Syllabus
BA-2900
The Legal Environment of Business
Spring, 2021

This is an asynchronous on-line course

Instructor: Michael J. Costello, JD, LLM
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Voluntary Q & A Sessions: Please note the schedule of bi-weekly voluntary Q&A sessions if the matter can be covered then.

Request for Meeting: to request a meeting with the instructor in person, via telephone or Zoom, please send an email with your proposed availability. When communicating with the instructor be sure to put your course number and name in the text of the email.

Course Design: This course is an asynchronous on-line course.

The course is divided in eight two-week Modules. Each Module contains a series of:

a. Voicethread lectures recorded by the Instructor;
b. Chapter readings from the textbook;
c. Chapter quizzes or assignment;
d. Optional Q & A session via Zoom with the Instructor;
e. Module Exam.

The instructor recommends that you follow the course in the Module section of the Canvas course site. This requires going to the McGraw Hill Connect site for the textbook materials and the Module section for the Instructor created materials.

The course is designed to award points for each assigned task with the goal of collecting 1,000 points. The course provides approximately 1,200 points to afford students different approaches to learning the materials and rewards steady, competent progress through the materials.
Note that the final exam is worth two hundred [200] points. It is optional but for it to improve your course grade, you must achieve a score of at least sixty percent [120/200]. All points, including extra credit points, will be recorded in the Canvas Gradebook [except final exam as noted]. The rubric for the course grade will not change. The Course grade will be based on a student’s accumulated points to the 1,000 point course goal.

The chapter quizzes focus on the Chapter readings and the Module Exams focus on the Voicethread instructor lectures. The Voicethread lectures supplement the textbook materials from the Instructor’s professional experience as a successful international lawyer for global businesses.

The Voicethread lectures provide opportunities to comment but comments are not required. If you have a comment that will aid your classmates, please do so. I follow the comments and may respond if appropriate.

The instructor encourages students to form study groups as the best means for doing well in the course. Business law uses legal terms which are often different from the everyday colloquial meaning. Students studying together usually achieve a better understanding of legal terminology. **While study groups are encouraged, it is a violation of the UMSL student academic integrity code to share answers to the quizzes or exams.**

**Course Objectives:**

- Understand and be able to apply basic legal principles in an ethical context;
- Understand the sources of the law (e.g. Constitution, statutes, regulations, and court decisions), their interaction and contribution to the development of the law; and
- Understand and be able to apply legal principles to the business environment [torts, contracts, agency, business organizations, intellectual property, property, securities regulation and other forms of governmental regulation of business]; and
- Make ethically based decisions cognizant of the risks.

**Course Tools:** regular access to internet, My Gateway, video camera and microphone [to create video and audio presentations] and a Voicethread account.

Voicethread is a video and audio tool for creating a narrated powerpoint presentation. A Voicethread account will be enabled under an UMSL license for each student enrolled in this course. Separate instructions will be provided for accessing and creating a voicethread presentation.

*This is an e-book that is automatically added to your student account. You do not need to purchase from bookstore.*

**Grades:** Course grades will be assigned based on total points accumulated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-Line Chapter Reading [24 chapters 5 points each]</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-line Quizzes [20 x 10 points each]</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voicethread Lectures [23 x 10 points each]</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Module Exams [each 50 points]</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Comprehensive Final Exam [requires 60% score]</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total [approx.]</strong></td>
<td><strong>1200</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Tardy submissions are accepted, subject to a ten [10%] percent tardy submission penalty for each week the assignment is tardy.

**Any submission not bearing the student’s name and course number in the top left corner of the submission will automatically receive a 10% deduction from the grade that would have otherwise been given.** This is especially important in an era of e-mail and on-line submissions that may be downloaded or retransmitted. Ensure that your work is attributable to you by affixing your name and course number to it.

**Instructor Created Assignments:** Are to be submitted as instructed - either via the Canvas on-line submission tool or to the Canvas Discussion Board for student review and comment. Assignments are designed to elicit concise and succinct written submissions and are graded for content, organization, spelling, grammar and the stated content limit.

If an assignment indicates that it is to be by attachment in Word format [do not submit as a pdf] it should be the equivalent of on 8 ½ x 12 sheet of white paper, preferably in 12point font. With your name and course number [BA-2900] in the top left corner. Points will be deducted if not correct.

**Module Exams:** Each Module Exam consists of two [2] parts: A. a series of short answer questions based on materials covered in the Instructor Voicethread Lectures; and B. a short essay problem which tests students ability to apply the material to a fact based scenario.
Each module exam is limited to thirty [30] minutes for part A and twenty [20] minutes for part B and automatically closes when the time for that part elapses. The time limit is designed to discourage hunting through the materials for answers. Prepare for the module exams as if a closed book exam in the classroom.

**On-line Materials:** The SmartBook textbook is designed to reward student understanding of the concepts presented in the materials. Consequently, the points for Chapter readings are only earned if the student completes the materials on-line in the McGraw Hill Connect format by correctly answering the questions presented in each section before proceeding further.

**Participation:** The primary measure of course participation is timely completion of the materials and participation in the Discussion Boards.

**English Language:** Law and Business requires an ability to communicate clearly and succinctly. Consequently, an integral part of any written assignment for this course will require attention to correct spelling, proper word choice [eg: trial not trail], grammar, sentence structure, paragraph and other requirements for formal communication. Abbreviations and text message style writing is unacceptable.

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** Participation in campus life is a part of the academic experience of a university and a networking opportunity. Periodically the instructor may offer students an opportunity to participate in a campus event for extra credit. Each student desiring extra credit will be required to attend the selected event and to write and submit a not to exceed one [1] page typewritten paper about what they learned that by participating in the event that will be useful in their career or life.

All extra credit papers are required to be timely submitted within two [2] weeks for full credit and prior to the last day of class to be entitled to credit less a penalty for tardy submission. Extra credit does not count towards course participation.

All extra credit points will be included in the Canvas course gradebook to show the points possible and the points you earned. While extra credit points will appear to increase the total number of points required in the course, the course grade rubric will not change. Extra credit points will only be supplemental to your grade.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

*Academic honesty* is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university.
In all cases of academic dishonesty, for example cheating, plagiarism, or sabotage [including discourteous comments that damage the discourse], the instructor shall make an academic judgment about the student's grade on the work involved.

PLAGIARISM is the act passing off the ideas or words of another [such as by cutting and pasting or using work prepared by someone else] as one's own. In a student paper you may need to use a quotation from the court or another author, any such use should be very limited, be in quotation marks and be followed by a citation.

- Creating and/or distributing the questions or answers to the quizzes, exams or assignments is a violation of the UMSL student academic honesty policy as it fosters cheating and plagiarism rather than learning.

QUOTATIONS: When quoting the work of someone else, you are required to give credit to the creator of the work by providing the instructor with a citation to the original work.

CITATION: is an easy to find link to the original work [such as the name of the author, source of the material and a weblink to the original work].

COURTESY: is the ability to comment in a respectful manner on the substantive issue that encourages academic discourse rather than attacks or demeans the author.

Since this judgment is often a grade of zero, it may result in a failing grade for the assignment and a low or failing grade in the course.

The complete Campus policy on academic dishonesty may be found under “Student Conduct Code” in the Student Planner or at http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/dsa/student_planner/policies/conductcode.htm