

**THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SYLLABUS
LEGAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
COURSE: 6400:220**

FALL 2014

**-002
T/TH
10:45-12:00pm
CBA 121**

**-004
T/TH
1:45-3:00pm
CBA 121**

TEXTBOOK: Beatty, Samuelson, The Legal Environment, 5th Ed., South-Western Cengage Learning, 2008, 2011.

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

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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.

NOTE: THIS CLASS WILL MEET YOUR LAW REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION. HOWEVER, THE BUSINESS LAW FACULTY DOES NOT RECOMMEND THIS CLASS FOR ACCOUNTANCY STUDENTS INTENDING TO SIT FOR THE CPA EXAM. RATHER, THOSE STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE BUSINESS LAW I AND BUSINESS LAW II.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ACADEMIC SKILLS¹

The goal of this course is that students shall:

- I. Become familiar with legal language & concepts as they relate to business;
- II. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical behavior and social responsibility in the global environment in which business operates;
- III. Develop a general understanding of the legal system in the United States;
- IV. Understand the basic law of contracts, torts and property as it relates to business;
- V. Understand the regulatory environment in which business operates;
- VI. Develop an ability to apply regulatory provisions to business situations;
- VII. Develop an ability to comprehend basic legal reasoning;
- VIII. Develop an awareness of basic strategies for avoiding & addressing legal problems in business;
- IX. Apply critical thinking to the legal implications present in business activities.

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. The last day to drop without a "WD" appearing on your transcript is September 8th; the absolute last day to withdraw from the class is October 13th.

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.

¹ Ohio Board of Regents, Transfer Assurance Guide: Business-April 13, 2005.

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 ranges (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.

ATTENDANCE AND MISSED TEST AND ASSIGNMENTS

Roll will be taken for each class. While attendance is not mandatory, there is a direct correlation between attendance and test performance and final grades. It should also be noted that should a student miss 25% of the classes, the instructor may administratively withdraw that student, which results in your being prohibited from further classes and receiving a grade of "F" for the class. Be sure to contact the professor prior to missing any test or assignment, for permission and rescheduling. Without prior notification, the missed test or assignment may be made up only when the professor agrees that a valid excuse was not reasonably foreseeable, and is appropriately documented. Unexcused missed tests and assignments will receive a deduction of points, or a grade of "0" (zero), as determined by the professor.

PROFESSIONALISM

Since all students enrolled in this class are supposed to have achieved the status of at least a Sophomore level at the University, it is anticipated that all students have also achieved the age of majority (i.e., 18 years of age), and are, from a legal standpoint, adults. As such, you will be treated as adults in this class, and students are expected to behave as adults in this class.

What this means, from a practical standpoint (and in addition to other provisions set forth in this syllabus), is that student behaviors will be at the same levels as might be expected in a business/employment setting. Students will interact in a courteous and businesslike manner, and will prepare for class as they would their jobs. Assignments are due as assigned, and any questions regarding assignments (or other class materials and/or issues) must be resolved prior to any due date(s). Just as your employer would expect you to do your job, as assigned, I expect you to do your classwork. Just as certain behavior would not be tolerated in business (including, but not limited to, continued tardiness, use of cell phones, texting, inappropriate use of computers, etc.), it will not be tolerated in the classroom.

Personal Electronic Devices (PED), such as Laptop computers, Tablets, etc., ARE NOT PERMITTED for use in the classroom unless: 1) the student using the PED is seated in the front row of the classroom; 2) the PED is used SOLELY for taking notes or related classwork; and 3) the Instructor has immediate access to the PED to verify its use in compliance with these guidelines. ANY DEVIATION OR VIOLATION OF THESE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT BEING EJECTED FROM THE CLASSROOM AND LOSING TWENTY-FIVE (25) POINTS FROM THEIR FINAL GRADE

Any deviation from these standards must be approved in advance; excuses are not acceptable. Failure to comply with an acceptable level of behavior will result in the student being removed from the classroom.

Welcome to the real world.

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.

UNIT 1: THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT 1. Introduction to Law; 2. Business Ethics and Social Responsibility; 3. Dispute Resolution; 4. Common Law, Statutory Law, and Administrative Law; 5. Constitutional Law; 6. Torts; 7. Crime; 8. International Law; UNIT 2: CONTRACTS AND THE UCC 9. Introduction to Contracts; 10. Legality, Consent and Writing; 11. Performance, Discharge, and Breach; 12. Practical Contracts; 13. Sales, and Secured Transactions; 14. Negotiable Instruments; 15. Bankruptcy UNIT 3: AGENCY AND EMPLOYMENT: 16. Agency; 17. Employment and Labor Law; 18. Employment Discrimination; UNIT 4: BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS: 19. Starting a Business; 20. Corporations; 21. Securities Regulation; UNIT 5: GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND PROPERTY: 22. Antitrust; 23. Cyberlaw; 24. Intellectual Property; 25. Property; 26. Consumer Law; 27. Environmental Law

DATE	CHAPTER
08/26	1[Introduction to Law], 4[Common Law, Statutory Law, and Admin Law]
08/28	4 [Con't],
09/02	5[Constitutional Law]
09/04	3[Dispute Resolution.]
09/09	3 [Con't]
09/11	3 [Con't]
09/16	2 [Bus. Ethics and Social Responsibility]
09/18	TEST #1
09/23	6 [Torts],
09/25	6 [Con't], 13 (322-24)
09/30	7 [Crime]
10/02	25 [Property],
10/07	25 [Con't], 24 [Intellectual Property]
10/09	TEST #2
10/14	9 [Intro to Contracts],
10/16	10 [Legality, Consent & Writing]
10/21	11 [Performance,etc.], 12 [Practical Contracts]
10/23	13 [Sales & Sec. Transactions], 15[Bankruptcy],14 [Neg. Inst.]
10/28	19 [Starting a Business]
10/30	20 [Corporations]
11/04	20 [Con't]
11/06	TEST #3
11/11	16 [Agency],
11/13	16 [Con't], 17 [Employment Law], 18 [Employment Discrimination]
11/18	26 [Consumer Law],
11/20	22 [Antitrust]
11/25	22 [Con't]
12/02	21 [Securities Regulation],
12/04	21 [Con't]

TEST #4: 002: 12/09 10am-noon
004: 12/12 2:30-4:30pm