THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Legal Environment of Business 323 (Business Law) – Spring 2010

Professor:	Dain Donelson
Office/Phone	CBA 5.250 / (512) 232-3733
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 2:00 to 3:30 or by appointment
Email:	dain.donelson@mccombs.utexas.edu
Text:	BUSINESS LAW, 11TH Edition, Allison and Prentice
Website:	Blackboard
Grading:	Grades (plus/minus) will be based on a curve, with the average grade approximately a B. Your grade is determined by:

Exam One	15%
Exam Two	30%
Exam Three	20%
Final Exam	35%

Overview of Course:

This course will provide you with an introduction to ethics and the American legal system, with an emphasis on aspects of the legal system which relate to business matters. The course prerequisite is: Credit or registration for BA 324 or 324H.

Class Contribution, Attendance, and Professionalism:

You should be able to answer questions and ask thoughtful questions. Quantity is less important than quality. I reserve the right to adjust grades by up to ten percentage points based on contribution. I reserve the right to take attendance and give quizzes if necessary (e.g., to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading). Quiz scores will be applied to the exam score for the subject.

I expect students to act in a professional manner: students should arrive on time, students should be fully prepared for each class, laptops should be closed and put away, phones and wireless devices should be turned off.[1]

Academic Integrity and Information Privacy:

Your work shall be *independent* work. The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. 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**. If I believe scholastic dishonesty has occurred, I will seek administrative remedies.

The syllabus and handouts will be available on Blackboard. 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

[1] While the vast majority of students do not need to be reminded of these expectations, some students have issues with classroom behavior and I therefore make these expectations available to all students. Speak with me if you believe you have a reason to be exempt from any of these requirements.

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.

Accommodations

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is housed in the Office of the Dean of Students, located on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Please do not hesitate to contact SSD at (512) 471-6259, VP: (512) 232-2937 or via e-mail if you have any questions. Information on how to register, downloadable forms, including guidelines for documentation, accommodation request letters, and releases of information are available online at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/index.php.

Course Topics (subject to revision)

Introduction to Law & Ethics	**Chapters**
Introduction to Legal Process	1-4 (skim as needed; read cases)
Constitutional law	5
Employment law	32
Torts & Products Liability	8, 20 (525-542)
Criminal Law and Business	7
Exam One	**February 11**

Contracts & Sales	**Chapters**
Contracts and the agreement	10, 11
Consideration	12
Illegality and voidable contracts	13, 14
Writing	15
Third parties	16
Discharge of contracts	17
Contract interpretation, remedies	18
Sales, Warranties	19, 20 (511-24)
Exam Two	**March 25**

Other Topics	**Chapters**
Real, personal & intellectual property	33-34, 9
Bankruptcy	21
Agency	22-23
Corporations	25-26
Securities regulation and insider trading	28
Exam Three	**April 27**
Ethics	36–38
Final	Scheduled exam time