

Business Law – OnLine

Fall, 2012 – MGMT-0241-003

Balancing The Rights of Business in a Capitalistic, Free-Market Economy and the Responsibilities imposed by Law, Public Policy and Society

Professor Robert Bourke

Course Syllabus

Required Text:

Essentials of Business Law, 4th Edition, Beatty and Samuelson, South-Western / Cengage Learning, (2012) ISBN-9780538473804

Course Description:

The "law" is societies effort to instill order and a semblance of fairness in the interactions of people so that they can live together peacefully. Business law is simply an extension of that goal to the interactions of business with both other businesses and with consumers. Historically, the legislatures have enacted laws seeking to influence the conduct of business as a result of a real or perceived need to reign in the actions of businesses that were deemed to be detrimental to public policy. This course will look at the legal environment within which American business must operate. And, because the basis for most interactions between businesses and other businesses or consumers is based upon an agreement, we will focus of contract law to explore the overall topic..

Course Objectives:

To provide the student with an intellectual and practical understanding of the development of Business Law in the United States to include both an academic knowledge base and the real-world application of that knowledge.

Expectations:

Yours: To learn and understand the historical and legal development of Business Law in the United States and to have a practical understanding of the application of business law as practiced in today's business world.

Mine: Since the focus of this course is on you, the student, you have to make the commitment to put in the time and effort to make this a meaningful experience. I expect students to put in the time and effort to make this learning experience worthwhile. That means keeping up on readings and assignments, participation in group activities and discussions and being willing to express your opinions and views without reservation.

Assessment:

Course materials are presented in various forms and mediums. Textbook readings will be supplemented by lecture presentations and supporting printed handouts. In addition, discussions and real-life exercises will be used to give life to the history and theory. Thus, the student's course grade will be a compilation of different assessment criteria, including the following:

Mid-Term Exam:	25%
“Classroom” exercises And activities	15%
Group projects	15%
Final Exam	25%
Participation in group Discussions and other forums	<u>20%</u>

A Word About Academic Honesty

The Faculty and Administration of this College are committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. More importantly, the cornerstone of good labor relations between employers and employees and management and unions is an underlying ability to trust that the parties are dealing in good faith and honestly. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

My definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the Internet.

Copying another's answers on an examination.

Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.

Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Honesty Policy in the Student Handbook.

In conclusion, it is our mission to prepare each student for a life meaningful contribution and fulfillment. Honesty and ethical behavior are the foundation upon which such lives are built. We therefore expect the highest standards of each student in this regard.

Finally:

This course is taught using the “adult learning” model. What that means is that no one is here to hold your hand, make sure you do the assignments or that you keep up on the reading. This course is here to make you a more useful member of society and a better business person after you leave the University. It’s up to you to take advantage of what is offered. The burden is on the student to let the instructor know if something is not clear, if the material is confusing or if you’re simply, ‘not getting it’. Speak up. Question. Don’t be afraid to be wrong.

BUSINESS LAW

Course Outline

I. Introduction To Course

- A. Types of Businesses
- B. The Legal Environment
- C. US Model vs. Other Models

II. Introduction To Business Law

- A. Compliance
- B. Agreements
- C. Range of Legal Requirements
- D. Ethics and Social Responsibility

III. Sources of Law

- A. Common Law
- B. Statutory and Administrative Law
- C. Constitution

IV. Contracts

- A. Introduction
 - 1. What is a contract?
 - 2. Types of contracts?
- B. Offer and Acceptance
- C. Consideration
- D. Legality
 - 1. Statutory Restrictions
 - 2. Public Policy Exceptions
 - 3. Written vs. Oral
- E. Capacity and Consent
 - 1. Void
 - 2. Voidable
- F. Third Parties
- G. Performance and Discharge
- H. Remedies

V. Commercial Transactions (UCC)

- A. Intro to UCC
- B. Sales
- C. Negotiable Instruments

VI. Other Important Business Laws

- A. Employment Law
- B. Property Law
- C. Intellectual Property Law
- D. Cyber Law