

**SYLLABUS FOR
THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS**

Professor: Mark A. Davis, Esq.
Website: WWW.ATTACKATTORNEY.COM
Contact Info: email: attorney@bex.net cell phone: 419-297-5088
Venue: Palmer Hall, MW 5:45 to 7:00
Textbooks: The Anatomy of a Lawsuit by Peter Simon
The Legal & Ethical Environment of Business, 2nd Edition, 2006

**YOU MUST HAVE 60 CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED TO BE ELGIBLE FOR
THIS COURSE OR YOU WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY DROPPED.**

Course Description:

The course will consist of three segments. The first segment is groundwork. You will learn about the nature of law and its sources, with additional study in administrative law; how it functions and its effects on the regulatory environment of business. Next, this segment will cover the judicial system and legal procedure; it will cover the two court systems and their various levels and functions. Legal procedure is covered from alternate dispute resolutions thru the various stages of a law suit and the effect each stage has on business. Finally, the three basic torts and specific business torts will be covered.

The second segment will begin with business ethics and social responsibility. This segment will also cover the various types of contracts as well as how they are constructed to become a legally binding business agreement. This segment will conclude with the study of sales/advertising, the uniform commercial code and product liability..

The third segment will cover international law with additional study in anti-trust law as it relates to business in the United States and its enforcement globally. Next, we will review the basics of property law as it relates to business. The segment will conclude with the study of employment law, wrongful discharge and employment discrimination.

Some topics will require more time, others less. Any one of these topics would comprise an entire semester or more of study in law school. Obviously I will not expect you to become experts in the law. Rather, you will acquire sufficient knowledge to deal with lawyers in business, and to understand how the law affects business decisions. You will be expected to be prepared for each class, and to take an ACTIVE role. This means you can expect to be called upon to analyze cases, voice opinions, and argue points of law. Anything in the assigned readings is fair game. Nothing said in class should be relied upon as legal advice. If you think you need a lawyer, hire one.

On exams, you will not be asked simply to recite law or use legal terms in sentences. You must think. You will be asked to reason to logical conclusions based upon your understanding of the law. If you forget the law, you can look it up. That's what lawyers do. But if you learn how to reason, you will always know how to apply that knowledge to understand the legal implications of your actions. That's what you should learn from this class.

Course Objectives:

1. Familiarity with legal language & concepts as they relate to business
2. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical behavior and social responsibility in the global environment in which business operates*
3. General understanding of the legal system in the United States as it relates to business
4. Understanding of the basic law of contracts, torts and property as it relates to business
5. Understanding of the regulatory environment in which businesses operate
6. Ability to apply regulatory provisions to business situations
7. Ability to comprehend basic legal reasoning
8. Awareness of basic strategies for avoiding & addressing legal problems in business
9. Apply critical thinking to the legal implications present in business activities

* Note: This course contains one full chapter on ethics. However, ethics will be discussed throughout the course thus giving the student 15-20% total course content on ethics.

Course Standards:

- Attendance is required at all classes
- Active participation is expected to gain maximum benefit
- Plagiarism and cheating on tests etc. will be grounds for failing this course. University policy concerning academic integrity will be applied.

Your grade will be determined as follows: 10% for Quizzes; 30 % for Exam 1, 30% for Exam 2 and 30% for Exam 3 and applying the attached scale. Possible points for class participation or a paper will be explained in class. Exams are not comprehensive. Exams are closed book and OPEN notes. Open notes are permitted so long as they are in your own handwriting only (no text or computer notes). Open notes are to be treated as a learning tool (the greatest method of memory retention is through writing). Do not believe that your notes will ensure that you get a good grade on the tests. The trick to succeeding on a law test is applying your knowledge, not regurgitating it.

Determination of Final Grades
Under 12 – Point Grading System

<u>LETTER GRADE</u>	<u>STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE</u>	<u>QUALITY POINTS</u>
A	94 – 100 OUTSTANDING	4.0
A-	89 – 93 EXCELLENT	3.67
B+	85 – 88 VERY HIGH QUALITY	3.33
B	81 – 84 HIGH QUALITY	3.0
B-	78 – 80 ABOVE AVERAGE	2.67
C+	75 – 77 SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE	2.33
C	71 - 74 AVERAGE	2.0
C-	68 – 70 SLIGHTLY BELOW AVERAGE	1.67
D+	65 – 67 SLIGHTLY ABOVE MIN.	1.33
D	61 – 64 MINIMAL	1.0
D-	58 – 60 BARELY ABOVE FAILURE	0.67

These numbers are firm. Since the grade ranges are very narrow, I am not inclined to “round off,” either up or down, that is the function of this system.

MONTH	DAY	CHAPTER
August	25	Introduction
	28	Pgs 1-51 Anatomy of Lawsuit
September	3	Pgs 52-118, Anatomy of Lawsuit
	8, 10	Chapter 1
	15, 17	Chapter 2
	22,24,29	Chapter 3
	29	Wrap up and review
October	1	Test #1
	6	Independent Web Study
	8	Chapter 4
	13 & 15	Chapter 5
	20, 22	FALL BREAK
	27, 29	Chapter 6
November	3	Chapter 7
	5	Wrap up and Review
	10	Test # 2*
	12	Chapter 8
	17, 19	Chapter 9
	24	Chapter 10
December	1	Wrap up and Review
	3	Test # 3*

THE NIGHT BEFORE EACH CLASS, CHECK THE WEBSITE, WWW.ATTACKATTORNEY.COM (LINK AT BOTTOM OF SITE PAGE) FOR ADDITIONAL READING ASSIGNMENTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS. QUIZZES ON WEB READING MAY BE GIVEN AT ANY TIME AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND, ADJUST, OR DEVIATE, FROM ANY PART OF THE ABOVE SYLLABUS.

STUDENTS MUST GET THEIR FINAL GRADES FROM THE UNIVERSITY. DO NOT CALL/E-MAIL MY OFFICE FOR GRADES. COME TO MY OFFICE OR CALL/E-MAIL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS FINAL GRADES.

* IF YOU ARE PROVIDING AN EXCUSE FOR A MISSED TEST BE SURE IT EXCUSES YOU FROM TAKING THE TEST AND ALL DAYS UNTIL YOU TAKE THE TEST.

I DO NOT GIVE GRADES, I JUST RECORD THEM.

Chapter Contents

The Legal & Ethical Environment of Business

Chapter	Title	Page
1	Introduction to Law	1
	Nature of Law, Sources and Administrative Law - Handout*	
2	Dispute Resolution	25
	Legal Procedure: Alternate Dispute Resolution Thru Appeal	
3	Torts	56
4	Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	85
5	Introduction to Contracts	105
6	Conclusion to Contracts	138
7	Sales/Advertising-Warranties &Product Liability	169
8	International Law	201
	Ethical and Anti-trust implications – Handout*	
9	Property	229
10	Employment Law	260
	Title VII	

*The Instructor will supplement the text with additional articles and cases.