SYLLABUS
Business Law and Ethics
LEB 323
Fall 2012

M, W, F 11:00am-12:00pm CBA 4.328 UNIQUE # 03210

Instructor: Frances A. Pedersen, J.D.
Office: CBA 5.210
Office Hours: M, W 2:15-3:15pm (drop-in), and by appointment
E-Mail: Frances.Pedersen@mccombs.utexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rules of law govern many aspects of business. An understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines provides a framework for making sound business decisions, facilitates commercial transactions, and promotes order in the marketplace.

This course focuses on the organization and operation of the American legal system, legal rules and ethical guidelines that impact business, and the practical application of these rules and guidelines to real-world situations. Emphasis is placed on analytical problem solving and ethical decision making.

Prerequisite for this course: Credit or registration for Business Administration 324 or 324H.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Our study of the legal and ethical environment of business is designed to help students accomplish the following objectives:

(1) Recognize legal and ethical issues when making business decisions.
(2) Gain an enhanced understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines.
(3) Improve analytical problem solving and ethical decision making skills.
(4) Apply knowledge and skills to address and manage potential problems before they become actual, expensive problems.
(5) Evaluate expert advice and determine the extent to which it should be incorporated into business decisions.

COURSE MATERIALS

Business Law
John R. Allison & Robert A. Prentice
13th Edition, 2012 *(selected chapters)*

Course Outline – LEB 323
Pedersen
Fall 2012

GRADES

I grade on a curve, using the following items and weights:

Attendance	10%
Class Participation	10%
Exam # 1 (September 28)	20%
Exam # 2 (November 2)	25%
Final Exam (Date TBA)	35%
Total	100%

Curved Score	Grade
93 and above	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	F

Attendance

An attendance sheet is placed at the front of the classroom before each class begins. Each student is responsible for signing the sheet, which is the only measure of attendance. If you are in your seat at the beginning of class and remain for the entire class period, signify present with your signature. Mark "tardy" if you arrive late or leave early.

If you plan to be absent to observe a religious holy day or to participate in an event sponsored by the University, notify me at least fourteen days prior to your absence. If you miss a class due to illness, notify me by e-mail before the class begins.

Class Participation

Class participation consists of textbook cases, assigned in advance, that you brief and present in class.

Briefs: A brief is a written summary of a case. It consists of: (1) the **essential facts** (what happened between the parties and, if the case has been appealed, the decision of the lower court), (2) the **issue(s)** to be resolved, (3) the court's **resolution** of the issue(s), and (4) the **rationale** for the court's decision.

Posted on Blackboard each weekend are PowerPoint slides for the upcoming week. Case assignments are included in these slides. Students are responsible for reviewing the slides every weekend to see which cases are assigned for the following week.

Exams

Exams are **open-book and open-note**, testing your ability to analyze hypothetical situations and determine the extent to which various legal rules and ethical guidelines apply. No one is allowed to leave the room while an exam is being given. Students must **remain in the classroom for the entire exam period**.

There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss **either** exam #1 **or** exam #2, the percentage assigned to the exam you have missed is applied to the final exam. Therefore, if you miss exam #1, your final exam is worth 55% of your overall grade. If you miss exam #2, your final exam is worth 60% of your final grade. If you miss **both** exam #1 **and** exam #2, the percentage assigned to exam #1 is applied to the final exam (your final exam is worth 55% of your overall grade), and you receive a zero on exam #2 (worth 25% of your overall grade). **Dropping an exam grade is not an option** in this course. **Once you have taken an exam, the score is factored into your overall grade**.

CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom:

(1) **Laptops must be closed and put away.** Our class time is too valuable to spend it surfing the internet or checking e-mail. The Course Outline provides ample space for handwritten notes.

(2) **Cell phones and wireless devices must be turned off.** If you are expecting an emergency-related call, be considerate by turning your cell phone to vibrate.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program's Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Code-of-Ethics.aspx. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty to this class or its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Refer to the Student Judicial Services website at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs to access

the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

CAMPUS SAFETY

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation are provided by the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

- Students requiring assistance in evacuation should inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

- Further information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency.

The Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL), 512-232-5050, provides access to trained staff members, who are available to discuss concerns about another individual's behavior.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN CLASS

(1) **Introduction**: Nature and Sources of Law (Chapter 1)
(2) **Court Systems**: Functions, Jurisdiction (Chapter 2)
(3) **Dispute Resolution**: Litigation, ADR (Chapter 3)
(4) **Business Ethics**: Morality, Decision Making, CSR (Chapters 36-38)
(5) **Torts**: Negligence, Intentional Wrongdoing (Chapter 8)*****
(6) **Intellectual Property**: Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Patents, Copyrights (Chapter 9)*****
(7) **Contracts**: Nature, Formation, Enforcement (Chapters 10-14)*****

***** Includes analysis of legal and ethical issues

SCHEDULE

Date	**Topic**
Week 1	
W, 8/29	Introduction (Chapter 1)
F, 8/31	Introduction (Chapter 1)
Week 2	
M, 9/3	**NO CLASS (Labor Day)**
W, 9/5	Court Systems (Chapter 2)
F, 9/7	Court Systems (Chapter 2)
Week 3	
M, 9/10	Court Systems (Chapter 2)
W, 9/12	Court Systems (Chapter 2)
F, 9/14	Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)
Week 4	
M, 9/17	Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)
W, 9/19	Dispute Resolution (Chapter 3)
F, 9/21	Business Ethics (Chapters 36-38)
Week 5	
M, 9/24	Business Ethics (Chapters 36-38)
W, 9/26	Business Ethics (Chapters 36-38)
F, 9/28	**EXAM # 1**
Week 6	
M, 10/1	Torts: Negligence (Chapter 8)
W, 10/3	Torts: Negligence (Chapter 8)
F, 10/5	Torts: Negligence (Chapter 8)
Week 7	
M, 10/8	Torts: Negligence (Chapter 8)
W, 10/10	Torts: Intentional Wrongdoing (Chapter 8)
F, 10/12	Torts: Intentional Wrongdoing (Chapter 8)
Week 8	
M, 10/15	Intellectual Property: Trademarks (Chapter 9)
W, 10/17	Intellectual Property: Trademarks (Chapter 9)
F, 10/19	Intellectual Property: Trademarks (Chapter 9)
Week 9	
M, 10/22	Intellectual Property: Trade Secrets (Chapter 9)
W, 10/24	Intellectual Property: Trade Secrets (Chapter 9)
F, 10/26	Intellectual Property: Patents (Chapter 9)

Week 10

M, 10/29	Intellectual Property: Patents (Chapter 9)
W, 10/31	Intellectual Property: Patents (Chapter 9)
F, 11/2	**EXAM # 2**

Week 11

M, 11/5	Intellectual Property: Copyrights (Chapter 9)
W, 11/7	Intellectual Property: Copyrights (Chapter 9)
F, 11/9	Intellectual Property: Copyrights (Chapter 9)

Week 12

M, 11/12	Contracts: Nature (Chapter 10)
W, 11/14	Contracts: Nature (Chapter 10)
F, 11/16	Contracts: The Agreement (Chapter 11)

Week 13

M, 11/19	Contracts: The Agreement (Chapter 11)
W, 11/21	Contracts: The Agreement (Chapter 11)
F, 11/23	**NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

Week 14

M, 11/26	Contracts: The Agreement (Chapter 11)
W, 11/28	Contracts: Consideration (Chapter 12)
F, 11/30	Contracts: Illegality (Chapter 13)

Week 15

M, 12/3	Contracts: Illegality (Chapter 13)
W, 12/5	Voidable Contracts (Chapter 14)
F, 12/7	Voidable Contracts (Chapter 14)