University of Missouri -- Kansas City
Bloch School of Management
Syllabus
MA 306--Legal, Ethical & Regulatory Environment of Business
Fall, 2011

Rita Cain, J.D.
Professor of Business Law
323 Bloch
235-2326
e-mail: cainr@umkc.edu
Office Hours: MW 3-3:30, 4:50-5:20, or by appointment

Welcome to BMA306.

As instructor, I accept the following responsibilities to help you succeed in the course:

1. Come prepared to every class.
2. Plan the class so you can accomplish the course and topic objectives.
3. Treat you as responsible adults.
4. Consider that it is not always your fault if you don't understand the material.
5. Create a mutually respectful classroom environment.
6. Encourage you to ask and answer questions.
7. Check my UMKC email and the Blackboard discussion page daily except on weekends.

As students you need to accept the following responsibilities to succeed in the course:

1. Come prepared to every class and group meeting.
2. Complete all work on time with proper thought.
3. Behave as responsible adults.
4. Consider that it is not always my fault if you don't understand the material.
5. Treat others with respect.
6. Ask and answer questions and participate in class with a spirit of cooperation and learning.
7. Learn from your teammates.
8. Check your UMKC email, Blackboard announcements, discussion page and group pages before each class and at least once between Wednesday and Monday.

Course Objectives. Several course objectives follow that will be used for purposes of the course evaluations you will complete on the last night we meet. Additional topic objectives are found with each group of slides.

1. Students will be able to recognize the political, social, ethical, and global context underlying the rules of agency law, contract law and other business laws.

2. Students will be able to apply the rules of agency and contract law and other business laws to real world conflicts and management challenges.

3. Students will be able to identify distinctions between the International and American legal systems and contract laws.

4. Students will be able to demonstrate good business writing skills through collaborative and individual writing assignments.

5. Students will cooperate with a team to eliminate misconceptions and enhance understanding of course material.

6. Students will demonstrate the ability to use online tools to enhance understanding of course materials and facilitate teamwork.

Book:
Beatty and Samuelson, *Essentials of Business Law*, ISBN: 0-324-53712-3.

Additional course materials will be found on Blackboard.

You are responsible for everything on the website, including postings done by all the teams and by the instructor. Occasionally a student will not be able to open &/or download some Word, PowerPoint or other file from the website at their home or office computer. Usually this is the result of security settings, especially at your workplace. All content should be accessible from an on-campus computer.

Assignments:

- No ***individual*** written answers to chapter problems need to be done. These and other problems are for your groups to answer for weekly posting points (see below).
- End-of-chapter and other problems will be assigned to the student teams throughout the semester. Teams should prepare an agreed-upon answer and post the answer on the class web discussion page **BY NOON THURSDAY** the week your problem is assigned. Grading for the team postings is discussed below.
- Exams may cover all readings, problems, Blackboard content and postings.
- Page numbers below refer to *Essentials of Business Law*.

August 22	Course Introduction. Law and Social Values. See Blackboard Assignments tab for opening week requirements.
August 24	Sources of Law , pp. 2-13, 16-20. Ch. 1 Problems 3, 4, 7. On problem 7 also answer "What difference does it make if the appeal is successful?"

Read on your own Ch. 4, pp. 75-94 (up to Limits on Agency Power). Be sure to raise any questions on this material with the instructor since it will not be discussed in class. Nevertheless, it is important background information for everyone to understand. Problems from this chapter will be assigned with

	subsequent course topics.
August 29	Agency Formation and Termination. Pp. 622-638.
August 31	Agency 3d party rights. Read *Minnesota Liquid Fertilizer* case found in Blackboard Course Materials. Pp. 638-646. Ch. 27, problems 9, 11.
Sept. 5	LABOR DAY. NO CLASS
Sept. 7	Agency duties. Read *Henderson v. Hassur* found in Blackboard Course Materials. Read Walmart document in Blackboard. Ch. 27, problem 2.
Sept. 12	Business Forms. Pp. 681-703. Nolo podcast. Ch. 29 problems 3, 7, 10, 11.
Read on your own:	**Ch. 2, Business Ethics and Social Responsibility. This chapter raises issues about the values that society encourages of its members. "Ethics" reflects that which we might expect of each other and of organizations beyond what the law expressly requires.**
Sept. 14	Conclude Business Forms.
Sept. 19	Intentional torts. Protecting competing individual rights and interests. Pp. 127-139. Ch. 6 problem 1, 14.
Sept. 21	Negligence, Society's demand for reasonableness. Pp. 139-149. Ch. 6, problem 9, 10.
Sept. 26	**EXAM 1. Individual = 45 Minutes, followed by Group exam for 30 minutes**.
Sept. 28	Government Regulation of Business. Federal and state power to regulate business. Pp. 101-110. Ch. 5 problems 1, 3, 12
Oct. 3	Conclude Government Regulation of Business. Individual rights from government intrusion. Pp. 111-123. Ch. 5 problems 2, 8, 9, 10
Oct. 5	Government Regulations Illustrated: Brief Primer on Employment Law. Pp. 650-662. Ch. 28 problems 1, 7, 10.
Oct. 10	Conclude Employment Law. Pp. 662-677. Ch. 28 problems 2, 5, 11, 12.
Oct. 12	Introduction to contracting. Public enforcement of private agreements. Ch. 9, pp. 210-226.

Oct. 17	Begin Offer and acceptance. Ch. 10 Pp. 229-239.
Oct. 19	Conclude Offer and acceptance. Pp. 239-249. Ch. 10 problems 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9.
Oct. 24	Consideration. When is a promise legally binding? pp. 246 -56, (up to "Exceptions to the Consideration Requirement"). Problems 6 & 8, p. 260-61.
Oct. 26	Fraud, duress, undue influence and mistake. Contracting forces that society rejects. Pp. 262-272. Problems 2, 5, 10, pp. 275-76.
Oct. 31	Conclude Contracting Forces that Society Rejects.
Nov. 2	**Exam 2. Individual = 45 Minutes, followed by Group exam for 30 minutes**.
Nov. 7	Dispute Resolution Processes. Pp. 44-54. Ch. 3, Problem 3. **Cover on your own the material in the Arbitration folder in Blackboard.**
Nov. 9	Conclude Dispute Resolution Processes.
Nov. 14	Statute of Frauds and Parol Evidence Rule. Protection for or against the unscrupulous? Pp. 309-323, Ch. 14 Problems 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11.
Nov. 16	Conclude Parole Evidence Rule. Pp. 323-326. Ch. 14 problems 2 & 6. Third-party contracts. Additional interests society protects. Pp. 329-345. Ch. 15 problems 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11.
WEEK OF NOV. 21	**No Class. Happy Thanksiving!**
Nov. 28 & 30	Nonperformance and remedies. Pp. 369-376, 381-88. Pp. 474-484. Ch. 21 problems 3, 5, 7. Nov. 30 : **FINAL INDIVIDUAL ESSAY EXAM QUESTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE.**
Dec. 5	No class-wide activity. Time for writing individual essay exam.
Dec. 7	No class-wide activity. **FINAL INDIVIDUAL ESSAY ANSWERS DUE no later than 4:45PM. Submit using the Blackboard Assignments function.**
Thursday Dec. 15	**1:00-3:00 PM AM Course Evaluations. Exam 3, Individual = 45 Minutes, followed by Group exam for 30 minutes**.

Grading:

The final course grade will be based on the student's total points accumulated on the following activities:

Individual Unit Tests 1, 2 and 3 @100 each	=	300
Group Unit Tests 1, 2 and 3 @ 50 each	=	150
Group Posting Assignments	=	100
Final Individual Essay Exam	=	100
Attendance & Participation	=	50 (2 points per class starting Week 2).
Total	**=**	**700 points**

Final Letter grades will be based on the following percentages of the total 500 points:
A = 90-100%, B+ = 87 - 89.99%, B = 83 - 86.99%, B- = 80 – 82.99%, C+ = 77-79.99%, C = 73 - 76.99%, C- = 70 – 72.99%, D+ = 67 – 69.99%, D = 63 - 66.99%, D- = 60 – 62.99%, F = 59.99% and below.

Exams. Three unit exams will be given on the dates shown above. These exams, including #3 which is given during the scheduled final exam period, cover the content in that unit (although some material in each unit carries over into the others). These exams are all objective questions.

Immediately after completing the individual tests, groups will take the same test and turn in a set of group answers for additional points.

Because the group test is a learning experience based on participating and interacting within the group, any student who must be absent on the day of a group test, *may not make up that activity or those points.* The student's exam score will be based entirely on the individual score.

If a student must be absent on a scheduled testing day, the student may *make arrangements with the instructor to take the individual exam prior to the designated time.* No makeup exams will be given after the class takes the test because it is impossible to make an equivalent exam without placing the student at either an advantage or disadvantage.

If a student must miss one of the scheduled tests because of a **verifiable personal emergency**, that student's grade will be based on the average of the other 2 **individual** unit tests. Notify the instructor ***immediately*** in case of such emergencies or else the exam grade will be zero.

The final essay test is cumulative. Instructions for completing it will be given as the end of the semester nears. There are no excuses for not completing the final essay test. Any student who does not turn it in will receive a zero for that exam.

Group Posting Assignments

- 10 points are available for each team posting of problems assigned on the Discussion Board.
- All teams will be assigned posting problems totaling at least 100 possible points.
- Points for weekly problems will be awarded based on the accuracy and thoroughness of answers, writing clarity and punctuality.

Attendance & Participation: Beginning with Week 2 of the semester, individuals will receive 2 points for class attendance and participation at regularly scheduled class meetings (not for exam days), for a total of 50 possible points. Students will sign a spreadsheet at the beginning of class to indicate their attendance. Anyone who signs in can be called on and expected to participate. In other words, if you are not prepared to participate on assigned material, you can opt not to sign in and forgo the points for that day. You must be present when the sheet is circulated at the beginning of class to sign in and get the points for that day. **Signing for another student will be considered academic dishonesty.**

Group study of the materials is encouraged, will improve the group posting scores, and hopefully, will help individuals learn the course content better. Points for class attendance are intended to facilitate group work by encouraging everyone to be present.

Every team member is expected to participate on the group posting assignments. "Free riders" on a team will not be condoned. Every group member is expected to participate equally over the course of the semester (although not necessarily on each posting).

If Team Problems Occur:

a. If the team thinks that one (or more) member is "free-riding", the rest of the group should talk to the team member of concern. **Do this at the first sign of trouble.** Notify me by e-mail that the team is dealing with a free-rider, but do not tell me which team member at this point.
b. If talking to the individual(s) doesn't work, I will meet with the **entire group** to discuss the problems. My discussion will have no effect on anyone's grade. I will not place blame or take sides, but simply help the team address the problem.
c. If all team members continue to object to the free-riding member's lack of participation, I will permit the team to "fire" the problem member.
d. Any team member dismissed from his/her team will have no further opportunities for group posting points and will receive a zero for the peer participation score.

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. *When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult the course instructor*.

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or the course instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.