University of Missouri -- Kansas City Bloch School of Business and Public Administration

Syllabus MA 306--Legal, Ethical & Regulatory Environment of Business Winter, 2009

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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.

<u>Course Objectives.</u> 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 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 legal rules.
- 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, web content and postings.
- Page numbers below refer to Essentials of Business Law.

January 12 Course Introduction. Team pairings. Law and Social Values. See

Blackboard Assignments tab for opening week requirements.

January 14 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.
January 19	Martin Luther King Day Holiday. NO CLASS.
January 21	Agency Formation and Termination. Pp. 622-638.
January 26	Agency 3d party rights. Read <i>Minnesota Liquid Fertilizer</i> case found in Blackboard Course Materials. Pp. 638-646. Ch. 27, problems 9, 11.
January 28	Agency duties. Read <i>Henderson v. Hassur</i> found in Blackboard Course Materials. Read Walmart document in Blackboard. Ch. 27, problem 2.
February 2	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.
February 4	Intentional torts. Protecting competing individual rights and interests. Pp. 127-139. Ch. 6 problem 1, 14.
February 9	Negligence, Society's demand for reasonableness. Pp. 139-149. Ch. 6, problem 9, 10
February 11	Open day for individual and group exam study time.
February 16	EXAM 1. 45 Minutes. Exam 1 Follow up.
February 18	Government Regulation of Business. Federal and state power to regulate business. Pp. 101-110. Ch. 5 problems 1, 3, 12
February 23	Conclude Government Regulation of Business. Individual rights from government intrusion. Pp. 111-123. Ch. 5 problems 2, 8, 9, 10
February 25	Government Regulations Illustrated: Brief Primer on Employment Law. Pp. 650-662. Ch. 28 problems 1, 7, 10.
March 2	Conclude Employment Law. Pp. 662-677. Ch. 28 problems 2, 5, 11, 12.
March 4	Introduction to contracting. Public enforcement of private agreements. Ch. 9, pp. 210-226.

March 9	Begin Offer and acceptance. Ch. 10 Pp. 229-239.	
March 11	Conclude Offer and acceptance. Pp. 239-249. Ch. 10 problems 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9.	
March 16	Consideration. When is a promise legally binding? pp. 246 -56, (up to "Exceptions to the Consideration Requirement"). Problems 6 & 8, p. 260-61.	
March 18	Fraud, duress, undue influence and mistake. Contracting forces that society rejects. Pp. 262-272. Problems 2, 5, 10, pp. 275-76.	
March 23 & 25	Spring Break. No classes.	
March 30	Conclude Contracting Forces that Society Rejects.	
April 1	Exam 2. 45 Minutes. Exam 2 Followup.	
April 6	Dispute Resolution Processes.	
April 8	Statute of Frauds and Parol Evidence Rule. Protection for or against the unscrupulous?	
April 13	Conclude Parole Evidence Rule. Third-party contracts. Additional interests society protects.	
April 15	Performance and excuses for non-performance. Risk of Loss.	
April 20 & 22	Nonperformance and remedies.	
	April 22: PEER EVALUATIONS DUE. FINAL INDIVIDUAL ESSAY EXAM QUESTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE.	
April 27	No class-wide activity. Time for writing individual essay exam.	
April 29	FINAL INDIVIDUAL ESSAY ANSWERS DUE BY EMAIL no later than 4:45PM.	
???Thursday May 7 1:00-3:00 PM AM Course Evaluations. Exam 3, 45 Minutes, then		

Grading:

followup.

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

on the following activities:

Unit Tests 1, 2 and 3 @ 100 each = 300

Posting Assignments = 100 (One individual, nine group)

Final Individual Essay Exam = 150 Peer Participation Evaluation = 50

Total = 600 points

Final Letter grades will be based on the following percentages of the total 600 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 (multiple choice and true/false) and will be taken from the sample tests found in Blackboard for each unit, AND some new questions not found in the sample tests.

If a student must be absent on a scheduled testing day, the student may make arrangements with the instructor *in advance* 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 unit tests because of a **verifiable personal emergency**, that student's grade will be based on the average of the other 2 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 team postings of weekly problems.
- All teams will be assigned posting problems totaling at least 90 possible points.
- 10 more points are available for posting your individual page as explained in the Assignments tab for Week One.
- Points for weekly problems will be awarded based on the accuracy and thoroughness of answers, writing style and punctuality.

<u>Peer Participation Evaluation.</u> Peer Evaluation is intended to measure each team member's contribution towards the group's success. The evaluation process will require all group members to judge the other team members' contributions, as well as their own contributions. The exact

form of the peer evaluation will be explained toward the end of the semester, but will include objective scoring and open-ended comments about the members of the team.

The instructor will assign the final peer score based on this team input as well as what the instructor observes of students' participation in the teams' weekly posting assignments, group meetings and group page activity. Individuals cannot leave all the weekly teamwork to other group members without seeing the impact in their peer evaluation scores. The final peer evaluation score will also be based on each student's meaningful evaluation of other team members. In other words, evaluation of team efforts is an important management skill so you are expected to treat this evaluation of your class team as a meaningful educational exercise.

Extra Credit Points. Extra credit points are available for valuable input that individuals provide to the class-wide online dialogue page throughout the semester. These postings could include questions or comments about other teams' postings, or about the readings, class discussions or other content. Extra credit does not apply to communications among group members on their group pages. Features in the book, like "You Be the Judge" or chapter problems that are not assigned to groups would be excellent vehicles for students to earn extra credit on the discussion board.

<u>Group study</u> of the materials is encouraged, will improve the group posting scores, peer participation evaluations, and hopefully, will help individuals learn the course content better.

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 <u>Special needs</u> 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.