

**Syllabus
BA 5900**

**Asynchronous On-Line Section
Law, Ethics and Business
Fall, 2019**

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On-Line Office Hours:

Generally the Wednesday prior to the date of the exam for each Module from 5:30 – 6:30 pm [using Zoom] - you can join by clicking on the Zoom button in Course website

or

by appointment [for office, telephone or other on-line tools]. Send me an email to propose an appointment and I will promptly work with you to find a mutually convenient time, date and means of communicating.

1. TEXTBOOKS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR COURSE:

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.

See: **Start Here** by clicking on the button marked ‘Modules’ on the left side of the course website. It will introduce you to the modules for this course and for creating a Voicethread account. Your first task will be to create a Voicethread introduction and post it in the Course Discussion Board.

Each student is to view and post thoughtful comments to at least three [3] student introductions. Students should view student introductions with less than three comments to encourage views of the entire class. The goal is to begin to create group cohesion and networking opportunities.

Textbook: Managers & The Legal Environment, by Bagley-Savage published by Cengage, 9th Edition. The textbook is an electronic version. The cost of the textbook is included in your fees. You will find the link to the textbook in the Module.

Textbook is dense and full of legal cases and jargon. It is the best non-law school textbook I have found for discussion of legal issues from a manager's perspective. Bear with the textbook, I think you will find the effort useful in your career.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

A printable version of the Reading and Assignment Schedule is posted in the Syllabus section of the course website. I have tried to include in the Canvas Modules and the Reading and Assignment Schedule all of the assignments and the mode of submitting. I prefer submissions in Word format as attachments as it allows for on-line review and comment.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this course is to enable students when working in a business environment to:

- a. Be able to identify and apply legal principals;
- b. Work effectively with persons from different legal systems - civil and common law systems;
- c. Apply 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;
- e. Analyze trends influencing the law in a globalizing economy [global organizations, UN conventions and efforts to introduce ethical norms]; and
- f. Work productively and effectively in an on-line environment and as a member of an on-line community.

4. GRADES:

Participation: 100

**Exercises
[approximately]:** 100

ONE PAGE CASE ANALYSIS AND VOICETHREAD PRESENTATION OF COURT CASE:

One Page Case Analysis: 100

Voicethread Presentation: 100

EXAMS:

Seven Module Exams	350
Final Exam:	<u>200</u>

TOTAL COURSE POINTS
[approximately]: 950

Grades will be determined by the total points earned by each student divided by the Total Course Points.

All extra credit points will be included in the Canvas course gradebook but will only be used to increase your total points and not in setting the grade breaks based on Total Course Points.

5. **COURSE PARTICIPATION:**

Participation in the course is measured by two [2] criteria.

- A. The first criterion is timely submission of original thoughts of a substantive nature which in a courteous manner encourage discussion of materials posted to the course discussion boards.

Each student is required to post a minimum of twelve [12] timely, meaningful, substantive and courteous comments to the discussion boards.

Timely means within one [1] week of the original posting;

Original means the author's thought after contemplation and reflection on the topic;

Substantive means materially adds to the course of the discussion; and

Courteous means in a manner intended to encourage discussion without demeaning or belittling another participant.

- B. The second criterion is meaningful participation as a member of the group activities.

Each student will be asked to submit a review of three [3] of your classmates Voicethread Presentations within one [1] week following the posting of the Voicethread Presentation.

The review will be in an instructor provided format included in the Modules of the Course Website. The purpose is to provide positive guidance to several of your fellow students for gaining confidence and skill in giving a presentation. It is an ungraded exercise which is emailed only to the presenter.

The presenter will confirm receipt of three [3] reviews in a one [1] paragraph report to the instructor of the value of the suggestions. [This exercise is based on industry comments that business students need to gain more confidence and skill in giving presentations.] The student receiving the reviews will promptly post a note on the discussion board that she has received three [3] reviews. This will avoid one student receiving too many or too few reviews. The student receiving the reviews will within one [1] week from receiving the third review send the instructor a one [1] paragraph report on the usefulness of the reviews.

The date each Student will post her Case Analysis and Voicethread Presentations is based on the Chapter of the textbook from which the case is drawn.

Group One: Cases from Chapters 1 through 6 and 24 are due by Midnight on Sunday, September 22nd. Students from Group Three will provide reviews of Voicethread presentations posted by students in Group One by midnight on Sunday, September 29th.

Group Two: Cases from Chapters 7-13 are due by Midnight on Sunday, October 20th. Students from Group One will provide reviews of Voicethread presentations posted by students in Group Two by midnight on Sunday, October 27th.

Group Three: Cases from Chapters 14- 23 are due by Midnight on Sunday, November 17th. Students from Group Two will provide reviews of Voicethread presentations posted by students in Group Three by midnight on Sunday, November 24th.

6. EXAMS:

There will be seven [7] module exams each worth fifty [50] points and a comprehensive final exam worth two hundred [200] points. Each module exam is required to be completed by midnight of the Sunday following the two week period during which the module is to be completed.

The exams are time limited. Each module exam will allow the student only thirty-five [35] minutes to complete each of the two parts [25 minutes for Part 1 and 15 minutes for Part 2] of each exam. The comprehensive final will consist of a single two [2] hour time limit.

Upon expiry of the allotted time, the exam will automatically close and be submitted [regardless of completion.]

The exams are designed to 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 [2] parts:

Part 1. Is short answer, and expects the student to have memorized and remember key legal concepts;

and

Part 2. Is essay and expects student to apply the concepts to a factual setting.

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

7. ONE PAGE CASE ANALYSIS AND VOICETHREAD NARRATED PRESENTATION:

This is a two [2] part exercise. Each part is worth one hundred [100] points for a total of two hundred [200] points. This assignment requires that you find and read the actual court decision- not merely the one paragraph about the problem in the textbook. You can find the case by contacting a research librarian in the Thomas Jefferson UMSL Library, by using the on-line database in UMSL library which you can find in My Gateway or oftentimes cases may be found by a Google search of the case name. As a case moves through the appeals process and as it is cited as authority in another case or commented about in a law journal or news article, it may appear in several places. Be sure that you are reviewing the actual decision identified in the description in the case book. [Review, How to Read a Case Citation, page 43 of the Textbook.]

The dates for submission of the One Page Case Analysis and Voicethread Presentations are divided into three [3] groups with a due date for each Group and the due date for reviews of the Voicethread presentations based on the Chapters of the textbook. Please note the due date for the posting of your case and for reviewing the Voicethread presentations of classmates cases.

Part 1: One Page Case Analysis: Having read the entire case, the student will prepare a not to exceed one [1] typewritten page in Word format analysis of the case. The one page case analysis together with an operable link to the full text of the case [the link should be operable and take the reader directly to the discussed case – failure to test and be sure the link is operable is an element of the graded exercise] is to be timely posted to the Course Discussion Board. The instructor will review and grade the submission as posted in the Course Discussion Board.

The one page case analysis should contain:

- 1- the name of case, parties, court and date of court decision,
- 2- key facts of case,

- 3- key issue [the principal which it is elucidating in textbook],
- 4- what is decision of court on the principal for which it is in textbook,
- 5- court holding [decision by court of who wins and why - which may be different than why it is in textbook], and
6. whether you agree or disagree with court decision and **your reasons why. [Your opinion is not a mere restatement of the court's decision.]**

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: (1) The one page case analysis together with an operable link to the entire court decision should be posted as a one page attachment in Word format [do not post in pdf file format] to Course Discussion Board section of the course website.

Each member of the class is required to read, query and comment on at least three [3] of the student case analyses within one [1] week of the date the case analysis is posted. The instructor will review postings as part of the course participation grade.

2. Part 2: Voicethread Narrated Presentation to Class: Each student is required to create and post to the Course Discussion board a voicethread narrated presentation of your case.

The presentation should not be more than seven [7] slides [use one page case analysis as outline of your slide presentation]. You should add a slide to your Voicethread presentation:

1. an introduction of yourself [think of this as your thirty [30] second elevator introduction of yourself (if you had a chance meeting with the CEO of a company for whom you would like to work- how would you want her to remember you),
- 2-7. the six points in the case analysis in a way that instructs the class in the key points of the case, and
8. respond to comments to posted by fellow students will be the basis for the presentation grade. This is in addition to requirement to review student Voicethread Presentations and is part of the course participation grade.

You should know the case and chapter well enough to answer questions from the class about the case and the principal for which it is in the textbook. 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 posted to the course discussion board.

The narrated voicethread presentation shall be timely posted to the course discussion board

8. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

In each module the student will find one or more course assignments to complete and submit during which that module is to be completed. Each assignment is to be submitted as instructed. Each assignment will be worth ten [10] points. Any assignment submitted late will be subject to a late assignment penalty of one [1] point for each week late.

9. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

A. 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 email to the instructor a one page typewritten paper about what they learned by participating in the event. All extra credit papers are required to be submitted within one [1] week of the event. Extra credit does not count towards course participation. All extra credit points will be included in the Canvas 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.

B. 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 [1] page report in Word format of what they learned and how court is different from television depictions of court for twenty-five [25] extra credit points. You may submit your one page report by email to the instructor for the extra credit.

10. 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.

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