

**University of Missouri-Kansas City
Syllabus—MGT 320
Spring 2010**

Instructor information:

Shane C. Mecham, Esq.	E-mail address: mechams@umkc.edu
Office Hours: I'll try to be available before and after class. If you need something more, e-mail me and we'll set something up.	

Course specifics:

MGT 320 Law of Commercial Transactions	Learning objectives: provide the basic legal knowledge you need to work in the business world; give you the understanding necessary to identify legal issues that might need a lawyer's attention; and help prepare you for the CPA exam.
Meeting location, days, time: Wednesdays 7:00PM-9:40PM Bloch Room 00003	Text: JEFFREY F. BEATTY AND SUSAN S. SAMUELSON, <i>Essentials of Business Law</i> , Thomson West (2008 3d ed.)
Prerequisites: MGT 306 or BMA 306	http://blackboard.umkc.edu
Course description: Study of major areas of law included in the Uniform Commercial Code. Topics may include sales, commercial paper, bank deposits and collections, aspects of property law, documents of title, investment securities, and secured transactions.	

Course outline/schedule:

Date	Reading Assignment	Notes
1/13/10		Introduction to Law
1/20/10	Chapters 10-11, 16	Contracts—formation and performance
1/27/10	Chapters 15, 17	Contracts—third-party assignments, discharge, breach, and remedies
2/3/10	Chapter 31	Real Property
2/10/10		Real Property
2/17/10	Chapter 26	Bankruptcy
2/24/10		Bankruptcy
3/3/10	Chapter 27	Agency
3/10/10		Agency
3/17/10	None	Mid-Term Exam
3/24/10	Chapters 18, 21-24	UCC—negotiable instruments and letters of credit and sales

3/31/10	No Class	No Class
4/7/10	Chapters 19, 25	UCC—secured transactions and documents of title and title transfer
4/14/10	TBA	Government Regulation
4/21/10	Pgs. 683-692	Partnerships
4/28/10	AICPA Code of Professional Conduct (available at http://www.aicpa.org/about/code/index.html)	Ethics
5/5/10	None	Final Exam 8-10PM

This schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

Grading policy:

Your grade will be based 50% on your mid-term and 50% on your final exam. The final exam is not cumulative.

This course uses the +/- grading system. Grade ranges are:

- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- Below 60% F

General operating policies:

Attend at your own risk. I will not take attendance, and attendance is not required. You are an adult who has paid for this class. If you feel that your time and money is better spent playing World of Warcraft, that's your decision. At the same time, however, I believe that virtually perfect attendance throughout the semester is crucial to your success in this course.

The Harm Principle. When you do attend class, I expect you to come prepared, e.g. complete the assigned reading. We may utilize the Socratic Method in class, which means you will be called on to give intelligent answers to insightful questions. You may also be asked to take part in simulations and demonstrations during class. At the very minimum, whatever you do, DO NOT DISTURB OTHERS WHO ARE TRYING TO LEARN. If you come to class late, do so discretely. Turn off your cell phones. Don't distract those around you with music, the tickety-tacking of texting, etc.

As for missed exams, the only exams you could miss are the mid-term and final. First, don't miss the exams. Second, don't miss the exams! Third, if you have to miss an exam, make arrangements with me and the University in advance. If you have a real, sudden, and dire emergency on the day of an exam contact me as soon as humanly possible. I will evaluate those situations on a case-by-case basis. Note that the kind of emergency that I have in mind is on the level of, "my legs were caught in a combine this morning."

Cancellation of classes because of inclement weather is determined by UMKC central administration. Consult the UMKC website if and when threatening weather conditions exist.

Blackboard may be utilized as a method of communication in this course.

Academic honesty:

A student enrolling in any UMKC course is expected to exhibit high standards of academic honesty. In the case of academic misconduct, I will assess the affected work and report the incident to Bloch School administration according to the guidelines printed in the University catalog. See student conduct policies at:

<http://www.umkc.edu/umkc/catalog/html/append/policy/0020.html>

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All exams are closed book, closed notes, and are to be taken without help or assistance. Persons observed cheating on tests will receive a grade of zero for the exam. Similarly, plagiarism of assignments, projects, and papers is unacceptable, and a grade of zero will be assigned on any such item where plagiarism has been detected.

Disclaimer statement:

Time and schedule considerations may prompt modifications of this syllabus (deletion of assignments/topics, modification of examination dates, etc.). The instructor will explain any changes; however, it is the student's responsibility to keep up with any modifications that are made throughout the semester.

Course withdrawal:

All course withdrawals must be initiated in the Bloch School Student Services Office, room 115, and completed through the Registration Center in the UMKC Administrative Center. Students intending to withdraw from the course after the eighth week of class (fourth week in the summer session) are required to obtain a signature of both the instructor and an academic advisor before the course withdrawal is official. *Telling the instructor that you intend to withdraw from the course or ceasing to attend class does not constitute an official withdrawal.* The academic calendar in the class schedule/registration guide lists the official withdrawal dates.

Available support services:

The University and the Bloch School offer several support services. These include the Bloch School Computer Lab, the UMKC Writing Lab, and the Office of Disabled Student Services.

- Bloch School Computer Lab: The Bloch School Computer Lab is available for your use. It is located in Bloch 110; the lab's website is: <http://www.umkc.edu/is/oa/IS-Lab-Brochure.pdf>
- UMKC Writing Lab: Students who desire assistance in written assignments may contact the UMKC Writing Lab at 816-235-1146. The Lab is located at 5201 Rockhill Road.
- Office of Disabled Student Services: If you have any questions about a disability or desire accommodation under the Americans with Disability Act, please contact the Office of Disabled Student Services at 816-235-5696. The Office's website can be accessed at: <http://www.umkc.edu/disability/>