LEB 320F: Foundations of the Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2010
Syllabus

2 sections:
MWF 9:00-9:50am – GSB 2.124 - UNIQUE # 03380
MWF 10:00-10:50am - GSB 2.124 - UNIQUE # 03385

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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
(2) **Course Outline – LEB 320F**: Prentice, Spring 2010 (to be used as a supplement)

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. I encourage you to attend classes, as the exams will test the material we cover during classes.

EXAMS

Four exams will be given. Each is one-quarter of your final grade. 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 #2 or #3), 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 half of your overall grade. Exams are not cumulative.

CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom, all cell phones and wireless devices must be turned off. Laptops may only be used by students sitting in the back two rows of 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.

CLASSES & TOPICS (NOTE: Topics and exam dates are subject to revision.)

1. Wed, Jan 20: Nature and Sources of Law (Ch. 1, pp. 8-16; end at "Law, Justice, and Morals")
2. Fri, Jan 22: Court Systems, Jurisdiction, and Functions (Ch. 2, pp. 27-48)
3. Mon, Jan 25: Court Systems, Jurisdiction, and Functions (Ch. 2, pp. 27-48)
4. Wed, Jan 27: Court Systems, Jurisdiction, and Functions (Ch. 2, pp. 27-48)
5. Fri, Jan 29: Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Ch. 3, pp. 49-82)
6. Mon, Feb 1: Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (Ch. 3, pp. 49-82)
7. Wed, Feb 3: Common and Statutory Law (Ch. 4, pp. 83-104)
8. Fri, Feb 5: The Law of Torts (Ch. 8, pp. 199-240)
9. Mon, Feb 8: The Law of Torts (Ch. 8, pp. 199-240) – if we are finished with torts, we will spend 1 class on products liability (Ch. 20, pp. 511-542)
10. **Wed, Feb 10: EXAM #1**
11. Fri, Feb 12: Real Property (Ch. 33, pp. 865-896)
12. Mon, Feb 15: Real Property (Ch. 33, pp. 865-896)
13. Wed, Feb 17: Personal Property (Ch. 34, pp. 897-922)
14. Fri, Feb 19: Personal Property (Ch. 34, pp. 897-922)
15. Mon, Feb 22: Intellectual Property (Ch. 9, pp. 241-293)
16. Wed, Feb 24: Intellectual Property (Ch. 9, pp. 241-293)
17. Fri, Feb 26: Nature and Classification of Contracts (Ch. 10, pp. 297-311)
18. Mon, Mar 1: The Agreement (Ch. 11, pp. 313-349)
19. Wed, Mar 3: The Agreement (Ch. 11, pp. 313-349)
20. Fri, Mar 5: Consideration (Ch. 12, pp. 351-371)
21. Mon, Mar 8: Consideration (Ch. 12, pp. 351-371)
22. **Wed, Mar 10: EXAM #2**
23. Fri, Mar 12: Illegality (Ch. 13, pp. 373-392)
24. Mon, Mar 22: Voidable Contracts (Ch. 14, pp. 393-419)
25. Wed, Mar 24: Voidable Contracts (Ch. 14, pp. 393-419)

26. Fri, Mar 26: Contracts in Writing (Ch. 15, pp. 421-435
27. Mon, Mar 29: Rights of Third Parties (Ch. 16, pp. 437-447)
28. Wed, Mar 31: Discharge of Contracts (Ch. 17, pp. 449-470)
29. Fri, Apr 2: Interpretation and Remedies for Breach (Ch. 18, pp. 471-492)
30. **Mon, Apr 5: EXAM #3**
31. Wed, Apr 7: Introduction to the Law of Sales (Ch. 19, pp. 495-509)
32. Fri, Apr 9: Agency: Nature, Creation, Duties, and Termination (Ch. 22, pp. 575-587)
33. Mon, Apr 12: Agency: Liability of the Parties (Ch. 23, pp. 589-613)
34. Wed, Apr 14: Partnerships: Nature, Formation, and Property (Ch. 24, pp. 615-629)
35. Fri, Apr 16: Corporations: Nature, Formation, and Powers (Ch. 25, pp. 631-647)
36. Mon, Apr 19: Criminal Law and Business: Federal Crimes Affecting Business (Ch. 7, pp. 190-197)
37. Wed, Apr 21: Employment Law (Ch. 30, pp. 757-794)
38. Fri, Apr 23: Employment Law (Ch. 30, pp. 757-794)
39. Mon, Apr 26: Environmental Law (Ch. 31, pp.795-826)
40. Wed, Apr 28: Environmental Law (Ch. 31, pp.795-826)
41. Fri, Apr 30: Business Ethics and the Law (Ch. 36, pp. 949-976)
42. Mon, May 3: Business Ethics and Individual Decision Making (Ch. 37, pp. 977-1006)
43. Wed, May 5: Ethics, Organizations, and Corporate Social Responsiveness (Ch. 38, pp. 1007-1028)
44. Fri, May 7: Wrap up & review