BUS 250
Legal Environment of Business
3 Credit Hours

Instructor:
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*Note this text is also used in BUS 410 (Regulatory Compliance) where we will cover different topics and chapters, as well as a brief review of torts and contracts if needed. A new edition (5th) of the book is expected in January 2013. Either edition will be fine for our purposes.

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 for 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.

This is an introductory survey class touching on sources of law, legal process, torts, crime, contracts, sales, negotiable instruments, and property.

Course Objectives - Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Develop a general understanding of the court system and civil procedure.
2. Develop a general understanding of basic legal vocabulary.
3. Apply legal concepts to specific factual situations.
4. Demonstrate analytical skills and basic writing skills through completion of a short writing assignment.
5. Demonstrate analytical skills through class discussion and asking thoughtful questions.
6. Increase awareness of ethical dilemmas encountered in by individuals and businesses operating within the law.

Learning Strategies:

1. Class discussion of the text and current events or other relevant examples.
2. Reading the text, including cases and examples given.
3. Reading primary source material such as the constitution, statutes or case law.
4. Lecture by the instructor.

Attendance/Assignment Policy:
I expect you to be here and be prepared. I reserve the right to adjust your grade up or down a letter based upon poor or excellent class participation. Late assignments will be penalized. Make up exams will not generally be given. If you are planning to be gone for vacations, etc., plan on discussing it with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Methods of Assessment:
Students should expect two exams as well as a short writing assignment to demonstrate application of legal concepts to specific factual scenarios. Students will also be graded on the 1) frequency of their participation in class, 2) whether their comments reflect that they have completed the required reading, 3) whether they are able to make relevant comments showing application of the concepts studied. Scale: A = 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 60-69 F= below 60

Assignments:
A more detailed list of assignments and points available will be distributed the second week of class. Covering the text will be the primary assignment, although a writing assignment will also be given in class.

For the first class, please read and be prepared to discuss chapters 1, 2, and 3. A complete list of assignments for the semester will be distributed in class.

Academic Integrity Policy:
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and assignments will represent your own work. Any use of other’s ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties.