

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Department of General Business and Finance
Course Syllabus
SPRING SEMESTER 2008

COURSE NUMBER: GBA 281

COURSE TITLE: Legal Environment of Business

PREREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR: **William W. (Will) Durham, J.D.** OFFICE: 936-291-6660
MOBILE: 936-662-1504
HOME: 936-295-6222
E-MAIL: wdurham@parkdurham.com

CLASS MEETS: Wednesdays 6-9 p.m.: Smith-Hudson Business Building - Room 206

REQUIRED TEXTS: West's Business Law by Clarkson, Miller, Jentz, and Cross; West Publishing, **Tenth (10th) edition. (Bring your book to class)**

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS: **Power Point Slides** will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to give students an insight into the legal environment in which businesses operate and to provide them with a basic understanding of solving problems using legal rules. We will also discuss current legal cases, issues, and trends. It may be elected by nonbusiness students. Questions are encouraged.

COURSE EXAMINATIONS:

EXAM 1: Chapters 1 – 5

EXAM 2: Chapters 6 – 9

EXAM 3: Chapters 31 – 40

EXAM 4: Chapters 43, 48 - 50

Each examination represents 25% of the student's final grade in the course as determined by the following scale:

>89.4 = A
79.5 - 89.4 = B
69.5 - 79.4 = C
59.5 - 69.4 = D
<59.5 = F

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop the ability to recognize legal problems that arise in common business transactions.
2. To understand selected legal rules and their impact on the decisions made in operations of businesses.
3. To develop the analytical thinking process by the application of legal concepts in the solving of problems.
4. To understand the environment in which business decisions are made and the effect of those environments and applicable law on the decision-making process.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to make up a missed examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the class, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day.

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.

ATTENDANCE 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") in the class. 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 arrives late for class and the roll has been taken, the student is considered absent for the day. **As you will be tested on some information that is only discussed in lecture, good attendance will definitely help your final grade in the class.**