**Business Administration 212**

**Business Law I**

**Course Syllabus**

**Fall 2017**

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**Business Law I.** (3 credits). A case approach to the application of legal principles to business activity. Particular emphasis is placed upon the legal system, law of contracts, and business organizations.

**Required Text:** *Essentials of Business Law*; Twelth Edition; Mann and Roberts; Cengage Publishing Co. (2016).

**Learning Outcomes:**

The course will concentrate on major areas of business law, including the legal system, contracts, and business organization structures. The subject matters covered have been selected the reason that these are areas that students are likely to encounter in their future business and personal lives.

Students will learn to approach problems in an analytical manner, reducing each to its various components, or elements, and resolving each according to basic legal standards, and thereby arrive at an overall probable resolution to the problem.

Perhaps the most important lesson that students will take from this class is the ability to recognize when they are confronted by a situation where it is advisable to consult a legal professional.

**Means of Assessment:**

The study of each assigned chapter will include reading the material in the text, applying the materials studied to the problems following the chapter, and participating in discussion of the assigned problems. Students should read the assigned chapters prior to class, review the assigned problems, and be prepared to answer them orally during class. Your performance in the class will be evaluated based upon 4 tests, each counting for roughly 1/5 of your final grade. Quizzes will comprise the other 1/5 of your grade (see below). I reserve the right to assign more weight to one test than to others, recognizing that the results of a single test frequently do not accurately reflect the actual ability of individual students. I also reserve the right to raise final grades based upon my assessment of the frequency and quality of a students participation in class.

Tests will test individual performance and are drawn from the text and lectures. I recognize that some students perform better answering objective questions, while others are better at answering subjective questions. Additionally, analytical skills and judgment are important aspects in the legal profession, and such skills cannot be adequately tested with objective tests. Therefore, each test will be a mix of objective and subjective components: 25 multiple choice questions (2 points each) and 5 short answer essay questions (10 points each).

Only in the case of a well-documented emergency or College sponsored activity should a test be missed. This is particularly important in the case of Business Law, as I am only on campus for my class(es), and will have office hours by appointment only. You must obtain my approval prior to your absence on the scheduled date of any test. In the event a student is absent for a test due to injury or illness, the student shall provide me with written documentation, signed by the students physician or a representative of the colleges Student Health Services, stating that the severity of the students injury prohibited the student from taking the test on the particular dated. Tests missed without my prior approval will result in a recorded grade of zero for the missed test.

**Electronic Devices:**

Students use of electronic devices during class may be restricted or eliminated at the instructors discretion.

**Academic Honesty**:

Ethics and values are essential in law and the world of business. Ethics and values are also important in education. I will assume, unless there is evidence to the contrary, that you are an ethical student. Strict standards of academic honesty apply to all academic work. Deviations from academic honesty are exemplified by, but not limited to, the following:

In the taking of examinations, any attempt to receive assistance from persons, papers, or printed material without the permission of the faculty member constitutes academic dishonesty. This definition applies not only to activities within the examination room, but also to any attempt to obtain beforehand copies of examination questions without the faculty member's consent, including attempts to obtain them from students taking the examination at an earlier time during the semester. In short, all such unauthorized procedures constitute academic dishonesty. A student who willingly provides assistance not condoned by the College to another student is also in violation, whether or not the student providing the assistance has completed the examination.

In preparing essays, reports, and other out‑of‑class projects, any use of the words or ideas of someone else as though they were one's own, constitutes plagiarism. This definition applies to the use of both printed and unprinted sources, including the work of other students or faculty. To avoid plagiarism, all borrowed materials must be fully documented. Direct quotations, however small, must be placed in quotation marks or indented beyond the regular margins, and their sources must be clearly identified. Ideas or arguments not directly quoted but paraphrased must also be documented; merely altering the wording does not make their substance a student's own work. Facts, formulas, and other types of information which are widely known and considered common knowledge in a field do not always require documentation, but a student may not falsely claim the independent derivation or observation of such material, nor borrow without acknowledgment someone else's special arrangement or use of it. When in doubt as to the criteria for common knowledge, a student should consult a member of the faculty. If acceptable methods of documenting borrowed material of any type are not clear to a student, it is the student's responsibility to consult beforehand with the faculty member who will receive the finished work.

The use of an identical or nearly identical piece of work to fulfill requirements in more than one course without the knowledge of the faculty members involved constitutes academic dishonesty. If a student wishes to prepare a single piece of work for more than one course, the written permission of both faculty members must be secured beforehand. If a student wishes to submit a revised version of an earlier piece of work, written permission must be secured beforehand and the earlier version must be submitted along with the final version. When in doubt, a student should check with the faculty member.

**Any violation of a principle of academic honesty will result in a grade of 0.0 for the semester.**

**Course Review**:

The course will concentrate on major areas of business law, including the legal system, contracts, and business organization structures. Each of these areas is covered in the text. Listed below are the chapters to be covered and their approximate dates for discussion.

Date Chapters Problems

8/21 9 Introduction to Contracts 1-5

8/24 10 Mutual Assent 1-11

8/28 11 Conduct Invalidating Assent 1-9

8/31 12 Consideration 1-10

9/4 Labor Day. No class.

9/7 13 Illegal Bargains 1-9

9/11 Review

9/14 **Test. Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13**

9/18 14 Contractual Capacity 1-7

9/21 15 Contracts in Writing 1-8

9/25 16 Third Parties to Contracts 1-10

9/28 17 Performance, Breach and Discharge 1-10

10/2 Fall Break. No class

10/5 Fall Break. No class

10/9 18 Contract Remedies 1-9

10/12 Review

10/16 **Test. Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17, 18**

10/19 28 Relationship of Principal and Agent 1-10

10/23 29 Relationship with Third Parties 1-9

10/26 30 Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships 1-6

10/30 31 Operation and Dissolution of General Partnerships 1-8

11/2 32 Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies 1-7

11/6 Review

11/9 **Test. Chapters 28, 29, 30, 31, 32**

11/13 33 Nature and Formation of Partnerships 1-8

11/16 34 Financial Structure of Corporations 1-7

11/20 35 Management Structure of Corporations 1-7

11/23 Thanksgiving. No class.

11/27 36 Fundamental Changes of Corporations 1-7

11/30 Review

12/4 (Section II) **Test (33-36)** NOTE: Test will be given during Final Examination period. Test will not be comprehensive. Exam period is 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Students should acquire copies of the text, read and be familiar with the assigned**

**chapter and the problems following that chapter prior to class for that day. To encourage**

**the reading of the chapters before class, there will be a short quiz at the beginning of each**

**class covering the material in that day’s chapter. The best 10 quiz scores of each student**

**be averaged and counted equally with the tests in calculating your final grade.**

It is expected that all students will attend class on a regular basis having completed the

assigned reading for that date. Students will be expected to contribute to the class discussion.

As can be seen from the schedule above, we will be covering more materials during some

classes than during others. In order to maintain a more regular class schedule, we will

occasionally cover a chapter that may be scheduled for the next class. Therefore, students

should prepare for each class with the goal of staying one chapter ahead of the syllabus.

The material covered will be complicated. The lectures will be relatively short, so that a

large portion of the class period may be devoted to discussions of the problems following each

chapter. The lectures will cover material not included in the book, and not everything in the

book will be covered in the lecture. Any student who expects to do well in this class should,

minimally, attend class, read the scheduled materials (as well as at least one chapter ahead) and

attempt to work out answers to the problems at the end of those chapter, before class.

My office is TBD. I am adjunct (part-time), so I will not be there as much

as most other faculty members. I will be happy to meet with any of you, by appointment.