least some of these days for times when you have a particular reason for missing class, but that is up to you. For each absence starting with the seventh absence, I will subtract 3 points from your final course average. To receive credit for attendance, you must be present in the section you are registered for when attendance is taken.

B. Other deductions. Although it is rarely a problem, I may also deduct points for disrupting class or for failing to follow instructions during exams.

C. Possible Additions. For exceptional participation in class discussions, or for otherwise showing truly unusual effort, I may

add a few discretionary points to your final average.

Tape recorders

Unless you have a particular need and have discussed it with me ahead of time, please do not bring tape recorders to class.

Laptops

I have no problem with students using laptops to take notes, and a big problem with students who use laptops to surf the Internet during class.

Before you begin using a laptop in class, you must come by an office hour or come up to me after class in person and promise that you will use your computer only for taking notes.

Cheating

The minimum penalty for any scholastic dishonesty related to the exams will be an F in the course.

Class Schedule and Assigned Cases

Text: Business Law Text and Cases in the Legal Environment (8th custom edition) by Allison/Prentice

On each exam, approximately 20% of the questions will come directly from the textbook assignments, and from any supplemental handouts that I distribute in class. These materials will not all be covered in class. The other 80% of the test questions will be on material that is covered in the lectures. I will make assignments at the end of most lectures.

Below is the list of topics that we will cover. Some topics will take a single day, while some will take several days to cover.

1. Introduction
2. Courts/Alternative Dispute Resolution
3. The Constitution
4. Landlord-Tenant Law
5. Torts
6. Contracts
7. Wills, Estates, and Trusts
8. Agency/Business Organizations
9. Intellectual property
10. Discrimination law
11. Other employee/workplace rights
12. Environmental law
13. Bankruptcy and consumer protection law
14. Ethics
15. International law
16. Internet law
17. Criminal law

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students.