

Legal Environment of Business **BUSA 3106 FALL 2008**

Instructor: Bill NeSmith
Home: 924-6629 (no calls before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.)
Email: wnesmith@bnlawpc.com
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 am until 9:15 am CRN 8530
Office Hours: Fridays, 2:00pm until 4:00pm (location to be announced)

Prerequisite: NONE

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the U.S. legal system as it pertains to the business environment. This course will examine legal, regulatory and ethical issues facing contemporary business and business managers. Students will be introduced to a wide range of legal scenarios, both actual and hypothetical, and will engage in classroom discussion to explore the legal system and how it impacts business and business decisions. The major emphasis of this course will involve a close examination of the American legal system, including state and federal laws, the various regulatory agencies, the rules they promulgate and ethical considerations.

Textbook

Reed, O. Lee, Shedd, Peter J., Morehead, Jere W., and Pagnattaro, Marisa Anne., The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business (14th Edition). McGraw-Hill (2008).

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the legal system, state and federal laws, and ethical issues in the business environment. The student will be introduced to legal terminology as it relates to business and various relationships between businesses, the general public, employees, investors and government. There will be numerous discussions throughout the semester about the difference, if any, between what is legal and what is ethical and/or moral. This course employs real scenarios, current case law and statutory laws so that the student can better experience the impact of our legal system on contemporary business and business decisions.

Attendance

Attendance is expected. While it is understood that a student may encounter a situation which requires an absence, such as illness or family emergency, the student will be responsible for all materials covered in lectures and assignments. Unexcused absences or excessive absences generally result in a reduction of the student's final grade, while good attendance generally has the opposite effect.

Testing

There will be three tests during the semester. **There will be no make-up exams except for providential cause.** Such cause must be presented in writing and must be subject to verification. Testing dates will be announced in class, approximately one week in advance.

Grading Policy

Student grades will be determined as follows:

All examinations are graded on the traditional 100 point scale, then all tests are averaged together. Appropriate additions or subtractions are made according to your attendance, participation, etc. A final grade will then be determined on the traditional 100 point scale.

There generally will be extra points for classroom participation and excellent attendance.

Extra Credit

Occasionally, I will agree to extra-credit assignments in certain circumstances. If you feel that you need to pursue an extra-credit assignment, contact me directly, plead your case, and I will decide if such an assignment is appropriate under the circumstances.

Course Work

Course work will be taken from the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Law as the Foundation of Business
- Chapter 2: The Ethical Basis of Law and Business Management (SELF STUDY)
- Chapter 3: The Court System
- Chapter 4: Litigation
- Chapter 6: The Constitution and Business
- Chapter 7: Principles of Contract Law
- Chapter 8: Torts in the Business Environment
- Chapter 9: Criminal Law and Business

The above is a list of the chapters I believe will be helpful to the student academically, and in business in general. This is intended to be a list of chapters and course work to be covered *generally* and is subject to change during the semester.

Reading assignments will be given in class, however you should always read the next chapter upon completion of a chapter. Lectures are designed to enhance the reading materials and will not be a “spoon-feeding” of the reading assigned. **YOU MUST READ THE TEXT!!!!**

Other

This is a college level course and I expect all students to act as adults in class, in their work and in their over-all behavior. This does not mean that this course will be rigid and rule-oriented. I intend for this class to be fun as well as informative. Expect to be challenged to provide your highest quality work, but expect a certain degree of informality in the class room as well. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES OR TAPE RECORDERS IN CLASS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION!!!** I encourage you to speak with me directly if you have any problems concerning this course.