

SYLLABUS
LEB 323H - SPRING 2010
DEAN BREDESON, J.D.

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Office hours - T/Th 1:45-2:45

1. Course Objectives

This course will examine the role of government in encouraging and requiring behavior, and employees' and citizens' legal rights and responsibilities.

2. Grade Distribution and Grade Components

Because this is an honors class, I will give a final curve at least as generous as that listed below. I reserve the right to award grades below C in highly unusual cases.

As : 50%
Bs: 40%
Cs: 10%

*Plus/minus grading. The top 1/3 of scores in a grade range will receive a "+", and the bottom 1/3 of scores in a grade range will receive a "-". Final averages will be calculated based on the following items and weights:

1. Midterm 1 (25%): Tuesday, March 11 - in class
2. Midterm 2 (25%): Thursday, May 6- in class
3. Attendance/Class Participation (25% or 12.5%)
4. Journal - due May 6 - (25% or 37.5%)

*With items 3 and 4: if your attendance/class participation score is higher, I will count it as 25% and your journal as 25%. If your journal score is higher, I will count attendance/class participation as 12.5% and the journal score as 37.5%

3. Textbook

Business Law Text and Cases in the Legal Environment (11th custom edition) by Allison/Prentice

4. Details on Grade Components

Exams. Both exams will consist of about 40 multiple choice questions. Sample questions will be distributed the week before the midterm.

On each exam, approximately 15-20% of the questions will come directly from the reading assignments, which I will make at the end of most lectures. The remaining questions will be related to material that is covered in the lectures.

Attendance and class participation. Your "baseline" score in this category will be 75. It can be adjusted up or down in the following ways:

- a. If you miss more than a few classes, and do not have a good reason for doing so, I will subtract points.
- b. If you participate regularly in class discussions, I will add points.

Journal. About once a week, I will distribute a handout at the end of class with a question to analyze. There will be a total of about 10-12 questions during the semester, and your responses will be due on the last day of class. My expectations for “A” journals will be as follows:

- a. Length. I will be looking for an average of at least one page (handwritten or typed, double spaced with normal margins) per question. You may write more if you wish. So, you may mix long and short responses, but I’ll want a minimum total of one page per question.
- b. Content. I will be looking for your well-reasoned opinion, and not for any particular answer. Developed and thoughtful responses that are dense with reasoning based on the assigned readings and class discussions will score well.

5. Tape recorders

Unless you have a particular need and have discussed it with me ahead of time, please do not bring tape recorders to class.

6. List of topics

Some topics will take a single day, while some will take several days to cover. We may add some topics, especially for the last few class meetings.

1. Course Introduction
2. Courts/Alternative Dispute Resolution
3. The Constitution
4. Landlord-Tenant Law
5. Torts
6. Contracts
7. Wills, Estates, and Trusts
8. Agency/Business Organizations
9. Intellectual property
10. Discrimination law
11. Other employee/workplace rights
12. Environmental law
13. Bankruptcy and consumer protection law
14. Ethics
15. International law
16. Internet law
17. Criminal law

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