SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Department of General Business and Finance

Course Syllabus

COURSE NUMBER: GBA 281 (Spring 2008)

COURSE TITLE: Legal Environment of Business

PREREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR: Constance R. Heiland OFFICE: BA 210G Phone: 439-9959 (H)

Email: crh019@shsu.edu

CLASS SCHEDULE OFFICE HOURS:

MWF: 8-8:50 GBA 281, RM 140 MWF: 7:30 -8, 9:00-9:30

Other times by appointment or contact me by email

<u>REQUIRED TEXT:</u> Business Law by Clarkson, Miller, Jentz, Cross West Publishing (Select Chapters from West's Business Law; Business Law 281 for Sam Houston State University)

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to give students majoring in business an insight into environment in which businesses operate and to provide them with a basic understanding of solving problems using legal rules. This course may also be elected by students who are not business majors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be expected to:

- 1. Develop the ability to recognize legal problems that arise in common business transactions.
- 2. Know selected legal rule and their impact on the decisions made in operations of businesses.
- 3. Develop the analytical thinking process by the application of legal concepts in the solving of problems.
- 4. Understand the environment in which business decisions are made and the effect of those environs on the decision process.

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

The grade for the course is based on the two unit exams of 100 points each and two unit exams of 50 points apiece plus the final exam and class participation, including completion of homework and project assignments. Extra credit participation will be made available but will be limited to 15 points.

Course averages are determined on the following basis:

Two unit exams consisting of 100 points each plus two unit exams of 50 points

each (300 points)

Comprehensive final exam consisting of 150 points

NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED.

MAKE UP EXAMS: If a make up is required, you will be required to make it up at the next class session. No special arrangements will be made for any other time. If you cannot make the makeup, you will get a 0 for that exam.

Grades in this course are determined by applying the following scale to a student's average:

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>89.5 = A
79.5 - 89.4 = B
69.5 - 79.4 = C
59.5 - 69.4 = D
<59.5 = F
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There will be no early finals or other examinations given for any reason.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

HANDICAPPED STUDENT POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Student Life program, or activity. Handicapped students may request academic assistance when needed from a Committee for Continuing Academic Assistance for Disabled Students by visiting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Building Annex, or by calling ext. 1720.

ATTENDANCE & CLASS POLICY:

Attendance in this class is expected as is stated in the latest Sam Houston State University catalog. The **penalty for excessive absences, which is defined as ten (10) hours, is automatic failure, (a grade of "F") for the class.** Also, those who miss a substantial number of classes will penalize themselves by missing material that will be discussed in class, that may not appear in the texts, and over which the class will be tested. **If a student is consistently late, consistently late meaning greater than 3 times late, each late arrival in excess of 3**

will be considered an absence. Students leaving, without permission, before the class is dismissed will also be considered absent.

Students are considered to be learning how to become a part of the business community and are expected to dress and act accordingly. **No hats** are to be worn in the class room. University policy prohibits **food & drink** in classrooms.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The course is divided into a series of units that after the conclusion of the lecture, discussion, and class participation, an examination is given.

Unit I: UNIT EXAM – 100 Points

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Law and Legal Reasoning Chapter 2: Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Chapter 3: Court Procedures

Chapter 5: Ethics and Business Decision Making

Chapter 6: Intentional Torts

Chapter 7: Negligence and Strict Liability
Chapter 9: Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes

<u>Unit II:</u> UNIT EXAM – 100 points

Chapter 42: Law for Small Business

Chapter 31: Law of Agency

Chapter 32: Liability to Third Parties and Termination

Chapter 35: Sole Proprietorships and Franchises

Chapter 36: Partnerships and Limited Liability Partnerships

Chapter 37: Limited Liability Companies and Special Business Forms

Chapter 38: Corporations – Formation and Financing

Chapter 39: Corporations – Directors, Officers, and Shareholders Chapter 40: Corporations – Merger, Consolidation and Termination

Unit III: UNIT EXAM – 50 Points

Chapter 47: Personal Property and Bailments

Chapter 48: Real Property and Landlord-Tenant Relationships

Chapter 49: Insurance

Chapter 50: Wills, Trusts, and Elder Law

Unit IV: UNIT EXAM – 50 points

Chapter 4: Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business Chapter 41: Securities Law and Corporate Governance

Chapter 43: Administrative Law

Chapter 46: Antitrust Law

FINAL EXAM – COMPREHENSIVE

General Notes:

- 1. The Lecturer may change the content of the units and the specific chapters.
- 2. You will be given assignments for each class period. It is your responsibility to read the chapter and prepare the homework for those assignments prior to the class.
- 3. This is a course designed to prepare you for the workplace. Make sure that your word processed work is doublespaced, with proper margins, as well as attention to proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- 4. This course will also emphasize active listening and effective participation in group discussions and collaborative work situations. Students also must be able to prepare and deliver effective oral presentations as applicable as part of the group discussions and collaborative work situations.
- 5. I practice law full time at a law firm in Huntsville. I do not maintain a faculty office, but have privileges to use an office with advance notice. If you need to see me at office hours other than before or immediately after class, you will need to make arrangements with me via email and this will require that I come to campus on a special trip. Those arrangements can often be very difficult to manage with my client conferences and court appearances coordinated with your busy schedule. If at all possible, I would prefer to handle questions by email. See 3 below.
- 6. I will post assignments and other information on Blackboard for this class. In addition to assignments, I hand out study material for each exam telling you what I will be emphasizing. If you cannot make it to class, go to Blackboard and get the assignments. Note that not all the class handouts will be posted on Blackboard, though. See 4 below.
- 7. I am available by email, but be advised that because I have a very active practice, I will not be checking the SHSU email except in the evenings. The number I have provided you is my home phone and I only check messages on that periodically. The best way to get in touch with me is by email.
- 8. I may be in touch with you as a group by email through SHSU. If you do not check your SHSU email but set up a forward, make sure that you have that taken care of. For example, if I need to send a clarification to you all about an assignment, I will use the Blackboard email. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE MY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BLACKBOARD via email check in with me. I'll do another email check next week just to make sure we are linked.
- 9. I strongly urge that you attend each class and that you do your assignments which are geared to supplementing the text book material, particularly in the early part of the class. As we get more into the class, we will be moving more quickly in the textbook, and so it is vital that you attend class and obtain handouts to help with your overview. Not all the handouts will be posted on Blackboard. Also there will be in class group work that also helps with your understanding and cannot be replicated otherwise.
- 5. Extra credit assignments will allow you to obtain extra points toward your final grade plus also will supplement your learning. Most of the extra credit assignments are focused on case problem work at the end of the chapters and are wonderful opportunities to learn. I'll provide those opportunities later in the term after the first exam.