BUS 250: The Legal Environment of Business

SYLLABUS

Instructor: Rebecca Smith

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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 with 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 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, statue 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 instructor’s expectation that the student’s ability to understand basic legal principals will enhance their effectiveness in the business environment when it comes to decision making processes concerning legal matters including but not limited to litigation and regulatory matters. As such it is hoped that these problem solving skills will enhance the student’s overall effectiveness in the business environment.

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 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 6th Edition APA 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 your written paper. Depth of thought, application, and analysis demonstrated in the assignment will be considered in the grading process. All work is expected to be of the highest quality. Work may be turned back to the student for review and revision.

LEARNING STRATEGIES: The classroom educational environment will include lecture, robust discussion in which the instructions intentionally pulls information from students and encourages them to apply the information gleaned from the textbook and discussed in class to fact patterns offered by the instructor. The course will also potentially include a 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, a written paper on a topic to be mutually determined by the student and the instruction, as well as satisfactory completion of the midterm and final exams. Active class participation is vital to the overall learning process and your successful completion of the course.

While attendance only carries a 10% 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.

The written paper will count for 30% of your final grade
The Midterm exam will count for 30% of your final grade
The Final exam will count for 30% of your final grade
Attendance and class participation will count for 10% of your final grade
Classes will be held on the following dates for the term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3, (Legal Overview) Chapter 4 (Constitutional Law)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 (Torts and Crimes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 (Contracts)</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 (Contracts) <strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 (Sales/Lease Contract)</td>
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<td>July 2</td>
<td>Chapters 34, 35, 36, 40 (Business Organizations and Ethics)</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Chapters 22, 23, 24, 25 (Negotiable Instruments)</td>
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<td>July 16</td>
<td>Chapters 29, 30, 31, 33 (Agency and Employment Law) <strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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The written paper is due no later than July 9, 2015.

Each of the two 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 at the instructor’s discretion.