

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SYLLABUS
FALL 2014**

BUSINESS LAW I

6400:321-001

T/Th 9:15-10:30am

CBA 146

TEXTBOOK: Mann & Roberts, Essentials of Business Law and the Legal Environment (11th Ed.), South-Western/Cengage 2007

INSTRUCTOR: John E. Matejkovic, Assoc. Prof. Business Law

OFFICE: CBA 224

TELEPHONE: (330) 972-8243

E-MAIL: jem@uakron.edu

FAX: (330) 972-5970 (Please also leave a phone message if you send a fax)

OFFICE HOURS: 12:00-1:00pm T, Th, and by appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

There is virtually no aspect of American society that is not affected by “the law.” Whether in a personal setting, or especially in a business or commercial setting, there are few, if any, activities, relationships, or operations that are not directly or indirectly affected by law; whether common law, federal or state law, statutory or administrative regulation. The law does not exist in a vacuum, however, but reflects basic societal values; and, while often slow, it does respond to changes in the political, ethical and economic climate of the society.

Specific legal principles affect specific situations, and this is especially true in the business/commercial setting. The objective of this course is to provide students with working knowledge of the legal system, and basic concepts of law as they affect business relationships, organizations, and operations; to provide the students with a basic understanding of the relationship of law to business, and the role of law in shaping and planning in the business environment. It is intended that the students acquire knowledge of specific legal principles that may be applicable to their personal lives, but more importantly are applicable to the business/commercial setting. It is also the goal of this course that the students develop an understanding of the origins and reasons for the law in those specific settings. The roles of Public Policy, Corporate Citizenship, and Ethics within the legal environment will be focal points for discussion and consideration, as will individual and business responsibility and liability.

REGISTRATION AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students must be officially added to the class roster during the first two weeks of class. After that, they cannot be added, even if they have been attending class. See CBA Advising for details. University and College of Business Withdrawals Policies apply; the student is responsible to consult and follow those policies. Last date to withdraw without a “WD” appearing on your transcript is Sept. 8th; absolute last date of withdrawal is Oct. 13th. Consult your advisor for other specific dates.

PREPARATION

Each student is expected to be prepared for class. Lack of adequate preparation may have an adverse effect on class participation. Should deviation from the syllabus occur, the student should remain one full assignment ahead of the professor. The class is subject to unannounced quizzes. Clear evidence of general class unpreparedness will result in a cessation of lecture with resumption in the next class, on the next assigned material.

GRADES

Grades are calculated by comparing the Student's Total Accumulated points to the Total Available points for the class. Total available points are calculated by adding the high scores from each of the 4 tests given during the term, PLUS the points for any assigned Homework (not all classes receive the same homework assignments; it is the student's responsibility to be aware of what occurred in class, including any homework assigned), PLUS the points for any writing assignments, PLUS the points for any quizzes. The total of such points is then multiplied by appropriate percentages to establish grade range levels (e.g. 90%=A range, 80%=B range, 70%=C range, 60%=D range, etc.). The Professor reserves the right to alter the curve in the event that one student consistently is an outlier (i.e. a 'curve wrecker.').

BREACH OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“Breach of Academic Integrity” is defined as any use by one student of the work of another (tests or otherwise), with such work being presented as the student's for grading purposes. This definition includes cheating as commonly understood, including such actions as applied to tests, reports, papers, and the like, and also includes the concept of plagiarism, as that term is generally understood. No Breach of Academic Integrity will be tolerated in this class. Any such breach will result in a grade of “0” (zero) for the particular activity, and the reporting of the incident to appropriate authorities.

DISABILITIES

Any student who feels she/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Accessibility at 330-972-7928. The office is located in Simmons Hall Room 105.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The following Schedule is tentative. Changes may be announced in class. Ample time will be given for any changes. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of anything that takes place in the classroom, which includes schedule changes.

WARNING: ANY CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, ETC. THAT GO OFF IN CLASS WILL RESULT IN A 5 POINT DEDUCTION FROM THE OWNER/HOLDER'S FINAL COURSE GRADE. ANY STUDENT TEXTING IN CLASS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASSROOM, AND TEN (10) POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR FINAL GRADE.

DATE CHAPTER

08/26	1[Introduction to Law]
08/28	3 [Civil Dispute resolution]
09/02	4[Constitutional Law]
09/04	5[Administrative Law]
09/09	6 [Criminal Law]
09/11	7 [Intentional Torts]
09/16	8 [Negligence and Strict Liability]
09/18	2 [Business Ethics]
09/23	TEST #1
09/25	9 [Introduction to Contracts]
09/30	10 [Mutual Assent]
10/02	11 [Conduct Invalidating Assent]
10/07	12 [Consideration]
10/09	13 [Illegal Bargains]
10/14	14 [Contractual Capacity]
10/16	15 [Contracts in Writing]
10/21	16 [Third Parties to Contracts]
10/23	17[Performance,Breach,andDischarge]
10/28	18 [Contract Remedies]
10/30	TEST #2
11/04	28 [Relationship of Principal and Agent]
11/06	29 [Relationship with Third Parties]
11/11	30 [Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships]
11/13	31 [Operations and Dissolution of General Partnerships]
11/18	32 [Limited Partnerships and LLCs]
11/20	TEST #3
11/25	33 [Nature and Formation of Corporations]
12/02	34 [Financial Structure of Corporations]
12/04	35 [Management Structure], 36 [Fundamental Changes]
12/11	TEST #4 10am-Noon