LEB 320F: Foundations of the Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2012
Syllabus

Lecturer: Drew Thornley, J.D.
Office: CBA 5.252
Office Hours: TBA weekly. Otherwise, by appointment.
E-Mail: DThornley@mail.utexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rules of law govern many aspects of business. By establishing and enforcing these rules, our legal system maintains order, facilitates commercial transactions, and provides a framework for making sound business decisions.

This course focuses on the organization and operation of the American legal system, legal rules that impact business, and the practical application of these rules to real-life situations. Emphasis is placed on analytical problem-solving and ethical decision-making.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Our study of the legal environment of business is designed to help students accomplish the following objectives:

(1) Gain an enhanced understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines.
(2) Recognize legal and ethical issues when making business decisions.
(3) Improve analytical problem-solving skills.
(4) Apply knowledge and skills to address and manage potential problems, before they become actual, expensive problems.

COURSE TEXT: Business Law: John R. Allison & Robert A. Prentice, 12th Edition, 2009

GRADES

Score	Grade
93 and above	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	F

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. I encourage you to attend classes, as the exams will test the material we cover during classes and also as there is the possibility of pop quizzes, class-participation grades, etc.

EXAMS

Three exams will be given (2 during the semester given during regular class time and 1 during your assigned final-exam time). Exam 1 and Exam 2 each count one-sixth of your grade, and Exam 3 (the "final") counts one-third of your grade. Thus, these 3 exams make up two-thirds of your grade. There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss Exam 1 and/or Exam 2, the percentage(s) assigned to the exam(s) you miss will be applied to the Exam 3 (the "final"). Exams are not cumulative. Exam 3 (the "final") is the only exam for which you will receive a zero if you do not take the exam. Your highest exam score will not replace your lowest exam grade. There is no guaranteed curve, so do not plan for one, and **do not ask for extra credit**. The remaining 33% of your grade will come from ethics components – paper(s), exam(s), pop quiz(zes), and/or class participation, etc. Exact components TBD.

CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom, all cell phones and wireless devices must be silenced. Laptops may only be used by students sitting in the top two rows of the classroom. Disruptive use of phones, laptops, etc. (or disruptiveness of any kind) will not be tolerated. Students engaged in disruptive behavior will be dismissed summarily from class.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all the student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Policy Statement to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at **http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/** or the General Information Catalog to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty and to obtain additional information on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

CLASS WEB SITES AND STUDENT PRIVACY

Password-protected class sites will be available for all accredited courses taught at the University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information, see http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi02-03/app/appc09.html.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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 at 471-6259.