

BUS 647-01: LEGAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

COURSE SYLLABUS FALL 2008

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND DESCRIPTION

To gain an understanding of the legal and regulatory concepts and the impact of such laws and regulations on the conduct of business and the legal and regulatory environment in which businesses operate. This course will examine the legal responsibilities of business owners, directors, officers and employees as well as the legal responsibilities of businesses as separate legal entities. In addition, the course will focus on business transactions and will address issues faced by businesses when engaging in transactions from routine ordinary matters to complex mergers and other securities issues.

INSTRUCTOR

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CLASS CREDITS

Students enrolled in BADM 246 shall receive four (4) academic credits upon the successful completion of this course. Students enrolled in BADM 647 shall receive three (3) academic credits upon the successful completion of this course.

CLASS MEETING INFORMATION

Thursdays: 4:45 PM – 7:15 PM
Buckman Hall 108

OFFICE HOURS

I will be available in the building each Monday at 5:30 PM and after the end of class to discuss any questions or provide any assistance you may need. I can be available on campus at other times which are convenient to you. If needed, I

can also be available on campus at scheduled times prior to each exam for any questions or assistance.

I am available in my office most weekdays between 8 AM and 6 PM. Please feel free to contact me at my office during these hours or at home during other times. If I am not available when you try to reach me, I will be glad to return your call or set a time for us to meet. You may also leave a message on my office voicemail or send me an e-mail. While I generally check my Rhodes campus e-mail on a daily basis, I maintain much more frequent access to my office e-mail. If there are any questions or issues of which all students need to be notified, I will e-mail everyone.

COURSE MATERIALS

Business Law Today: The Essentials, 8th Edition; Thomson West; Roger LeRoy Miller & Gaylord A. Jentz (2008).

Text website – www.thomsonedu.com/westbuslaw/blt

Black's Law Dictionary (available in library)

Newspapers and periodicals such as *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *Business Week*, *Fortune* and *Portfolio*.

Supplemental readings and cases distributed throughout the term.

GRADING

Case and Research Assignments; Class Participation	15%
Position Paper	20%
Case Presentations	15%
Exam # 1	25%
Exam # 2 / Final Exam	25%

CASE AND RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

I will assign various case and research assignments during the semester. These assignments will require you to think critically about some of the issues we have discussed in class. These assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the class session at which the cases are to be discussed. If a student e-mails the assignments to me, the assignments must be e-mailed to my Rhodes e-mail account and received by me prior to the beginning of the class at which the assignment is due. I will confirm the receipt of the assignments with a return e-mail to you.

POSITION PAPER

Each student will write a Position Paper, five (5) to seven (7) pages in length, which examines a business law issue in detail. The paper should go beyond the class discussion and be written as a research paper to inform a company's management of a certain issue and develop strategies as recommendations directed at management. The topic of each paper must be approved in advance by the instructor. Additional details regarding the position paper assignment will be distributed later in the semester. The Position Paper will be due on or before November 20, 2008.

CASE PRESENTATIONS

Each student will present two (2) ten (10) to fifteen (15) minute presentations during the course of the semester. These presentations will be done in groups to be determined during the semester. Each of these presentations will involve a case as assigned by the instructor. In addition to making an oral presentation of the case, the students will submit a copy of the written presentation along with any supplemental materials, i.e., slides, handouts, etc. Further details regarding the case presentations will be distributed and discussed in class early in the semester in order to provide students with adequate time for preparation.

EXAMS

The exams will cover the material assigned and discussed in class. The exams will include questions in true/false, matching, multiple-choice, short answer, case analysis and discussion format. Prior to each exam, we will discuss the format and the information that each exam will cover.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is very important to gaining an understanding of the material. More than one unexcused absence will negatively affect a student's grade.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

There will be a reading assignment from the textbook and other sources for each class. Please make sure that you have read the entire assignment and are prepared for each class. The class will discuss many concepts in depth but we will cover only the highlights of other concepts so that you will be familiar with the terms if the issue arises in the future. We will also discuss current legal events and situations. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and

to bring current event legal topics to class for discussion. I intend to emphasize issues which will be relevant to your accounting practice and to the CPA exam.

In order to facilitate a positive environment for class discussion, each student should turn off or silence his or her cell phone, Blackberry, iPhone or other similar device prior to the beginning of class.

Syllabus Addendum for Cross-Listed Undergraduate and Graduate Courses

At Rhodes, cross-listed courses are those which count as both undergraduate and graduate courses. Separate course numbers are assigned to the undergraduate and graduate components of the course. Graduate students enrolled in these courses should be aware of the following provisions:

- Each student is responsible for assuring that he or she is enrolled in the appropriate course level. Graduate students who enroll under the undergraduate course number will not receive graduate credit. The registrar will not retroactively change the number.
- Graduate students may not take a cross-listed course for graduate credit if he or she has already received undergraduate credit for a course that covered essentially the same material.
- In all cross-listed courses, graduate students must complete work that is substantially more advanced than the work expected of undergraduate students. Even when a common syllabus forms the basis of the graduate and undergraduate components, the graduate students must demonstrate higher levels of knowledge and intellectual inquiry. Therefore, the professor will require graduate students to complete a significant number of assignments that are substantially more advanced in quantity, complexity, and/or analysis. These extra requirements may take many forms, such as additional or different research, readings, presentations, or quantitative analyses.
- Graduate students should schedule an appointment with the professor to determine the additional graduate expectations of a cross-listed course.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
AUGUST 28	LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS; SOURCES OF LAW; COURTS AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (CHAPTERS 1 & 3)
SEPTEMBER 4	BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (CHAPTERS 19 & 20)
SEPTEMBER 11	SECURITIES REGULATION; CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (CHAPTERS 21 & 25)
SEPTEMBER 18	CONTRACTS (CHAPTERS 7, 8 & 9)
SEPTEMBER 25	CONTRACTS (CHAPTERS 9 & 10) ; SALES AND LEASES OF GOODS (CHAPTER 11)
OCTOBER 2	SALES AND LEASES OF GOODS; WARRANTIES (CHAPTERS 12 & 13)
OCTOBER 9	EXAM #1
OCTOBER 16	NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS AND BANKING (CHAPTERS 14 & 15)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
OCTOBER 23	CHECKS AND BANKING (CHAPTER 15); DEBTOR – CREDITOR RELATIONSHIPS (CHAPTER 16)
OCTOBER 30	PERSONAL PROPERTY (CHAPTER 23)
NOVEMBER 6	REAL PROPERTY (CHAPTER 24)
NOVEMBER 13	TORTS & CRIMINAL LAW (CHAPTERS 4 & 6)
NOVEMBER 20	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & ANTITRUST ISSUES (CHAPTERS 5 & 22)
NOVEMBER 27	THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 4	EMPLOYMENT LAW AND AGENCY (CHAPTERS 17 & 18)
DECEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 17	EXAM #2 / FINAL EXAM TBD

THE ABOVE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.