

SYLLABUS

CLASS: BUS 250 THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS, Lincoln Campus

INSTRUCTOR: Edward “Ed” Hoffman

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TEXT: BUSINESS LAW, Seventh Edition (Prentice Hall, 2010), Henry R. Cheeseman,
ISBN: 978-0-13-608554-6

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of topics related to the legal environment within which businesses and individuals must operate. Students will (1) be able to identify specific spheres of business within which the law requires certain behavior of businesses and individuals and the consequences of failing to adhere to these requirements, (2) become familiar with specific legal terminology, and (3) practice the identification and analysis of professional and personal legal issues within the context of business.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Students will be expected to have mastery of the concepts covered in the course to include, but not be limited to: a basic understanding of the judicial process both in the Federal and Nebraska State Court Systems, procedural areas such as pre-trial litigation and alternative dispute resolution as well as appeals of civil decisions, an understanding of tort law to include both intentional and negligent causes of action and their interplay with business, an understanding of the basic elements of contract law to include offer, acceptance, capacity, legality, consideration, statute of frauds, third party rights, remedies, damages and formation of sales and lease contracts under the Uniform Commercial Code as well as sales and lease warranties. It is this instructors expectation that the students ability to understand basic legal principals will enhance their effectiveness in the business environment when it comes to decision making processes concerning legal related matters including but not limited to litigation and regulatory matters. As such it is hoped that these problem solving skills will enhance the students overall effectiveness in the business environment.

LEARNING STRATEGIES: The classroom educational environment will include lecture, robust discussion in which the instructor intentionally pulls information from students and encourages them to apply the information gleaned from in the textbook and discussed in class to fact patterns offered by the instructor. The course will also potentially include the black and white film titled “Twelve Angry Men” which is intended to further enhance a basic understanding of the legal system.

GRADING: Your grade will be based on attendance and participation in class activities, as well as satisfactory completion of exams. Active class participation is vital to the overall learning process **and** your successful completion of the course. Extra credit will be given to students that bring in articles, which discuss timely legal issues.

While attendance only carries a 20% weight for the final grade, it is important that students remember the following applies with regard to the effect of attendance on your ultimate class grade:

ATTENDANCE:

Perfect Attendance:	A
One Excused Absence**:	A
Two Excused Absences:	B
Three Absences:	C
Four Absences:	D
Five or more Absences:	F

*** Students may have one excused absence without it affecting the attendance grade if the student emails in the absence prior to class time.*

Classes will be held on the following dates for the term:

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
August 16	Chapters 1, 2, 3 (Legal Overview) Chapter 4 (Constitutional Law)
August 23	Chapters 5, 6, 7 (Torts)
August 30	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 (Contracts); (Exam Ch. 1-7)
September 6	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16 (Contracts)
September 13	Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 (Sales/Lease Contracts)
September 20	Finish Chapters 18-21; (Exam Ch. 9-16)
September 27	Chapters 22, 23, 24, 25 (Negotiable Instruments)
October 4	(Final Exam)

Each of the three exams will be comprised of a mix of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer Essay. You will be responsible for anything assigned for class reading **and** class discussions. All exams will be open book and open notes. Each student may choose to do an optional project, which can be used to raise an exam grade by a full letter grade. Said optional project will be due no later than **September 27, 2011**. Potential project topics will be discussed with students and **all** project topics must be approved prior to the student beginning work.