

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Department of General Business and Finance

Course Syllabus

COURSE NUMBER: GBA 281 (Fall 2007)

COURSE TITLE: Legal Environment of Business

PREREQUISITES: None

INSTRUCTOR: Constance R. Heiland OFFICE: BA 210G Phone 294-1286
Email GBA_CRH@shsu.edu

CLASS SCHEDULE OFFICE HOURS:
MWF: 8-8:50 GBA 281. RM 335 MWF: 7:30 -8, 9:00-9:30
Other times by appointment or contact me by email

REQUIRED TEXTS: WEST'S Business Law by Clarkson, Miller, Jentz, Cross West Publishing, 9th Edition.

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 three unit exams plus the final exam and class participation, including completion of homework and project assignments. Extra credit participation as available upon request.

Course averages are determined on the following basis:

66% -- Three (3) major examinations

The 1st exam grade of these three (3), May be dropped if that grade is lower than the other grade on exams including the Final exam. Each exam is comprehensive.

33% -- comprehensive final exam

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

>89.5 = A
79.5 - 89.4 = B
69.5 - 79.4 = C
59.5 - 69.4 = D
<59.5 = F

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 means 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.**

Any examination missed because of an absence must be made up at the end of the semester when one (1) comprehensive make-up examination will be given to all students who missed examinations. If

more than one (1) exam was missed, the makeup will count for each of the missed exams -- that is, if one (1) exam is missed the make-up will count once, if two (2) exams are missed the exam will count twice, etc.

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: Approximately six weeks

- 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 8: Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes
- Chapter 42: Law for Small Business

Unit II: Approximately three weeks

- 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 III: Approximately three weeks

- Chapters 31 and 32: Law of Agency and Liability of Agents to Third Parties
- Chapters 35- 41: Business Organization Law – Sole Proprietorships and Franchises, Partnerships, Limited Liability Companies and Special Business Forms, Corporations

Unit IV: Approximately three weeks

- Chapter 4: Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business
- Chapter 43: Administrative Law
- Chapter 46: Antitrust Law
- Chapter 41: Securities Law and Corporate Governance

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.

