Tentative Course Syllabus – Spring 2016

Legal Environment of Business 2900, Sections 005/S01

Course Location: SSB 333 and Blackboard Collaborate
Course Meeting Times: Saturday, 10:00 a.m. until 12:40 p.m.
Instructor: Jonathan Singer
E-mail: singerjo@umsl.edu
Office: Tower 1106
Office Hours: By appointment or via the internet

Required Texts: The Legal Environment of Business, 2nd Edition, e-book, by Melvin & Katz. By virtue of registering for this course, you have, or should have, already paid for it. I am posting instructions on how to log-in/register with system in Docs & Assignments.

Course Description

This course provides the student with a background in the United States legal system and legal proceedings, with a focus on the legal system as it affects the business environment. Among the topics covered are: history of the legal system, sources of law, the court system, the basic mechanics of litigation, alternative dispute resolution, torts, criminal law, contract law, governmental regulation of business, and business ethics. The student should be able to recognize legal issues/concerns, to use some degree of legal analysis in examining those issues, and to communicate intelligibly with lawyers in a business context.

Student Attendance & Assignments

We meet on campus for the first class and for each scheduled test. Otherwise we meet each week in an appropriately designated Blackboard Collaborate classroom. The Blackboard Collaborate sessions are archived for review those who are not able to log-in on any given Saturday, and for review in general. In the past a noticeable percentage of students chose not to log-in during the scheduled class time or to review the archived classes regularly. This “non-attendance” often produced low test scores, in part because I do not merely read the book back to students. I am debating a policy that will require students to log in live or through the archives. Exams are on campus, NOT ONLINE. A make-up exam is not a right, but I try to be accommodating, within reason. I need to be notified ASAP when there is an issue so that an alternative arrangement of some sort can be worked out, hopefully. It is your responsibility to make an appointment with the Testing/Assessment Center at the J.C.Penney Building to schedule a date and time for any makeup.

Assignments have a due date. As a general rule, assignments are due by midnight on Sunday following a class. In the past assignments were due before class on Saturday mornings, and there were no end of difficulties. Suffice to say that you will not get much
out of a discussion if you have not done the reading. The assignments include LearnSmart assignments and quizzes. It is my intent to have all of the assignments at least tentatively posted before the first class, and yes, there is a LearnSmart assignment for the first class. Our first class is Saturday January 23, 2016. The assignment is due by midnight, January 24, 2016. There is no right to turn in work late and get credit. If you have a particular problem and cannot get an assignment done on time, you need to contact me. I had too many cases of people routinely doing work late, creating considerable extra work for me and confusion on grading. The result is a harsher policy.

Course Announcements

I highly recommend that you check the course announcements on a frequent basis. It’s real easy to miss quizzes and other pertinent items in an online class if you do not check regularly.

Readings

You are expected to have done the reading for each week before class, a necessity by quizzes and other assignments. The reading schedule is subject to revision based on our progress throughout the semester. Skimming difficult material in order to adhere rigidly to a course syllabus strikes me as unwise. IN ADDITION, I will also sometimes post additional notes on material and occasionally links to articles.

Students with Special Needs

In accordance with university policy, this class will be as accommodating of special needs as is reasonably possible.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. A student who deliberately or unintentionally submits as his or her own work an assignment which is in any part taken from another person’s work, without proper acknowledgment, is guilty of plagiarism. Punitive action for plagiarism or cheating may include a grade of “F” for the plagiarized assignment or dismissal from the course with a grade of “F”.

Grading Procedures

There will be two tests during the semester and a final examination. There will also be quizzes, completing LearnSmart assignments, and maybe some other assignments. Regular tests will account for approximately 75-80% of the course grade with LearnSmart and quizzes accounting for approximately 20-25%. (each roughly 10-12%) Discussion boards, if I post such, will go towards a bonus for participation/extra credit.

NOTE: FINAL EXAM IS NOT CUMULATIVE.

Grading scale is as follows:
97-100 = A  
93-96 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
73-76 = C  
70-72 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
63-66 = D  
60-62 = D-  
Below 60 = F

Drop and Withdrawal Policy

See dates listed below in schedule. **THOSE DATES ARE NOT CONFIRMED**

Classroom Schedule (Subject to revision)

Jan. 23  
Introduction to Law: Read Ch. 1 (entire);  
Administrative Law: Read Ch. 18 (entire)  
Ethics: Read Ch. 5 (entire, but you can skim it); pp. 718-719 on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act from Ch. 26

Jan. 30  
Business, the U.S. Constitution, and Crime. Read Ch. 2 (entire) and Ch. 23 (entire).

Feb. 06  
Criminal Law (finish)  
Dispute Resolution: ADR, State Court vs. Federal Court, Litigation. Read Ch. 3 (entire) and Ch. 4 (entire).

Feb. 13  
Torts and Product Liability: Read Ch. 10 (entire).

Feb. 15  
**LAST DAY TO DROP OR WITHDRAW WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE. LAST DAY TO PLACE A COURSE ON SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY BASIS**

Feb. 20  
1st Midterm  
Contracts—The Language of Contracts: Read Ch. 6 (entire).  
Contracts--Formation and Performance: Read Ch. 7 (1st half)

Feb. 27  
Contracts--Formation and Performance: Read Ch. 7 (2nd half) and Ch. 8 (entire)

Mar. 05  
Finish Contract Performance.  
Uniform Commercial Code on Sales--Changing the Common Law of Contracts: Read Ch. 9 (entire)

Mar. 12  
Creditors Rights and Bankruptcy. Read Ch. 21 (entire)  
Consumer Protection Law: Read Ch. 22 (entire)

Mar. 19  
2nd Midterm.  
Law of Agency: Read Ch. 11 (entire)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Reading Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>Business Organizations—Read Ch. 14 (entire) and Ch. 15 (entire) Corporations: Read Ch. 16 (entire)</td>
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<td>Apr. 02</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Apr. 09</td>
<td>Antitrust—Bigger Isn’t Always Better: Read Ch. 20 (entire) Property, Personal and Real: Read Ch. 24 (entire)</td>
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<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>Property, Personal and Real: Read Ch. 24 (entire)</td>
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<td><strong>Apr. 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY STUDENTS MAY DROP A COURSE OR WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL.</strong></td>
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<td>Apr. 23</td>
<td>Property, continued. Intellectual Property: Read Ch. 25.(entire)</td>
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<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>Intellectual Property finishing up and Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>May 07</td>
<td>Final Examination.</td>
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