LEB 320F: Foundations of the Legal Environment of Business
Fall 2013 (T/Th, 9:30/11/12:30)
Syllabus

Lecturer: Drew Thornley, J.D.
Office: CBA 5.252
Office Hours: TBA weekly. Otherwise, by appointment. **If you desire OHs beyond any scheduled OHs, email me your request, with your availability. Do not email saying you would like OHs and to please get back to you with my availability. Rather, email me your entire availability, from the outset.**
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rules of law govern many aspects of business. By establishing and enforcing these rules, our legal system maintains order, facilitates commercial transactions, and provides a framework for making sound business decisions.

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

(1) Gain an enhanced understanding of legal rules and ethical guidelines.
(2) Recognize legal and ethical issues when making business decisions.
(3) Improve analytical problem-solving skills.
(4) Apply knowledge and skills to address and manage potential problems, before they become actual, expensive problems.

COURSE TEXT: Business Law: John R. Allison & Robert A. Prentice, 14th Edition, 2013

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. **I urge you to attend classes, as the exams will test the material we cover during classes and also since pop quizzes, class-participation grades, and/or class assignments will be given.** NOTE: It is not a given that the same assignments/quizzes/etc. will be given to each section on the same day. Thus, if you do not attend the same class each time, you run the risk that you will miss an assignment/quiz/etc. There are no makeups for any assignment/quiz/etc.

GRADING

Three exams will be given (2 during the semester [each given during regular class time] and 1 during your assigned final-exam time). Exam 1 counts 20% of your grade, Exam 2 counts 10% of your grade, and Exam 3 (the "final") counts 37% of your grade. Thus, these 3 exams make up 67% of your final grade. There are **no make-up exams**. If you miss Exam 1 and/or Exam 2, the percentage(s) assigned to the exam(s) you miss will be applied to the Exam 3 (the "final").

Exams are not cumulative. Exam 3 (the "final") is the only exam for which you will receive a zero if you do not take the exam. DO NOT plan anything else during the final-exam time assigned to your section by the University. Restated: You **MUST** take Exam 3 during the time allotted for your section by the University. No exceptions. The University Registrar posts exam dates/times/locations here: http://registrar.utexas.edu/students/exams. Do not email me asking when/where your final is. This information can be obtained via the aforementioned link. Your highest exam score will not replace your lowest exam grade. There is no guaranteed curve, so do not plan for one, and **do not ask for extra credit**. *NOTE*: If you need disability accommodation for an exam, you must present me with proper SSD forms (See "STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES" section below.) at least 7 days prior to the date of the aforementioned exam. I cannot guarantee that I will accommodate SSD requests submitted within 7 days of the exam, yet I will try my best to do so.

As required by The University of Texas at Austin, the remaining 33% of your grade will come from ethics components – exam, assignment(s), pop quiz(zes), and/or class participation, etc. **Again, I urge you to attend class, as a significant portion of your ethics grade will come from such classroom assignments, participation grades, etc.**

Thus, grading is as follows:

Exam 1 (20%)
Exam 2 (10%)
Exam 3 (37%)
Ethics (33%)

At this point, I turn to some grading examples. Why? Because even though I answer every question that students have at this point about the grading system and will not move on until there are no remaining questions, I will be flooded with questions about the grading system for the rest of the semester (particularly when final grades are posted & students have no idea how they got their grade), as well as after the semester has ended. So, I'm adding another layer of support for my inevitable replies that "We covered this, in full, on the first day of class; and it's covered, in full, in the syllabus." Grab your pencils. Let's do some high-level math…

Amy scores a 90 on Exam 1, skips Exam 2, scores an 80 in Exam 3, and earns a 100 on her ethics component. What are her grades?

Exam 1 (20%):
Exam 2 (10%):
Exam 3 (37%):
Ethics (33%):
Overall Grade:

Brad skips Exams 1 & 2, scores a 60 on Exam 3, and earns a 70 on his ethics component. His grades?

Exam 1 (20%):
Exam 2 (10%):
Exam 3 (37%):
Ethics (33%):
Overall Grade:

Caroline scores a 100 on Exams 1 & 2, skips Exam 3, & earns a 50 on her ethics component. Her grades?

Exam 1 (20%):
Exam 2 (10%):
Exam 3 (37%):
Ethics (33%):
Overall Grade:

GRADES

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

CLASS RULES

To minimize distractions in the classroom, all cell phones and wireless devices must be silenced. Laptops may only be used by students sitting in the top two rows of the classroom. If the top two rows are **completely** full, then students may use laptops in the 3rd row from the top (and so forth). Disruptive use of phones, laptops, etc. (or disruptiveness of any kind) will

not be tolerated. Students engaged in disruptive behavior will be dismissed summarily from class. Finally, **I will not answer any question (in person and/or via email) that is answered in this syllabus.**

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

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 Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business. By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all the student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of the Policy Statement to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: 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, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website at **http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/** or the General Information Catalog to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty and to obtain additional information on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

CLASS WEB SITES AND STUDENT PRIVACY

Password-protected class sites will be available for all accredited courses taught at the University. Syllabi, handouts, assignments and other resources are types of information that may be available within these sites. Site activities could include exchanging e-mail, engaging in class discussions and chats, and exchanging files. In addition, class e-mail rosters will be a component of the sites. Students who do not want their names included in these electronic class rosters must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information, see http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi02-03/app/appc09.html.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259.