Legal Environment of Business 380: Commercial Transactions
Summer I 2010 (Thornley)
Syllabus

Instructor:	Drew Thornley
Classes:	M-F 11:30 am to 12:45 pm (UTC 1.130)
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Office Location:	CBA 3.444
Office Hours:	By appointment

Text: *Commercial Transactions: A Systems Approach*, by Lopucki, Warren, Keating, & Mann (4th Edition)

Supplements: Rather than force students to purchase an expensive copy of the Uniform Commercial Code, students should become very familiar with two URLs.

Article Two of the Uniform Commercial Code may be found online at: http://www.law.cornell.edu/ucc/2/

Texas Business & Commerce Code (Texas' adopted version of Article 2) can be found online at: http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/bc.toc.htm

Grades: Grades will be based upon the following:

Mid-Term Exam 1	(30%)
Final Exam	(40%)
Class Participation	(30%)
Total	100%

Exam Format: There will be two examinations. Exams will be closed book, closed notes. They will consist of multiple choice questions, true-false questions, yes-no questions, and possibly short-answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative. The first exam date is TBD and will be given during class. The second exam will be given during our scheduled final exam time, currently set for **Saturday, July 10, from 2-5 PM**.

Class Participation (30%): In the great tradition of the Greeks, this class will utilize the Socratic Method, where class "lectures" consist of a series of questions posed by the instructor to students in the class. Using this method depends upon the students' preparation before class. That bears repeating: you are to read the assignments designated for each class ***before*** class. Further, your understanding, not regurgitation, of the material is key. You must be able to apply the concepts expressed in your textbook and statutes to scenarios given in class. Your class participation grade will be comprised of the following elements: (1) your answers to the instructors' questions in class and (2) your participation in general class discussions. Please note that points can be deducted from your grade for disruptive behavior.

Socratic presentation: As future business professionals who are likely to work in the service industry with clients and business associates, your speech and

presentation skills are important and thus key to class performance. This class will offer you an opportunity to perfect your public speaking demeanor.

Tips:
- Speak loudly, clearly and concisely.
- Eliminate the words "uh" and "um" from your vocabulary.
- If you are unprepared, own up to it. It will affect your grade, but NOT owning up to it will affect your grade more.

Course Grades

I grade on the curve, and I intend to follow the graduate school's suggested grade distribution for graduate electives:

As	40% or less
Cs or less	As appropriate
Bs	Remainder

I will also be giving pluses and minuses in accordance with the McCombs policy, available at:
http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/student_services/academic_policies/plus_minus.html
If any of you still have undergraduate standing, this will not affect you.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as tape recorders, laptops, cell phones, etc. are generally prohibited during class. However, I welcome the use of laptops to take notes. If using your laptop for anything other than taking notes is distracting to your classmates, it may (and probably will) affect your class participation grade.

Academic Dishonesty

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of academic dishonesty. Such acts damage the reputation of the school and the degree and demean the honest efforts of the majority of students. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be a zero for that assignment or exam. The responsibilities for both students and faculty with regard to the Honor System are described on http://mba.mccombs.utexas.edu/students/academics/honor/index.asp. As the instructor for this course, I agree to observe all the faculty responsibilities described therein. Your performance during examinations is, of course, an individual effort. However, group preparation for examinations is acceptable and encouraged.

Students with Disabilities

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. 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. Please do not hesitate to contact SSD at (512) 471-6259, VP: (512) 232-2937 or via e-mail if you have any questions.

Class Meeting Dates and Assignments:

TBA in class and via Blackboard