Syllabus
BA 5900
Section G-0 1
Law, Ethics and Business
Spring, 2017

Instructor:  Michael J. Costello
            B.A., J.D., L.L.M.
Office:     1104-Tower
Telephone:  (314) 516-6271
E-mail:     costellom@umsl.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 -11:30, Thursday 3:30-5:00 pm or by appointment

Class Time: 5:30 – 6:45pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Classroom: 410-SSB

1. TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT:

   The textbook is: Managers & The Legal Environment, by Bagley-Savage published by Thomson/West/Cengage, 7th Edition

2. OBJECTIVES:

   Students will be able to identify and utilize in a business context:

   a. legal principles relevant to business;
   b. inherent differences between civil and common law systems;
   c. key concepts in specific areas of commercial practice, such as antitrust, bankruptcy, commercial law, corporate governance, intellectual property, real estate and securities;
   d. Make ethically based decisions cognizant of risks; and
   e. trends influencing the law in a globalizing economy, such as global organizations, UN conventions and efforts to introduce ethical norms.

3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION, PAPER AND POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:

   a. Participation: The assigned chapters of the text are to be read prior to the session of class covering the topic to facilitate a meaningful discussion.
The instructor may post to course document section of course website materials from other sources which are also to be read prior to the session of class during which the materials will be discussed.

Students are encouraged to read and comment on the postings of their classmates to the various course discussion boards in the Course Website.

b. **Case Research and Presentation:**

ASAP but not later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 24th: Submit by email to instructor a list of three [3] proposed cases from the Questions and Case Problems section at the end of each chapter. Submit cases from three **different** chapters of the textbook.

In the e-mail: please provide your name, course number, the three proposed cases from the Questions and Case Problems section in three different chapters listing the cases in order of priority by chapter, name of court case, case number, and page of textbook that you would prefer to analyze and present in class.

Cases will be assigned on a first come first served basis. The instructor will respond with an email assigning of the three available cases to you. Only one student will be allowed to write about a particular case and the cases chosen will be subject to the instructor’s right to allocate chapters, topics and to space presentations over the term.

The assigned case will be the basis of the student’s case analysis, powerpoint presentation and paper required in this course.

Please review the chapters and topics of the textbook and look for cases mentioned or footnoted of interest to you.

Any student who has not timely chosen cases will receive a 10% grade deduction for tardy submission.

1. **One page Case Analysis:** The student will prepare a one page case analysis [setting forth: 1- the name of case, parties, court and date of court decision, 2- facts of case, 3- key issue [principal for which it is cited in textbook], 3- what is decision of court on the principal for which it is cited in textbook, 4- court holding [decision by court of who wins and why which may be different than why it is in textbook] and 5. whether you agree or disagree with court decision and **your reasons why**] Your opinion is not a
mere restatement of the court’s decision. [Review, How to Read a Case Citation, page 47 of the Textbook.]

The student may use the UMSL library to find and read the full case [See: Reference Librarian in Thomas Jefferson Library or use on line - UMSL Homepage, Libraries, Databases, Databases Sorted Alphabetically, Lexis-Nexis Academic, Seearch, Look Up Legal Case.]

Your analysis, presentation and paper should be focused on the part of the case relevant to the point for which it is being cited in the textbook.

Note: (A) The one page case analysis together with a link to the entire court decision should be posted to the Student Case Presentation section of the course discussion board at least one (1) class session prior to the date of the class session for your powerpoint presentation.

Note: (B) A typewritten copy of the analysis on 8 ½ x 11 paper should be handed in to the instructor by the beginning of the class session prior to the date for your presentation.

Each member of the class is encouraged to read, query and comment on each student case analysis prior to the date the case is to be presented in class. The instructor will review postings as part of the course participation grade.

2. Powerpoint Presentation to Class: The powerpoint presentation of your case will be delivered to the class. The presentation should not be more than six (6) slides [use one page case analysis as outline of your slide presentation] and should instruct the class in the significance of the case and its relevance to the materials discussed in the chapter of the text from which the case is drawn. You should know the case and chapter well enough to answer questions from the class about the case. Your ability to introduce yourself, the case, to instruct the class in the key points of the case and respond to questions will be the basis for the presentation grade.

Note: (C) A hardcopy copy of the powerpoint presentation is to be submitted to the Instructor at the beginning of the class session in which the presentation is being given.

Your powerpoint presentation will be graded by classmates [class grading is 5-excellent, 3- acceptable and 1- unacceptable] and instructor. This is an opportunity to practice your presentation skills as well as demonstrate your
knowledge of the case and the relevant chapter material. You are the expert on this case. You will be expected to respond to all student queries and comments about the case, including those previously posted on the discussion board.

An effort will be made to correlate the dates of presentations to the sessions we are discussing the relevant materials. The instructor will advise the class of dates for presentations by email. Presentations will be scheduled to begin on Tuesday, February 9th.

3. **5 Page Paper – Reversing the Decision of the Court:**
   Each student will submit in hard copy a five (5) page [double spaced] typewritten paper [on 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper in size 12 font] in which the student prepares: 1. A one [1] page executive summary of your paper [An executive summary should allow the reader to know the facts, lower court decision, why prior court decision was wrong, your reasons for overturning the prior decision, and what the court should do to correct it. A good executive summary should allow reader to understand your paper without reading the paper.] The body of your paper should consist of: 2. An argument addressed to the US Supreme Court to overturn the existing decision; 3 your reasoning for overturning the existing decision; 4. Why your proposed decision is a better resolution than the existing decision of the court; and 5. A closing summary paragraph.

A typewritten copy of the paper is to be submitted to the Instructor by the beginning of class on Tuesday, April 4th.

All papers are to be posted to the Student Case Presentation discussion board for review and comment by class members. The instructor will review the quality and substance of comments posted to the discussion board as part of the course participation grade.

Any student whose analysis or paper appears to have plagiarized another person’s work will be subject to academic discipline. [Thus you need to be creative in developing your argument – not merely parrot an earlier decision of the lower court – as it already did not prevail]

Plagiarism is the use without attribution of the work of another author or person. Consequently, there should be no cutting and pasting or inclusion of someone else’s work unless it is in quotation marks and cited to the authority. This includes use of materials from other students.
Clear and concise English, good grammar, punctuation, syntax and polished presentation [ie typos, scratch outs] as well as a coherent, logical and well presented argument are measurable parts of the grade.

4. MOCK ARBITRATION EXERCISE:

We will conduct a mock arbitration of the Tucker Graphics problem. See Course Documents section of the Course website for the teams for this exercise. The teams will develop their case and will present it to the arbitral panel. The arbitral panel will decide which team prevails, why and what remedy it will be given. The prevailing team will score 25 points, the losing team will score 0 points and the arbitral panel will be graded [0-20 points] by the members of the competing teams [prior to the announcement of the award] and the instructor.

Each team should consider establishing a discussion board for communication among teammates. Please advise the instructor, if your team desires a team discussion board. Team discussion boards are accessible by the instructor but not other teams.

There is a Nihon Tucker exercise discussion board. All communications to other teams should be posted to this discussion board so as to be available to the other teams. For example, each team may pose questions to the other team about such matters as: 1. Who they intend to call as witnesses, 2. Asking the witnesses questions to be answered prior to the hearing [such as an expert witness on Japanese culture to explain the cultural context of responses to Tucker Graphics or perhaps an expert on applicable contract law], 3. Asking questions of the arbitral panel about how the proceedings will be conducted, or 4. Other.

5. GUEST LECTURES AND VISITS:

Subject to availability and topic, the instructor will endeavor to invite guest lecturers to attend and participate in one or more classes. These presentations may deviate from the scheduled topic due to limitations on the availability of the guest or court session. This shall not excuse students from the assigned material.

6. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITES

Participation in campus life is a part of the academic experience of a university and a networking opportunity. Periodically the instructor will offer students an opportunity to participate in a campus event for extra credit. Each student desiring extra credit will be required to attend the instructor selected event and to write and submit by hard copy to the instructor a one [1] page typewritten paper about what they learned by participating in the event. All extra credit papers are required to be submitted prior to the last day of class to be entitled to credit. Extra credit does not count towards course participation.
All extra credit points will be included in the My Blackboard course gradebook but will only be supplemental to your grade not in setting the minimum number of points necessary for a grade in the course.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

(a) Fireside Chat on Tuesday, February 7th from 4:00 – 5:00pm with Randall Stephens- CEO of ATT in the Millennium Rooms in the MSC Attend and write a one page typewritten report on what you learned for ten [10] extra credit points

(b) Rotary Ethics Panel Discussion on Wednesday, March 1 from 5:30pm - 6:45pm in the Collabitat Room in Marillac Hall on the South Campus. Attend and write a one [1] page typewritten report on what you learned that will be useful in your career for twenty [20] extra credit points.

(c) Many students have found a visit to an area court in Missouri or Illinois [state for each county – associate circuit, circuit or appeals court or federal [district, court of appeals or bankruptcy] to be an informative experience. The instructor will invite any student interested to attend any of these courts [but not a municipal or traffic court] for at least one [1] hour and to write a one page report of what they learned and how court is different from television depictions of court for 25 extra credit points.

7. EXAMS:

There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. The exams will test a student’s knowledge of and ability to apply concepts in practical situations that one may confront in business. The exams are typically in two parts: part 1. Is short answer and multiple choice, and expects the student to know key legal concepts; and part 2. Is essay and expects student to apply the concepts to a factual setting.

The first exam will cover the materials covered up to the date of the exam.

The exams may include materials from the student case presentations.

The final exam will be cumulative and cover the entire course.

8. QUIZZES:

Quizzes will be unannounced to ensure that class is reading the course materials. A quiz will typically be 5-10 short answer questions based on materials in textbook.

9. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:
Attending class is expected and constitutes only half of the attendance and participation points, regular and meaningful participation in class is required for participation points.

10. GRADES:

Grades will be based on accumulated points:

a. Attendance [50], Arbitration Exercise [25] and Quality of Participation [50]: 125
b. quizzes 75
c. One Page Case Analysis 100
d. Mid-Term Exam 150
e. Powerpoint Presentation [slides and presentation] 100
f. Paper 200
g. Final exam 200
Total [Approximately]: 950

11. READING SCHEDULE:

The Reading Schedule is posted in the Course documents section of the Course Website.