



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Legal and Ethical Environment of Business Business Honors Program LEB 323H – 03210 – Spring 2013

<i>Instructor:</i>	Christopher H. Meakin		
<i>Meeting times:</i>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 to 3:30 p. m.		
<i>Classroom:</i>	UTC 1.104		
<i>Instructor's Office:</i>	CBA 2.236 (ground floor – northeast corner of the building)		
<i>Office Hours:</i>	Before class and other times by appointment		
<i>Email:</i>	Christopher.Meakin@McCombs.utexas.edu		
<i>Phone:</i>	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.		
<i>Text:</i>	BUSINESS LAW, 13 TH Edition, Allison and Prentice.		
<i>Grading:</i>	Your grade will be made up of the following components:		
	Class attendance and contribution		20%
	Paper: personal ethical dilemma	April 30, 2013	10%
	Research paper and report		15%
	1 st Exam	March 5, 2013	25%
	2 nd Exam	May 2, 2013	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 will be offered on the dates scheduled during class. Exceptions to the rule in the previous sentence will only be granted under the most extreme circumstances such as a serious illness of you or a loved one at the time of the exam. A note signed by a physician attesting to this fact will be required.

Use of Electronic Devices during Class:

Computers, recorders and other electronic devices may not be used during class.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester I may assign extra credit exercises during class. They will not be difficult but you must be in attendance for the entire class period on the day of the assignment and on the day the assignment is due. Unless advised otherwise, the extra credit should be turned in during class in hard copy. Work without a name will be disregarded.

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 a roll sheet will be circulated. If you are in your seat ready to participate at the beginning of class, please mark yourself as present with your initials. If you were not present and ready at the beginning of class and you arrive later, please mark yourself as tardy. If you leave class before it is completed please mark that event on the roll sheet. Signing the roll sheet during class is the responsibility of the student. The roll sheets will be the only measure of your attendance.

Students should attend each class. Any student who misses more than three classes is subject to a letter grade reduction. Additional absences may result in a failing grade. Please look at your calendar for the semester and budget your known absences in advance. If you are tardy twice it will count as a missed class. Student should keep track of their own misses and tardies.

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.

Legal and Ethical Research and Presentation Project:

You will be required to complete a group research and presentation project. You will be assigned to a group and you and your group mates are to research and teach the class some legal and ethical issue that you choose. Your issue should have both a legal and an ethical aspect. Your presentation should be no more than 15-20 minutes and be supported by a well-researched and substantive written product. The manner in which you teach us is entirely up to you as long as it is entertaining and effective. Past examples of creativity include skits, developing a website, creating a board game, and even writing several songs and cutting a CD. You will be assigned a presentation date once the topics are chosen.

The project will be explained in more detail during class. The grade for this project will have a peer review portion. The paper is due on the day of your presentation.

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.

BHP Honor Code:

Statement of Intent:

We, the students of the Business Honors Program (BHP), have adopted this Code as an expression of our commitment to ethical standards. We believe honor and trust are essential to a superior academic experience and continued professional success. It is intended to unite us and create an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. Each student must abide by and defend the Code.

Therefore we resolve that:

- We will abide by University policies for academic integrity.
- We will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid during completion of academic requirements.
- We will not act to gain any unfair advantage or to cause academic or professional harm to another student.
- We will not misrepresent facts or qualifications at any time.
- We will not purposely obtain or possess property belonging to the University or another student without consent, nor will we deny other students access to university resources.
- We will treat all individuals fairly and with dignity regardless of race, gender, creed, age, disability, national origin, and sexual orientation.
- We will conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity in all endeavors—whether academic, social, professional, or otherwise.
- We will strengthen the Business Honors community by holding each other accountable to this Code.

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
Ethics	38
Torts	8
Warranties and Products Liability	20
Agency	22 and 23
Employment Law	30
Bankruptcy	21