COURSE SYLLABUS

BUSINESS FINANCE 3500 - LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

Instructor: Joseph R. Irvine CPA, M.S., J.D.
The Ohio State University
240 Fisher Hall
Phone: 688-5699
e mail - Irvine.17@osu.edu

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. Unannounced quizzes may be given and case briefs may be required.


Chapters Covered:

W 8/23 Constitutional Law
F 8/25 Ch 1 Introduction
M 8/28 Ch 3 The U.S. Legal System
W 8/30 Ch 3 The U.S. Legal System
F 9/1 Ch 8 Tort Law
W 9/6 Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability
F 9/8 Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability
M 9/11 Midterm*
W 9/13 Ch 13 Contracts

M 8/28 Ch 1 Introduction
W 8/30 Ch 3 The U.S. Legal System
F 9/1 Ch 8 Tort Law
W 9/6 Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability
F 9/8 Ch 9 Negligence and Strict Liability
M 10/2 Ch 43 Employment Law
W 10/4 Ch 43 Employment Law
F 10/6 Ch 35 Bus. Organizations
M 10/9 Ch 38 Corporations

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

Grading: The course grade will consist of:

Midterm 30%
Final 45%
Class participation and quizzes 25%

Final - October 11th 9:10 a.m.
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 by e mail (see below) prior to the class you will miss. 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, e mail address and phone number for a contact person at the employer. You should attend another section of the class if it does not conflict with your schedule. Missing an exam without notifying me prior to the exam may result in a zero for the exam grade.

Communication: The best way to reach me is by e mail. If you would like to notify me regarding an absence it should by e mail. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee that I will remember everything I am told before or after class, especially when I have two class in a row so that is why I require an e mail. Your e mail should contain both the course number and time of class in the subject line so that it gets to the proper mailbox. E mails not containing the course number and time may be disregarded. If you e mail me and have not received a response within 24 hours, assume the e mail was not received and either resend or contact me by phone.

Electronic devices: The absence of unnecessary distractions and interruptions is 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 for the remainder of the class period or dismissal from the class for the day on which the offense occurs and a deduction of 20 participation points. If confiscation would be disruptive to class there will be a deduction of 20 participation points without confiscation. Additional offenses will result in a deduction of 30 participation points for each offense.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas. You should be prepared to discuss homework questions in class. We may not have time to discuss all questions.

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.

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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 11:30-1:30 and by appointment. When contacting me by email 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. Failure to show up for an exam will result in a zero on the exam. Having a cell phone or other electronic device on during an exam is considered academic misconduct – no exceptions.

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, 098 Baker 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. The book is also used for BUSFIN 4510. Options include:


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