SYLLABUS

CLASS: THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS, (BUS 250), Valmont Campus

INSTRUCTOR: Edward “Ed” Hoffman  
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TEXT: BUSINESS LAW, Eighth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2013), Henry R. Cheeseman,  

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 an understanding 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 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 issues including but not limited to litigation and regulatory matters. As such it is hoped that these skills will enhance the students overall effectiveness in the business environment.

GRADING: Your grade will be based on satisfactory completion of exams as well as your scores on your papers (discussed below). Your exams will make up forty percent (40%) of your overall grade, your papers forty percent (40%) of your overall grade and your Blackboard discussions will make up twenty percent (20%) of your overall grade. Extra credit will be given to students that submit articles to the Professor (scanned/emailed preferably) which discuss timely legal issues. No more than 10 percentage points of extra credit will be allowed.
**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** This class follows the Doane College Academic Honesty Policy. All materials submitted for this class are expected to be original by the student and should not have been submitted for credit to any other course. Academic integrity is expected for all interactions and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, original work on assignments, accountability and completion of requirements, maintenance of confidentiality for individuals, and accurate citation of and references to original work. Specific information about Academic Honesty and Plagiarism may be found in the Doane Student Handbook. When applicable, assignments must be typed and adhere to the APA 6th Edition guidelines. This includes crediting authors when paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting the work of other individuals. Resources for APA formatting are available on Blackboard. Mechanics of writing are considered in the grading of assignments. Therefore, it is expected that you will proofread all work for accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submitting assignments and projects. Depth of thought, application, and analysis demonstrated in the assignment will be considered in the grading process. All work is expected to be of highest quality. Work may be turned back to the student for review and revision.

**ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING DISCUSSION:** Welcome to the online/distance learning format for The Legal Environment of Business. You will note below there is an Assignment and Reading Schedule outlining the requirements of this course. I did, however, want to further discuss the assignments, reading schedule and overview of the course outlined below with some guiding principles and thoughts from the instructor. First, this course will provide you with an excellent overview of the United States legal system and a basic level understanding of Business Law requirements for undergraduate students. These outcomes are limited of course only by the amount of time and effort you are willing to put into this course. In the initial meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, October 29, 2013**, it is my intention to provide you with all of the exams which will be utilized in this course as well as discuss further the papers that are due and the format that I will expect the papers to be in. We will also discuss my grading requirements and what is necessary to successfully complete this course.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Online Class Attendance/Participation:** Participation and reflection are important components of this class. You are expected to take an active part in the class through exams, legal papers on selected Court decisions/cases, and Blackboard group discussions.

2. **Professional Reading:** Professional readings will be included as an element of this class. The instructor will designate readings that will include text reading and selected Court decisions/cases and class interaction through Blackboard group discussions.

3. **Exams:** Your examination questions come directly from your textbook.
Each of the three exams will be comprised of a mix of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer Essay. Your exams will be due no later than the dates outlined in the below Assignment and Reading Schedule. If you would like to turn the exams in prior to that date you are certainly welcome to do so. **ALL TESTS TURNED IN AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL HAVE 10 POINTS REDUCED FOR EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

4. **Papers:** I have chosen the first three cases from your textbook with which I would like you to write a paper on. The last paper which is due on or before **December 10**, will be on a case of your selection from the textbook. The cases are discussed in the blue boxes in each chapter in the textbook and you can certainly select a case from the textbook which interests you. The papers are to be at least two pages in length, double spaced, one inch margins on all sides. Please include your name and the date submitted on the first page. I would like you to discuss the issue(s) that was presented to the court (e.g. the issue(s) the court was asked to make a decision on), discuss the courts analysis of that issue commenting on what prior cases they felt were important and why and discuss the rules of law from those cases and end with the Court’s conclusion and ruling. Finally, I would like to hear your thoughts on the case and what your opinion is on the court’s decision. Please go on-line and pull up the Court’s full opinion (using Google) to utilize on your papers. The papers are due on the date noted on the assignment and reading schedule below but you can certainly turn them in prior to that date. **ALL PAPERS TURNED IN AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL HAVE 10 POINTS REDUCED FOR EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

5. **Blackboard Discussion:** I will post discussion items on Blackboard that you will be required to comment on. Students will also be expected to comment on other student’s posts. Robust discussion is encouraged. Reference to the textbook and your own life experiences is mandatory. **Please be thoughtful in your responses.**
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| October 29| Meeting, at Valmont, to discuss online course requirements and reading schedule. Exams will be handed out and paper topics and requirements will be discussed.  
  Chapters 1, 2, 3 (Legal Overview)  
  Chapter 4 (Constitutional Law)   |
| Oct 31    | Chapters 5, 6, 7 (Torts). **Paper on Brown v. Board of Education 347 U.S. 483 (1954), due by November 19, no later than 5 p.m.**                       |
| November 5| Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 (Contracts); **Exam Ch. 1-7 and due by November 19, no later than 5pm.**                                             |
| November 12| Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16 (Contracts). **Paper on Wrench LLC v. Taco Bell Corp 256 F.3rd 446 (2001), due by November 19, no later than 5 p.m.**  
  Blackboard discussion and responses due. |
| November 19| Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 (Sales/Lease Contracts). **Paper on Brandt v. Boston Scientific Corp et al. 204 Ill.2d 640 (2003), due by November 19, no later than 5 p.m.** |
| November 26| Finish Chapters 18-21; **(Exam Ch. 9-16 due December 10, no later than 5pm).**                                                                |
| December 3 | Chapters 22, 23, 24, 25 (Negotiable Instruments). **Paper on a case of the student’s choosing which is discussed in the textbook in one of the blue boxed out areas. Due December 10, no later than 5pm.**  
  Blackboard discussion and responses due. |
| December 10| **Second and Third Exams and Paper on Student’s Choice due December 10, no later than 5pm.**                                                 |