

SYLLABUS

CLASS: THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS, (Course BUS 250), Lincoln Campus

INSTRUCTOR: Edward “Ed” Hoffman

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TEXT: BUSINESS LAW, Ninth Edition (Prentice Hall, 2015), Henry R. Cheeseman, ISBN: 9780134004006.

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 of 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.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: Students will be expected to have mastery of the concepts covered in the course to include, but not be limited to: a basic understanding of the judicial process both in the Federal and Nebraska State Court Systems, procedural areas such as pre-trial litigation and alternative dispute resolution as well as appeals of civil decisions, an understanding of tort law to include both intentional and negligent causes of action and their interplay with business, an understanding of the basic elements of contract law to include offer, acceptance, capacity, legality, consideration, statute of frauds, third party rights, remedies, damages and formation of sales and lease contracts under the Uniform Commercial Code as well as sales and lease warranties. It is this instructors expectation that the students ability to understand basic legal principals will enhance their effectiveness in the business environment when it comes to decision making processes concerning legal related matters including but not limited to litigation and regulatory matters. As such it is hoped that these problem solving skills will enhance the students overall effectiveness in the business environment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: This class follows the Doane College Academic Honesty Policy. All materials submitted for this class are expected to be original by the student and should not have been submitted for credit to any other course. Academic integrity is expected for all interactions and requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, original work on assignments, accountability and completion of requirements, maintenance of confidentiality for individuals, and accurate citation of and references to original work. Specific information about Academic Honesty and Plagiarism may be found in the Doane Student Handbook. When applicable, assignments must be typed and

adhere to the APA 6th Edition guidelines. This includes crediting authors when paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting the work of other individuals. Resources for APA formatting are available on Blackboard. Mechanics of writing are considered in the grading of assignments. Therefore, it is expected that you will proofread all work for accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submitting assignments and projects. Depth of thought, application, and analysis demonstrated in the assignment will be considered in the grading process. All work is expected to be of highest quality. Work may be turned back to the student for review and revision.

LEARNING STRATEGIES: The classroom educational environment will include lecture, robust discussion in which the instructor intentionally pulls information from students and encourages them to apply the information gleaned from in the textbook and discussed in class to fact patterns offered by the instructor. The course will also potentially include the black and white film titled “Twelve Angry Men” which is intended to further enhance a basic understanding of the legal system.

PAPER: I will provide you the topics of the paper at the first class meeting. The paper is to be at least two pages, double spaced, one inch margins on all sides. Please include your name and the date submitted and the class name. I would like you to discuss the issue(s) that was presented to the court (e.g. the issue(s) the court was asked to make a decision on), discuss the courts analysis of that issue commenting on what prior cases they felt were important and why and discuss the rules of law from those cases and end with the Court’s conclusion and ruling. Finally, I would like to hear your thoughts on the case and what your opinion is on the court’s decision. Please feel free to utilize on-line sources, citing where appropriate. Your paper is due on the date noted on the assignment and reading schedule below but you can certainly turn it in prior to that date.

GRADING: Your grade will be based on attendance and participation in class activities, as well as satisfactory completion of exams. Active class participation is vital to the overall learning process **and** your successful completion of the course. Extra credit will be given to students that bring in articles, which discuss timely legal issues.

While attendance only carries a 20% weight for the final grade, it is important that students remember the following applies with regard to the effect of attendance on your ultimate class grade:

ATTENDANCE:

Perfect Attendance:	A
One Excused Absence**:	A
Two Excused Absences:	B
Three Absences:	C
Four Absences:	D
Five or more Absences:	F

*** Students may have one excused absence without it affecting the attendance grade if the student emails in the absence prior to class time.*

Classes will be held on the following dates for the term:

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
October 19	Chapters 1, 2, 3 (Legal Overview) Chapter 4 (Constitutional Law)
October 26	Chapters 5, 6, 7 (Torts)
November 2	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 (Contracts); (Exam Ch. 1-7)
November 9	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16 (Contracts)
November 16	Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21 (Sales/Lease Contracts) (Case brief paper due)
November 23	Finish Chapters 18-21; (Exam Ch. 9-16)
November 30	Chapters 22, 23, 24, 25 (Negotiable Instruments)
December 7	(Final Exam)

Each of the three exams will be comprised of a mix of True/False, Multiple Choice, and Short Answer Essay. You will be responsible for anything assigned for class reading **and** class discussions. All exams will be open book and open notes at the instructor's discretion. Each student may choose to do an optional project, which can be used to raise an exam grade by up to a full letter grade. Said optional project will be due no later than **December 7, 2016**. Potential project topics will be discussed with students and **all** project topics must be approved by the Instructor prior to the student beginning work.