THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
LEB 323 – Fall 2009 - 03620

Instructor: Christopher H. Meakin

Meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 to 9:15 p. m.

Classroom: GSB 2.126

Instructor's Office: CBA 2.226 (ground floor – far northeast corner of the building)

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:00 a. m. and other times by appointment

Email: Christopher.Meakin@McCombs.utexas.edu

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: BUSINESS LAW, 11TH Edition, Allison and Prentice

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

Class attendance and contribution		20%
Paper: personal ethical dilemma		15%
Ethics exercise and report		15%
1st Exam	Oct. 8, 2009	25%
2nd Exam	Dec. 3, 2009	25%

For each exam 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. This 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 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.

Ethical Exercise and Report:

You will be assigned to a group and given an ethical issue. Your group should prepare a report, no longer than three pages double spaced, that evaluates the issue, describes alternatives and the plus and minuses of each alternative, and your chosen course of action. Your group will present its report to the class.

The project will be explained in more detail during class. The grade for this project will have a peer review portion. The report is due on the day of your presentation.

Attendance and Class Contribution:

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 are in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class, please mark yourself as present with your initials. If you were not present and ready at the beginning of class and you arrive later, please mark yourself as tardy. If you leave class before it is completed please mark that event on the roll sheet Signing the roll sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The roll sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

Students should attend each class. Any student who misses more than three 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.

Paper – Personal Ethical Dilemma: On Dec. 1, 2009, you shall turn in a paper, no more than three papers in length double spaced, that describes an ethical dilemma that you have experienced or believe that you might experience in your chosen profession. The

paper should fully describe the issue, the possible alternatives, your choice of the available alternatives, and reason for your choice.

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, grace or humor.

Tentative Class Schedule
(subject to revision and we will move at our own pace)

Topic	*Chapter*
Nature and sources of law and common and statutory law	1 and 4
Constitution	5
Court systems and jurisdiction	2
Litigation and ADR	3
Real property	33
Personal Property	34
Intellectual Property	9
Ethics	36 and 37
The Agreement	10 and 11
Consideration	12
Illegality	13
Voidable Contracts	14
Writing	15
Third Parties	16
Discharge of Contracts	17
Ethics	38
Torts	8
Warranties and Products Liability	20
Agency	22 and 23
Employment Law	30
Bankruptcy	21