**COURSE OUTLINE**

## Legal Environment of Business

**LAW 2023 – Summer 2013**

Instruction by: Jeffrey Pittman, Professor of Business Law

Juris Doctor & MBA -- University of Iowa

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***Course Materials***

Lau, Terence and Lisa Johnson, **The Legal Environment of Business,** Flat World Knowledge, 2011. See my website (above address) for textbook information.

***Course Objectives***

The *overall* course objective is to learn. Learning fosters self-discipline, alters attitudes and values, and makes future learning easier. Further, a learned individual will be equipped better to relearn forgotten material than an individual ignorant of the nature or existence of that material.

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Our *general* course objectives are:

1. To gain an understanding of **legal and regulatory constraints** on business decision-making, allowing managers to maximize profits within these constraints.

2. To expose future business managers and other professionals to sufficient **law and ethics** so they can recognize and avoid potential problems, seeking competent advice when necessary.

3. To practice **critical analysis, writing, and oral communication skills**.

4. To understand the laws on **demographic diversity** in employment.

Beyond my course objectives, you should identify your personal goals. What is your course grade objective? What learning goals for the course would you add? I urge you to push yourself, setting challenging goals. You can perform your objectives and my objectives only if you are willing to invest the time necessary to succeed. The general rule used in colleges and universities in America is that you need two to three hours of study for each hour of class time. I know each of you can succeed and I am eager to help.

***Teaching Philosophy***

I consider it a privilege to be a teacher and serving as your adviser in this course. I owe each of you a professional duty, including thorough class preparation, personal courtesy, availability, prompt feedback on assignments, and a reasonable grading procedure. The college environment also requires professionalism on your part as students. Professionalism here includes suitable class preparation, on-time class attendance, and proper in-class behavior.

Regardless of my efforts in this course, learning will only come through your work and active participation. I understand that you have different constraints affecting your performance, such as families, employment, and other courses. Just give your best effort. **Please contact me if you have any problems throughout the term.**

***Assignments***

**A. Topic coverage and tests**

I draw questions for each examination from **a)** class discussions, **b)** items posted to my website, **c)** andthe following textbook coverage:

*Period 1: July 1 – July 8*

Chapter 1 – Introduction to Law

Chapter 2 – The Court System

Chapter 3 – Litigation

**Test #1 – Tuesday, July 9**

*Period 2: July 10 – July 16*

Chapter 4 – Alternative Dispute Resolution

Chapter 5 – The Constitution

Chapter 6 – Contracts

**Test #2 – Wednesday, July 17**

*Period 3: July 18 – July 24*

Chapter 7 – Torts

Chapter 8 – The Property System

Chapter 9 – Intellectual Property

**Test #3 – Thursday, July 25**

*Period 4: July 29 – July 31*

Chapter 11 – Business Organizations

Chapter 12 – Employment Discrimination

**Comprehensive** **final exam – Thursday, August 1**

# B. Quizzes & Papers

Besides examinations, there are unannounced class quizzes and announced, graded assignments during the term. I draw topics for the unannounced quizzes from the assigned text material for that day, the “new” material. I distribute quizzes at the beginning of the class period. The announced assignments will be short (1-page, typed) papers addressing textbook exercises. We will total 7 papers and quizzes. I will drop your low two scores to help those students who may be ill or unable to attend a class for other reasons.

Interpersonal and leadership skills are important, including developing a professional attitude. In a college setting, evidence of leadership skills includes on time class attendance and class preparation. There are no quiz or paper makeups; I do allow students who miss assignments for university sponsored events to replace missed scores with alternate assignments.

***Course Policies***

All **examinations** will combine multiple-choice and essay questions. I grade your essay answers as well as class papers and quizzes on content, writing style, and grammar.

**Academic honesty** is an essential part of every college course. Any student engaging in dishonest efforts, including copying, plagiarizing, or claiming credit for the work of others will be subject to the penalties described in the ASU student handbook.

I allow **makeup examinations** only with prior approval. With an excused test, the makeup exam may be oral and written.

You may access your **class grade** during the semester by visiting my course website. I will base final grades on the following point allotment:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Points** |
| Test #1 | 100 |
| Test #2 | 100 |
| Test #3 | 100 |
| Final Exam (Comprehensive) | 150 |
| Papers & Quizzes – 5 @ 10 pts. | 50 |
| **Total** | 500 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Percentage Points** | **Grade** |
| 90-100% (90% = 450 pts.) | A |
| 80-89% (80% = 400 pts.) | B |
| 70-79% (70% = 350 pts.) | C |
| 60-69% (60% = 300 pts.) | D |
| **Below 60%** | F |

***Email***

Please adhere to the following email guidelines for this class. The guidelines ask you to practice professional communications.

1. Email me from your ASU account. On occasion, the ASU email system blocks student email messages from their ASU address, but this occurs more often with email messages from accounts outside the ASU system.
2. Ensure your email to me meets the following criteria:
   1. Have a proper subject line.
   2. Have a greeting (such as *Hi Professor*, *Hello Dr. Pittman,* or *Dr. Pittman*).
   3. Have a closing (such as *Thanks*, *Sincerely*, or *See you in class*).
   4. Have your name keyed in at the bottom of the email.
   5. Use proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling. Make sure you spell out words and use suitable capitalization when you email for professional reasons (and school is a professional reason).

If you and I are emailing each other several times in a short period of time about a question or issue, it is not necessary to have the formal greeting and closing after the first exchange of emails.

***Disability Services***

Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any learning disabilities interfering with your ability to succeed in this course. I will ask you to contact ASU’s Disability Services Office, 972-3964. Working through Disability Services, I will try to accommodate your specific needs.

***Disclaimer***

All terms in this course outline are subject to change. Such changes may come in the form of oral changes in class.

***Extra Credit***

You will earn up to 10 bonus points by preparing an optional textbook exercise. I must approve the exercise before you begin. The due date is **Monday, July 29.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  | **1**  Classes Begin | **2** | **3** | **4**  Indepen-dence Day Holiday | **5**  No Friday Classes | **6** |
| **7** | **8** | **9**  Test #1,  Chapters 1-3 | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** |
| **14** | **15** | **16** | **17**  Test #2,  Chapters 4-6 | **18** | **19** | **20** |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25**  Test #3,  Chapters 7-9 | **26** | **27** |
| **28** | **29**  Optional Extra Credit  Due | **30** | **31** | **August 1**  Final Exam  Compre-hensive |  |  |

**Legal Environment of Business – LAW 2023**

**July 2013**