CLASS: COMMERCIAL LAW, (BUS350), Lincoln Campus

INSTRUCTOR: Edward “Ed” Hoffman
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Work Phone: (402) 477-2233

TEXT: BUSINESS LAW, Eighth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2010), Henry R. Cheeseman,
ISBN: 978-0-13-289041-0

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
business entities, (2) the consequences to businesses for failing to adhere to legal
requirements, (3) become familiar with specific legal terminology, and (4) 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
credit and bankruptcy issues, Agency and employment law, non-corporate and corporate
entities, government regulations and an understanding of real and personal property
issues including bailment and landlord-tenant issues. 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 and 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.

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 group discussion 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 Criminal Law. 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 Criminal 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 Monday, October 21, 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 and their topics 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 test 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 will provide you the topics of the papers at the first class meeting. The papers are to be between one and two pages, double spaced, one inch margins on all sides. Please include your name and the date submitted and the class name. 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 feel free to utilize on-line sources, citing where appropriate. 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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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td>Chapters 26, 27, 28 (Credit &amp; Bankruptcy)</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Chapters 34, 35, 39, 40 (Non-corporate entities) (Exam Ch. 26-33). Exam due November 11, no later than 5 p.m.</td>
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Blackboard discussion and responses due. |
| November 18 | Chapters 43, 44, 45, 46 (Government regulations) (Exam Ch. 34-40, 42). Exam due December 9, no later than 5 p.m.                             |
Blackboard discussion and responses due. |
| December 9  | Final Exam. Exam due December 9, no later than 5 p.m.                                                                                     |

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. 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 December 2, 2013. Potential project topics will be discussed with students and all project topics must be approved prior to the student beginning work.