



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Texas Executive MBA at Mexico City
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Fall 2009

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Text: WEST'S BUSINESS LAW, TEXT AND CASES, 11TH EDITION, Clarkson, Miller, Jentz and Cross (South-Western, Cengage Learning 2009)

Grading: Your grade will be made up of the following components.

Class attendance and contribution	25%
Paper	20%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final 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 one side of the sheet in letters at least **this big**. Sheets that do not comply with these requirements are subject to exclusion. Each sheet shall be turned in with the exam.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Computers and other electronic devices may not be used during class.

Attendance, Assignments, and Class Contribution:

Please read the assignment 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 and remain for the entire class period, please signify present with your initials. Please mark tardy if you were not present and ready at the beginning of class but arrived later or if you leave early. Signing the attendance sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The attendance sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

The exam will be offered at the time 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 extra credit exercises may be assigned during class. They will not be difficult but you must in attendance for the entire class period 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.

Paper:

The research paper should be approximately 10 -15 pages, double spaced. It should address at least one major legal issue from an international perspective. The paper can be comparative (comparing the law of two different countries on the topic) or address the topic from the law of one country (non-U.S.). The paper can address both the legal and the managerial issues (that is, how managers can minimize their legal risks, capitalize on the law, or use the law against their competitors). You should consult with the instructor about the appropriateness of the topic if you are in doubt about it. No collaboration is permitted on the papers. The papers are to be individual and new work and are to include a list of sources. It is very important that you use a variety of sources in writing a research paper and that you document all your sources carefully, attributing the ideas of others accurately. The deadline for submitting the paper is December 5, 2009.

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.

Honor Code:

The University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business requires each enrolled student to adopt the Honor System. The Honor Pledge best describes the conduct promoted by the Honor System. It reads as follows: "I affirm that I belong to the honorable community of The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Business. I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate those who do. I pledge my full support to the Honor System. I agree to be bound at all times by the Honor System and understand that any violation may result in my dismissal from the Graduate School of Business."

Note:

For issues others than those discussed in this syllabus, the overarching laws of common sense, logic, physics, truth, wisdom, nature and humor apply.

Class Schedule - Fall 2009

(Below is an estimate of what topics will be covered and when. However, the class will move at its own pace)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i> (please pay particular note of the Cases for Analysis at the end of each Chapter) additionally there will be supplements
Aug 18	Course Overview, Dispute Resolution, the U.S. Constitution, and Comparative Law	Chapters 1- 4 and 52
Aug 20	Real, Personal and Intellectual Property and Environmental Law	Chapters 48, 47, 8 and 45
Aug 29 P2	Contracts	Chapters 10 - 15
Sept 25 P2	Finish Contracts and Sales sample Starbucks Contract in the middle of the book)	Chapters 16 – 18, 20 and 22 (and
Sept 26 P1	Torts and Mid-Term Exam	Chapter 6 and 7
Oct 9 P1	Product Liability and Agency	Chapters 23, 31 and 32
Oct 10 P2	Business Entities	Chapters 35 - 40
Nov 7 P2	Employment Law and Bankruptcy	Chapter 33, 34 and 30
Nov 20 P1	To be announced	
Nov 21 P2	To be announced	
Dec 5 P2	Final Exam	