SYLLABUS
LEB 323
THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
Fall 2013
PROFESSOR PEDERSEN

Time: MWF, 10:00-11:00am
Classroom: UTC 1.130
Unique: 03275
Office: CBA 5.210
Office Hours: MW, 11:15am-12:15pm
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Course Objectives: After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Identify legal issues that arise in everyday business situations
- Demonstrate knowledge and application of business law principles and terms, and apply these principles and terms to business situations involving legal issues
- Apply legal reasoning and critical analysis to business issues involving legal questions
- Identify ethical issues and formulate defensible resolutions

Course Materials: (1) Business Law, Allison/Prentice, 14th edition, 2013 (Co-op)
(2) Course Outline, Pedersen (Copy Center, 3rd floor of McCombs)

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

- Attendance 10%
- Class Participation 15%
- Exam # 1 (September 25) 20%
- Exam # 2 (October 30) 25%
- Final Exam (Date TBA) 30%

Curved Score	Grade
94 and above	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
Below 60	F

Attendance Policy: I teach several sections of this course. To earn points for attendance, you must attend the section in which you are enrolled. An attendance sheet is circulated at the beginning of class. 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. If you arrive late or leave early, mark "tardy" and include the time of your arrival/departure.

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 for any other reason, you must notify me by e-mail before the class begins.

Class Participation: Class participation consists of court cases from the textbook, assigned in advance, that are briefed and then presented in class. Each student will have one case to brief and present during the course of the semester.

> Briefs: A brief is a one-page, typewritten 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 supporting the court's decision.

Posted on Blackboard each weekend are PowerPoint slides for the upcoming week. Case assignments are included in these slide shows. Students are responsible for reviewing the slides every weekend to see which cases are assigned, and to whom, 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 50% of your overall grade. If you miss exam #2, your final exam is worth 55% 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 50% 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.

Substantive Topics:

Court Systems

- Basic organization of state and federal courts
- Subject matter jurisdiction
- Personal jurisdiction

Sources of Law

- Common law
- Statutory law

Criminal Law

- Basic differences between criminal law and civil law

Constitutional Law

- Commerce Clause

General Tort Law

- Negligence
- Intentional Torts

Products Liability

- Express warranty
- Implied warranty of merchantability
- Implied warranty of fitness
- Strict liability

Intellectual Property

- Trademarks
- Trade secrets
- Patents
- Copyrights

Contract Law

- Offer and Acceptance
- Consideration and Promissory Estoppel
- Covenants Not to Compete
- Exculpatory Clauses
- Statute of Frauds

Agency

- Contract liabilities of principals and agents
- Tort liabilities of principals and agents

Employment Law

- Wrongful discharge
- Basic protections and procedures of EEOC
- ADA and ADEA

Ethics

- Methods of ethical decision making
    - Deontological

    - Teleological
    - Virtue ethics
- Common errors in ethical decision making (behavioral ethics)