Syllabus

Principles of law which form the legal framework for business activity including applicable statutes, contracts, and agency.

Course Objectives:
To enable the students to:
1. Explain how to operate a business within the framework of the U.S legal system.
2. Explain how to operate a business in a non-negligent manner.
3. Describe how to operate a business in compliance with the requirements of a general tort law, specifically operating a business in a non-tortuous manner.
4. Discuss how to settle a dispute by minimizing time spent in expensive litigation.
5. Explain how to operate a business in accordance with the rules and regulations of Texas Common Law.
6. Describe how to operate a business in accordance with the various applicable state and federal statutes.
7. Explain how to operate a business in accordance with the mandates of the U.S Constitution.

Textbook:

Student Evaluation:
Achievement of these objectives will be measured as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Class Format:
The class will consist of weekly lectures, class discussion, and review of the assigned reading and assigned homework questions. It is vital that students read the class assignments and complete the homework assignments, in order to keep up with the class and participate in class discussion. In general, a typical class routine will be:

1. Review of homework, and clarifications of previous lectures/reading.
2. Lecture relating to the new assigned reading.
3. Class discussion of the new assigned reading and lecture.
Student Evaluation

Evaluation

- Examinations will consist mostly of multiple-choice questions. Other types of questions may be included, such as short essay questions, however these will comprise only a small portion of the exam.
- **The homework is mandatory**, and must be turned in by the assigned time. Late assignments are not accepted. Do NOT wait until the very last minute, in case something happens to the computer or your internet connection. Plan on spending at least an hour or two to complete these assignments.
- The class participation grade will be based on a student’s preparedness and willingness to discuss the homework assignments and assigned readings, and his/her overall contribution to class discussions. The instructor may assign some homework problems out of the book; these will be discussed in class, and will be part of your class participation grade.
- Grades will typically be scored on a scale of: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D; < 60 = F. However, the instructor may use a grading curve, which will only improve (never reduce) students’ scores. This curve will apply to the final grades only, however the instructor will explain how the curve might apply to individual exams.
- Provisions for missed exams may be made for extraordinary situations, on a case by case basis, at the instructor’s sole discretion. Students who may miss an exam should make every effort to inform the instructor prior to the exam.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is expected, and poor attendance may reduce a student’s class participation grade. Students are responsible for material missed due to absence and it is their responsibility to consult with the instructor on such matters. The student is responsible for formal withdrawal from the course should such action be required. However, if the student has missed more than six (6) hours of class before the official withdrawal date, has not given the instructor written notice of their intention to complete the course requirements, and does not attend class and take examinations after the withdrawal date, the student will be dropped from the class and receive a W.

Academic Honesty

*Cheating in any form will not be tolerated.* Any student discovered cheating on an examination will be dropped from the course and receive an F, and if deemed necessary, the matter will be forwarded through the channels prescribed in the SGT Student Handbook.
Course Descriptions

The Legal Environment of Business
It provides students with basic introduction to law and legal reasoning, the courts and alternative dispute resolution in America, the court procedures, the constitutional authority to regulate business, the ethics and business decision making.

Week 1

Torts and Crimes
It provides students with the basic of tort law, the negligence and strict liability, the intellectual property, the civil law, and the criminal law.

Week 2

Contracts
There is an extensive discussion of the nature and terminology of the contract law, and several related issues such as third party rights, performance & discharge, and breach of contract & remedied.

Weeks 3 & 4

Domestics & International Sales & Lease Contracts
Through examples, students learn the formation of domestic & international sales and lease contracts, warranties and product liability.

Weeks 6

Agency & Employment
There is a simple, intuitive exposition of the agency formation & duties, scope of agent’s authority, employment & labor law, and employment discrimination.

Week 7

Business Organizations
There are a full treatment of the sole proprietorships & franchises, the partnerships, the limited liability companies, the corporations formation & financing, and the law for small businesses.

Week 8

Government Regulation, and International Law
This covers the administrative law, the consumer law, the environmental law, the antitrust law, and the international law.

Week 9

Course Instructor:
Legal Environment of Business

Topic Summary
It provides students with basic introduction to law and legal reasoning, the courts and alternative dispute resolution in America, the court procedures, the constitutional authority to regulate business, the ethics and business decision making.

Week 1

Topic 1:
1. Law & its Purpose
2. Classification of the Law
3. Sources of Business Law

Topic 2:
1. Business Ethics & Social Responsibility
2. Business Law & Business Ethics
3. The WPH Framework for Business Ethics

Topic 3:
1. Jurisdiction
2. Structure of the Court System
3. Threshold Requirements
4. Steps in Civil Litigation

Topic 4:
1. Primary Forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
2. Other ADR Methods
3. Court-Annexed ADR
4. Use of ADR in International Disputes

• Homework
• Chapter 1— Critical Thinking & Business Law (pp.13-15)
• Chapter 2— Questions & Problems (pp.32-34)
• Chapter 3— Questions & Problems (pp.65-67)
• Chapter 4— Questions & Problems (pp.94-98)

Course Instructor:
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Torts and Crimes

Topic Summary
It provides students with the basic of tort law, the negligence and strict liability, the intellectual property, the civil law, and the criminal law.

Week 2

Topic 5:
1. Elements & Classification of a Crime
2. Common Crimes Affecting Business
3. Liability for Crimes & Defenses to Crimes
4. Constitutional Safeguards & Criminal Procedure
5. Tools for Fighting Business Crime

Topic 6:
1. Tort Law & Classification of Torts
2. Intentional Torts & Damages available in Tort Cases

Topic 7:
1. Elements of Negligence & Plaintiff’s Doctrine
2. Defenses to Negligence
3. Strict Liability

Topic 8:
1. Defective Product Liability & Market Share Liability

Topic 9:
1. Intellectual Property
2. Trade Marks, Copyrights, Patents, & Trade Secrets

Homework
- Chapter 7— Questions & Problems (pp.200-201)
- Chapter 8— Questions & Problems (pp.231-234)
- Chapter 9— Questions & Problems (pp.257-259)
- Chapter 10— Questions & Problems (pp.284-286)
- Chapter 12— Questions & Problems (pp.339-341)

Test Quiz preparation (Week 3)
- Test Quiz will consist multiple-choice questions.

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Contracts

Topic Summary
There is an extensive discussion of the nature and terminology of the contract law, and several related issues such as third party rights, performance & discharge, and breach of contract & remedied.

Weeks 3 & 4

Topic 10:
1. Definition of a Contract
2. Sources of Contract Law
3. Classification of Contracts
4. Interpretation of Contracts

Topic 11:
1. Assignments and Delegations
2. Assignment of Contract
3. Third-Party Beneficiary Contracts

Topic 12:
1. Methods of Discharging a Contract
2. Remedies

• Homework
  • Chapter 13—Questions & Problems (pp.357-359)
  • Chapter 19—Questions & Problems (pp.507-511)
  • Chapter 20—Questions & Problems (pp.534-536)

• Midterm Exam preparation (Week 5)
  • Midterm Examination will consist mostly of multiple-choice questions. Other types of questions may be included, such as short essay questions, however these will comprise only 40% of the exam.

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Sales & Lease Contracts

Topic Summary
Through examples, students learn the formation of domestic & international sales and lease contracts, warranties and product liability.

Week 6

Topic 13:
1. The Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)
2. How Sales & Lease Contracts are formed under the UCC
3. Contracts for the International Sales of Goods

Topic 14:
1. Basic Performance Obligation
2. Specific Obligations of Sellers & Lessors
3. Specific Obligations of Buyers & Lessees

Topic 15:
1. Goal of Contract Remedies
2. Remedies available to Sellers & Lessors under the UCC
3. Remedies available to Buyers & Lessees under the UCC
4. Modifications or Limitations to Remedies otherwise

Topic 16:
1. Types of Warranties
2. Warranty Rights of Third Parties
3. Warranty Disclaimers & Waivers

• Homework
• Chapter 21—Questions & Problems (pp.560-562)
• Chapter 23—Questions & Problems (pp.606-609)
• Chapter 24—Questions & Problems (pp.628-631)
• Chapter 25—Questions & Problems (pp.652-654)

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Agency and Employment

Topic Summary
There is a simple, intuitive exposition of the agency formation duties, scope of agent's authority, employment & labor law, and employment discrimination.

Week 7

Topic 17:
1. Agency Law & Creation of the Agency Relationship
2. Agency Relationships
3. Duties of the Agent & the Principal
4. Rights & Remedies

Topic 18:
1. Authority of the Agent
2. Contractual Liability of the Principal & Agent
3. Tort Liability & Principal's Liability
4. Crime & Termination of the Agency Relationship

Topic 19:
1. Labor & Employment Law
2. Employment at Will Doctrine & Wrongful Termination
3. Employee Privacy
4. Labor Law

Topic 20:
1. Employment Discrimination

Homework
- Chapter 33— Questions & Problems (pp.879-883)
- Chapter 34— Questions & Problems (pp.904-908)
- Chapter 42— Questions & Problems (pp.1116-1118)
- Chapter 43— Questions & Problems (pp.1146-1149)

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Business Organizations

Topic Summary
There are a full treatment of the sole proprietorships & franchises, the partnerships, the limited liability companies, the corporations formation & financing.

Week 8

Topic 21:
1. Major Forms of Business Organizations
2. Specialized Forms of Business Organizations

Topic 22:
1. Nature of the Partnership
2. Formation of the Partnership
3. Interactions between Partners
4. Interactions between Partners & Third Parties

Topic 23:
1. Termination of the Partnership
2. Dissolution of the Business
3. Consequences of Dissolution
4. Winding up the Business
5. Limited Partnership
6. Limited Liability Companies

Topic 24:
1. Characteristics of Corporations & Corporate Powers
2. Classification of Corporations & Corporation Formation
3. Legal Process of Incorporation & Corporate Financing

**Homework**
- Chapter 35—Questions & Problems (pp.931-935)
- Chapter 36—Questions & Problems (pp.953-954)
- Chapter 37—Questions & Problems (pp.974-978)
- Chapter 38—Questions & Problems (pp.1001-1003)

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### Government Regulation & Law

**Topic Summary**

This covers the administrative law, the consumer law, the environmental law, the antitrust law, and the international law.

**Week 9**

**Topic 25:**
1. Administrative Law
2. Different Types of Administrative Agencies
3. How are Agencies run?
4. Limitations on Agency Powers
5. Federal & State Administrative Agencies

**Topic 26:**
1. Consumer Law

**Topic 27:**
1. Environmental Law

**Topic 28:**
1. Antitrust Law

- **Homework**
  - Chapter 44— Questions & Problems (pp.1167-1170)
  - Chapter 45— Questions & Problems (pp.1202-1205)
  - Chapter 46— Questions & Problems (pp.1234-1237)
  - Chapter 47— Questions & Problems (pp.1271-1274)

- **Review**
  - Final Exam preparation (Week 10)
  - Final Examination will consist mostly of multiple-choice questions. Other types of questions may be included, such as short essay questions, however these will comprise only 40% of the exam.

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