



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Texas Evening MBA
The Legal Environment of Business
Fall 2009

Instructor: Christopher H. Meakin

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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: WEST'S BUSINESS LAW, TEXT AND CASES, ELEVENTH EDITION, Clarkson, Miller, Jentz and Cross (Southwestern Cengage 2009)

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

Class attendance and contribution		20%
Journal	due December 8, 2009	15%
Mid-term exam	October 20, 2009	30%
Final exam	December 15, 2009	35%

For the exams 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. 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 on the dates scheduled during class. 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.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

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

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 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 and Class Contribution:

Please read the assigned chapters from the text and 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.

Students should attend each class. Any student who misses two classes is subject to a letter grade reduction. Please look at your calendar for the semester and budget your known absences in advance. If you are tardy twice it will count as a missed class.

Journal

You will keep a journal throughout the semester. The journal should contain one recent news article for almost each week that the class meets (12 entries total). The article may be on any topic related to the law and business. Please produce or reproduce the article onto 8 ½" 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 per article. You should bring your journal and be prepared to discuss your article each week. The journals are due on the last class day of the course. The journal should be a professional work product but binders or folders are not necessary. One staple in the upper left hand corner of your journal is sufficient.

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 and original 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:

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

Class Schedule Fall 2009

We will cover the chapters listed below in the following order. At the end of each class you will be notified about the reading for the next class. We will proceed at our own pace. For the first class please read chapters 2-4 and 53.

Topic	Chapter(s)
Introduction and Legal Systems	52
Dispute Resolution	2, 3
U.S. Constitution	4
Real Property	48
Personal Property	47
Intellectual Property	8
Contracts	10-18
Warranties and Product Liability	23
Torts	6 and 7
Agency	31-32
Business Entities	35-39
Human Resources	33-34
Crimes	9
Bankruptcy	30
Environmental Law	45

Each student should be prepared to present the cases entitled "Cases for Analysis" found in the chapters.