



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
LEB 320F – 03155 – Spring 2013

- Instructor:* Christopher H. Meakin
- Meeting times:* Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:00 p. m.
- Classroom:* WEL 3.502
- Instructor's Office:* CBA 2.236 (ground floor – northeast corner of the building)
- Office Hours:* After class and other times by appointment
- Email:* Christopher.Meakin@McCombs.utexas.edu
- Phone:* 471.7616. If you leave a message, please state your full name and a telephone number where you can be reached. I will return your call promptly.
- Text:* BUSINESS LAW, 13TH Edition, Allison and Prentice.
- Grading:* Your grade will be made up of the following components:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Class attendance and contribution | | 20% |
| Paper: personal ethical dilemma | due April 30 th | 10% |
| 1 st Exam | February 12th | 20% |
| 2 nd Exam | March 28 th | 20% |
| Final Exam | University scheduled | 30% |

For each exam you be allowed to bring one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper with anything you wish written on it (both front and back side) in only your own handwriting. Your full name must be written on one side of the sheet in letters at least this big. Sheets that do not comply with these requirements are subject to exclusion. This sheet shall be turned in with the exam. The exams will only test your application of material covered during the period immediately preceding that exam. For example, the 2nd Exam will only test you on material we discussed after the 1st exam and before the 2nd Exam. Your final grade will be subject to a curve.

Exams 1 and 2 will be offered on the dates scheduled during class. There are no make ups for missed exams. If you miss one of Exams 1 or 2 the percentage of the grade allotted for that exam will be added to the percentage allotted for the Final Exam. Missing both of Exams 1 and 2 will result in a zero for one of these exams. The Final Exam will only be offered at the time scheduled by the University. Missing the Final Exam will result in a grade of zero.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Computers, recorders and other electronic devices shall be turned off during class with one exception. Those wishing to take notes during class on a computer may do so as long as they sit in the last two rows of the classroom farthest from the front of the room.

Attendance and Class Contribution:

We all must attend each class with a firm understanding of the assignment for that day and a willingness to participate in class discussions so that we each may benefit from the ideas of the others. You will be expected to be able to answer questions and ask relevant and thoughtful questions. When evaluating any individual's contribution, quantity and volume are much less important than quality and perceptiveness. At the beginning of each class attendance will be marked. If you are in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class, you will get credit for that day. If you were not present and ready at the beginning of class you will not. There are no excused absences or unexcused absences, therefore no correspondence requiring attendance is needed.

Student should keep track of their own attendance. Please do not request information on your own attendance.

Paper – Personal Ethical Dilemma:

You shall turn in a paper, no more than four papers in length, double spaced, that describes an ethical dilemma that you have experienced or believe that you might experience in your chosen profession. The paper should fully describe the issue, the possible alternatives (cost and benefits), the group or organizational pressures present, your choice of the available alternatives, the reason for your choice and a description of what you would have done differently looking back on the situation. Please this paper in on SafeAssign in BlackBoard

Your work:

Unless you are specifically instructed to work with others, your work in this class shall be your own independent work created for this class. It is probably redundant to note that unethical behavior in a class on ethics is much more than just very very wrong.

All McCombs School and University of Texas rules on scholastic dishonesty will be enforced to the fullest extent possible. The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the BBA Program's Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty at <http://www.mcombs.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. You should 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.

Disabilities:

If you have a letter allowing you accommodations for exams please provide the instructor with a copy of this letter at the beginning of the semester.

Note:

Nothing in this syllabus displaces the overarching laws of common sense, logic, truth, beauty, grace, kindness, compassion or humor.

**Tentative order of readings (subject to revision and we will move at our own pace).
Please check BlackBoard\Documents\Diary for where we are on any given day.**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Chapter</i>
Nature and sources of law and common and statutory law	1 and 4
Constitution	5
Court systems and jurisdiction	2
Litigation and ADR	3
Ethics	36 and 37
Real property	33
Personal Property	34
Intellectual Property	9
The Agreement	10 and 11
Consideration	12
Illegality	13
Voidable Contracts	14
Writing	15
Discharge of Contracts	17
Torts	8
Warranties and Products Liability	20
Agency	22 and 23
Employment Law	30
Bankruptcy	21