BUS 250-7
Legal Environment of Business
3 Credit Hours

Instructor:
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*Note this text is also used in BUS 350 (Commercial Law) where we will cover different topics and chapters (tentatively scheduled for Winter I 2016). You MUST buy this bundled text from the bookstore so you will have access to the online content. Use of old editions of the book will not be permitted.

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, 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 through class discussion and asking thoughtful questions.
5. 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.
5. Working on practice problems or questions individually or in groups.

**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 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. Grades will be adjusted for poor class participation or more than one absence. 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. Please watch your Doane email for the first assignment.

**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.

**Legal Problems:**
Nothing in this class should be interpreted as me giving you legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should seek counsel to give you personalized advice. Additionally, as a rule I do not represent students in their personal legal matters while they are current students or will be students of mine in the future, as I believe that creates a conflict of interest.

**Office Hours:**
I will try to be available on campus 20 minutes prior to class to take questions or visit with students. If you want to set aside time to discuss grading, references, law school admissions or anything else, please feel free to call or email me to set aside some time for a private discussion. I am happy to help students where I can.