



Law for Entrepreneurs

LEB 380.26 - 03515 - Spring 2007

- Instructor:* Christopher H. Meakin
- Meeting times:* Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.
- Classroom:* GSB 3.130
- Instructor's Office:* CBA 2.316S – MBA Program Office.
- Office Hours:* Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 to 11:00 a. m. and other times by appointment.
- Email:* Christopher.Meakin@Mcombs.utexas.edu
- Phone:* 471.7616. If you leave a message, please state your full name and a telephone number where you can be reached. I will return your call promptly.
- Text:* THE ENTREPRENEUR'S GUIDE TO LAW, 2nd Edition, Constance Bagley and Craig Dauchy. Additionally, you will be provided with supplements.
- Objective:* In this class students examine the principal legal issues facing those who wish to create and manage their own business ventures and those who deal with entrepreneurs. Students learn to choose the right business entity and how that entity is governed, basic contract law, tort law and intellectual property. They also learn about employment law, the law regarding business competition and legal issues relating the raising of capital. Students are taught by the Socratic method.
- Grading:* Your grade will be made up of the following components.
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|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Journal | 15% |
| Class attendance and contribution | 25% |
| 1 st Exam | 30% |
| 2 nd Exam | 30% |

For each exam you be allowed to bring one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper with anything you wish written on it (both front and back side) in only your own handwriting. Your full name must be

written on both sides of the sheet in letters at least **this big**. The sheet shall be turned in

with the exam. The exams will only test your application of material covered during the period immediately preceding that exam. For example, the 2nd Exam will only test you on material we discussed after the 1st exam and before the 2nd Exam. Your final grade will be subject to a curve.

Exams will be offered at the times scheduled. Exceptions to the rule in the previous sentence will only be granted under the most extreme circumstances such as a serious illness of you or a loved one at the time of the exam.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester I may assign extra credit exercises during class. They will not be difficult but you must be in attendance for the entire class period and on time on the day of the assignment and on the day the assignment is due. Unless, advised otherwise the extra credit should be turned in during class in hard copy. Work without a name will be disregarded.

Attendance, Assignments, and Class Contribution:

Please read the assigned chapters from the text and the corresponding supplement pages (with special emphasis on the cases) before each class. We all must attend each class with a firm understanding of the assignment for that day and a willingness to participate in class discussions so that we each may benefit from the ideas of the others. You will be expected to be able to answer questions and ask relevant and thoughtful questions. When evaluating any individual's contribution, quantity and volume are much less important than quality and perceptiveness. At the beginning of each class a roll sheet will be circulated. If you were in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class, please mark yourself present with your initials. If you were not present and ready at the beginning of class but arrive later, please mark tardy. If you leave class before it is completed please mark that event on the roll sheet. Signing the roll sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The roll sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

Any student who misses three classes is subject to a letter grade reduction. Two tardies will count as a missed class.

Journal

You will keep a journal throughout the semester. The journal should contain one current news article for each week that the class meets other than the first week of class. The article may be on any topic related to the law and the activities of an entrepreneur. Please produce or reproduce the article onto 8½" x 11" paper. Additionally, each article shall be accompanied by your thoughts on the issues raised by the article including the issues you have identified, who must deal or has dealt with the issues, your recommendation or critique on how the issue should be or was handled. Your thoughts should be no more than one page. You should bring your journal and be prepared to discuss your article each week. The journals are due on the last day of class. The journal should be a professional work product (i.e. neatness counts).

Your work:

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with others, your work in this class such as the exam sheets and extra credit assignments shall be your own independent work.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

No recording shall be made during class without express permission from the instructor. Computers may be used for note taking only. Under no circumstance shall students open any program (i.e. Internet Explorer, Outlook, etc.) on their computers during class for any reason other than note taking. Computers are not allowed in class during presentations by guest speakers.

Note:

Nothing in this syllabus displaces the overarching laws of common sense, logic, truth, grace or humor.

Preliminary Class Schedule
(we will move at our own pace)
Spring 2007

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Please have read chapter</i>
Jan.	18	Introduction	-
	23	Sources of law and leaving gracefully	1, 2 & Supp. pp. 1-29
	25	Leaving gracefully (cont.) and choosing counsel	3
	30	Choosing a business entity	4 & Supp. pp.707-746
Feb.	1	Choosing a business entity (cont.)	
	6	Working with a business entity	5 & Supp. pp. 747-782
	8	Working with a business entity (cont.)	<i>Southdown</i> case
	13	Working with a business entity (cont.) and begin Agency	Supp. pp 680-724
	15	Agency (cont.)	
	20	Property	Chapter 14 and Supp. pp. 367-413
	22	IP (cont.)	
	27	Contracts	Chapter 8 and Supp. pp. 212 - 256
March	1	Exam 1	
	5-16	Global Connections and Spring Break – Class does not meet	
	20	Contracts (cont.)	
	22	Sales	Chapter 9 and Supp.
	27	Sales (cont.)	
	29	Sales (cont.)	
April	3	Operational Liabilities	Chapter 11
	5	Financing and Securities Regulation	7 and Supp.
	10	Financing and Securities Regulation	
	12	Venture Capital	
	17	Human Resources	10 & Supp.
	19	Human Resources (cont.)	
	24	Selling and buying a business	16
	26	Sale to the Public	17
May	1	Bankruptcy	12 and Supp.
	3	Exam 2	