

**SYLLABUS**  
**Business Law and Ethics**  
**LEB F323**  
**Summer 2013**

**M-Th 8:00-10:00am    UTC 1.144    UNIQUE # 71610**

**Instructor:** Frances A. Pedersen, J.D.  
**Office:** CBA 5.210  
**Office Hours:** M, Th 10:15-11:15am (drop-in), and by appointment  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Rules of law govern many aspects of business. An understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines provides a framework for making sound business decisions, facilitates commercial transactions, and promotes order in the marketplace.

This course focuses on the organization and operation of the American legal system, legal rules and ethical guidelines that impact business, and the practical application of these rules and guidelines to real-world situations. Emphasis is placed on analytical problem solving and ethical decision making.

Prerequisite for this course: Credit or registration for Business Administration 324 or 324H.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Our study of the legal and ethical environment of business is designed to help students accomplish the following objectives:

- (1) Recognize legal and ethical issues when making business decisions.
- (2) Gain an enhanced understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines.
- (3) Improve analytical problem solving and ethical decision making 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**

**Business Law**

John R. Allison & Robert A. Prentice  
13th Edition, 2012 (*selected chapters*)

**Course Outline – LEB F323**

Pedersen  
Summer 2013

## GRADES

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

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Exam # 1 (June 18)    | 25% |
| Exam # 2 (July 2)     | 35% |
| Final Exam (Date TBA) | 40% |

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|       |      |
|-------|------|
| TOTAL | 100% |
|-------|------|

| <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            |

## Exams

Exams are **open-book and open-note**, testing your ability to analyze hypothetical situations and determine the extent to which various legal rules and ethical guidelines apply. There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss **either** exam #1 **or** exam #2 for any reason, the percentage assigned to the exam you have missed will be applied to the final exam. Therefore, if you miss exam #1, your final exam will be worth 65% of your overall grade. If you miss exam #2, your final exam will be worth 75% of your overall grade. If you miss **both** exam #1 **and** exam #2, the percentage assigned to exam #1 will be applied to the final exam (your final exam will be worth 65% of your overall grade), and you will receive a zero on exam #2 (worth 35% of your overall grade). **Dropping an exam grade is not an option** in this course. **Once you have taken an exam, the score is factored into your overall grade.**

## CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom:

- (1) **Laptops must be closed and put away.** 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.

## SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

**The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty.** The responsibilities of students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program's Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics.aspx>. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

**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, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Refer to the Student Judicial Services website at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs> to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

## TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- (1) **Introduction:** Nature and Sources of Law (Chapter 1)
- (2) **Court Systems:** Organization, Operation (Chapter 2)
- (3) **Dispute Resolution:** Litigation, ADR (Chapter 3)
- (4) **Business Ethics:** Morality, Decision Making, CSR (Chapters 36-38)
- (5) **Torts:** Negligence, Intentional Wrongdoing (Chapter 8)\*
- (6) **Intellectual Property:** Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Patents, Copyrights (Chapter 9)\*
- (7) **Contracts:** Nature, Formation, Enforcement (Chapters 10-13)\*

\* Includes analysis of legal and ethical issues