COURSE SYLLABUS

BUSINESS FINANCE 3500 - LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

Instructor: Joseph R. Irvine CPA, M.S., J.D.
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Course Description: An introduction to American legal institutions and sources of law and an analysis of basic concepts of public and private law related to business decisions. 1.5 credit hrs.

Meeting Time and Location: MWF 9:10-10:05, Room 320 Schoenbaum Hall.

Course Objectives: The primary objectives of this course are to provide students with: a) an understanding of the legal framework within which American business operates, b) an introduction to basic concepts of public and private law relevant to business decisions, and c) experience in legal analysis. This course will involve discussion, questions and answers on the materials, and case study. Class participation will be expected. Students will be expected to discuss the cases and problems in each chapter covered and turn in answers to the chapter problems. Unannounced quizzes may be given and case briefs may be required.


Chapters Covered:

M 10/19        Constitutional Law
W 10/21        Ch 1 Introduction
F, M 10/23,26  Ch 3 The U.S. Legal System
W 10/28        Ch 8 Tort Law
F, M 10/30,11/2 Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability
W 11/4         Midterm
F 11/6         Ch 13 Contracts
M 11/9         Ch 14 Contracts
F 11/13        Ch 15 Contracts
M 11/16        Ch 16 Contracts
W 11/18        Ch 17 Contracts
F 11/20        Ch 18, 20 Contracts
M 11/23        Ch 42 Employment Law
M 11/30        Ch 43 Employment Law
W, F 12/2,4    Ch 43 Employment Law
M 12/7         Ch 35 Business Organizations
W 12/9         Ch 38 Corporations

* (DATE OF MIDTERM SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON PROGRESS)

Final Exam   December 14th  10:00-11:30 a.m.
Grading: The course grade will consist of:
- midterm 30%
- final 45%
- class part., homework, and quizzes 25%

Attendance: Class discussion and participation will be an important part of this class and cannot occur without attendance. Attendance is not required, but will affect your participation grade. If you know you will be absent and believe your absence qualifies as an excused absence (determinations will be made by me on a case by case basis), you must notify me prior to the class you will miss. If homework is due for the missed class it should be placed in the drop box on Carmen prior to the missed class. Homework submitted by any other method may not be accepted. If you have a job interview that cannot be scheduled at a time that will not conflict with class, please provide the name of the employer and name and e mail address and phone number for a contact person at the employer. If it does not conflict with your schedule, you should attend another section of the class.

Electronic devices: The absence of unnecessary distractions and interruptions being essential for an effective learning environment, each and every student must adhere to the following rules regarding the use of electronic devices in the classroom. Your receipt and acceptance of this syllabus shall constitute acceptance of these rules.

Electronic device includes cell phones (including smart phones), computers (laptops, notebooks, net books, and handhelds), mp3 and other digital audio and video players (including DVD players), and analog and digital audio and video recording devices (still and movie cameras). A student may not use an electronic device in the classroom without the express permission of the instructor. Use of cell/smart phones in the classroom is always prohibited, as is leaving the room to answer or make a call.

A student violating the above rules on the use electronic devices in the classroom shall be subject to confiscation of the device by me for the remainder of the class period or dismissal from the class for the day on which the offense occurs.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted on Carmen and are due in the Carmen drop box one hour prior to the start of class. You are responsible for resolving any Carmen problems prior to the homework deadline; therefore, you should not wait until the last minute to complete your homework. Homework will only be accepted in the drop box.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given at any time. Because quizzes are unannounced there are no makeup quizzes. If you are absent and it is an unexcused absence you will receive a zero on the quiz. If it is an excused absence the quiz points will be redistributed to class participation.

Carmen: Information regarding class will be posted as news items on Carmen. You are responsible for signing up on Carmen for notifications. You may not claim lack of knowledge of information posted on Carmen as an excuse for failure to comply with a class requirement.

If you believe that a score posted on Carmen is not accurate you must notify me by e mail within ten (3) days of the date that it was posted. If you fail to notify me within the ten (3) day period you agree that the score posted is accurate and give up all rights to contest the score.
Preparation for Class: The University and College expectation is that students spend two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Since this course meets 3 hours per week, you should expect to spend at least 6 hours per week outside of class on course-related work.

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:30 and by appointment. When contacting me by e-mail please put the course number and class time in the subject line.

Waitlisted students: Students who are waitlisted and seek to enroll must attend class through the first class session of the second week of the semester. After that date, students who have not been added will not be enrolled and may not continue to attend the class. Waitlisted students should contact either the Fisher Undergraduate Program Office or the Department of Finance office if they have any questions regarding the waitlist process.

Disenrollment: University Rule 3335-8-33 provides that a student may be disenrolled after the third instructional day of the semester, the first Friday of the semester, or the student’s second class session of the course, whichever occurs first, if the student fails to attend the scheduled course without giving prior notification to the instructor.

Academic misconduct: Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. According to University Rule 3335-31-02, all suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. It is my policy to pursue the most severe penalties available in cases of academic dishonesty.

Disability services: The Office of Disability Services verifies students with specific disabilities and develops strategies to meet the needs of those students. Students requiring accommodations based on identified disabilities should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss his or her individual needs. All students with a specific disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services to explore the potential accommodations available to them. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations if you have a documented disability or would like additional information.

Book Options: There are several options for purchasing the book. Please be sure to check the ISBN. There is another book with a similar name. We are only covering a portion of the book so a custom edition has been created by the publisher. Options include:


Several copies of the book are on reserve at the Eighteen Avenue Library.