

**SYLLABUS**  
**Foundations of the Legal Environment of Business**  
**LEB 320F**  
**Fall 2009**

**M W 2:00-3:30pm    GSB 2.126    UNIQUE # 03615**

**Lecturer:** Frances A. Pedersen, J.D.  
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**Office Phone:** 471-0412  
**Office Hours:** M W 11:30am-12:30pm (drop-in), and by appointment  
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### **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.
- (5) Evaluate expert advice and determine the extent to which it should be incorporated into business decisions.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

- (1) **Business Law**  
John R. Allison & Robert A. Prentice  
11th Edition, 2009 (*selected chapters*)
- (2) **Course Outline – LEB 320F**  
Pedersen  
Fall 2009

## GRADES

I grade on a curve, using the following items and weights:

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Exam # 1 (September 28)</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Exam # 2 (November 2)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final Exam (December 9)</b>	<b>35%</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

<u>Curved Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
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. I use sign-in sheets to monitor attendance, so be sure to **sign the attendance sheet every time you come to class**. If you must miss a class (for example, to observe a religious holy day or to attend a mandatory event sponsored by the University), it is your responsibility to notify me prior to that class, provide any necessary documentation substantiating the absence, and obtain my approval in order for the absence to be excused.

### Exams

Exams are **open-book and open-note**, testing your ability to analyze hypothetical situations and determine the extent to which various legal rules apply. There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss exam #1 and/or exam #2 for any reason, the percentage assigned to the exam(s) you have missed will be applied to the final exam. Therefore, if you miss exam #1, your final exam will be worth 60% of your overall grade. If you miss exam #2, your final exam will be worth 65% of your final grade. If you miss both exam #1 and exam #2, your final grade will be worth 90% of your overall grade.

## CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom, the following rules apply:

- (1) Laptops must be closed and put away. Our class time is too valuable to spend it surfing the internet or checking e-mail. The Course Outline provides ample space for handwritten notes.
- (2) Cell phones and wireless devices must be turned off. If you are expecting an emergency-related call, be considerate by turning your cell phone to vibrate.
- (3) Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom.

## 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.

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- (1) **Introduction:** Nature & Sources of Law (Chapter 1)
- (2) **Court Systems:** Jurisdiction, Functions (Chapter 2)
- (3) **Dispute Resolution:** ADR, Litigation (Chapter 3)
- (4) **Criminal Law:** White Collar Crime (Chapter 7)
- (5) **Torts:** Negligence, Intentional Wrongdoing (Chapter 8)
- (6) **Sales:** Warranties, Product Liability (Chapter 20)
- (7) **Intellectual Property:** Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Patents, Copyrights (Chapter 9)
- (8) **Business Ethics:** Morality, Decision Making, Organizations (Chapters 36-38)
- (9) **Contracts:** Nature, Formation, Enforcement (Chapters 10-15)
- (10) **Agency:** Nature, Duties, Liability (Chapters 22-23)
- (11) **Partnerships:** Nature, Formation, Property (Chapter 24)
- (12) **Corporations:** Nature, Formation, Shareholders, Managers, Mergers (Chapters 25-27)
- (13) **Employment Law:** Discrimination (Chapter 30)

## SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<u>Week 1</u> W 8/26	<b>Introduction</b> (Chapter 1)
<u>Week 2</u> M 8/31 W 9/2	<b>Court Systems</b> (Chapter 2) <b>Court Systems</b> (Chapter 2); <b>Dispute Resolution</b> (Chapter 3)
<u>Week 3</u> M 9/7 W 9/9	<b>NO CLASS: Labor Day</b> <b>Dispute Resolution</b> (Chapter 3); <b>White Collar Crime</b> (Chapter 7)
<u>Week 4</u> M 9/14 W 9/16	<b>Torts: Negligence</b> (Chapter 8) <b>Torts: Negligence &amp; Intentional Wrongdoing</b> (Chapter 8)
<u>Week 5</u> M 9/21 W 9/23	<b>Sales: Warranties</b> (Chapter 20) <b>Sales: Product Liability</b> (Chapter 20)
<u>Week 6</u> M 9/28 W 9/30	<u><b>EXAM # 1</b></u> <b>Intellectual Property: Trademarks</b> (Chapter 9)
<u>Week 7</u> M 10/5 W 10/7	<b>Intellectual Property: Trade Secrets &amp; Patents</b> (Chapter 9) <b>Intellectual Property: Copyrights</b> (Chapter 9)
<u>Week 8</u> M 10/12 W 10/14	<b>Ethics</b> (Chapters 36-38) <b>Ethics</b> (Chapters 36-38)

Week 9

**M 10/19**

**W 10/21**

**Contracts: Nature** (Chapter 10) & **Agreement** (Chapter 11)

**Contracts: Agreement** (Chapter 11)

Week 10

**M 10/26**

**W 10/28**

**Contracts: Consideration** (Chapter 12) & **Illegality** (Chapter 13)

**Contracts: Voidable** (Chapter 14)

Week 11

**M 11/2**

**W 11/4**

**EXAM # 2**

**Contracts: Voidable** (Chapter 14)

Week 12

**M 11/9**

**W 11/11**

**Contracts: Writing** (Chapter 15)

**Agency: Nature/Duties** (Chapter 22) & **Liability** (Chapter 23)

Week 13

**M 11/16**

**W 11/18**

**Agency: Liability** (Chapter 23); **Partnerships** (Chapter 24)

**Corporations: Nature & Formation** (Chapter 25)

**Corporations: Shareholders & Managers** (Chapter 26)

Week 14

**M 11/23**

**W 11/25**

**Corporations: Shareholders & Managers** (Chapter 26)

**Corporations: Mergers** (Chapter 27)

**Employment Law: Discrimination** (Chapter 30)

Week 15

**M 11/30**

**W 12/2**

**Employment Law: Discrimination** (Chapter 30)

**Wrap-up**

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**W 12/9**

**9:00am-Noon**

**FINAL EXAM**

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