

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

**Course Syllabus Spring 2008**

**Course Number:** GBA 281  
**Course Title:** Business Legal Environment  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Professor:** Joey Robertson, J.D.  
**Phone:** 936-291-0431 ext. 6  
**Email address:** jrobertson@sputexas.com  
**Office Hours:** Monday 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. In addition, I am available to meet with you by appointment if the posted office hours are not convenient for you. Please contact me so that we can schedule a mutually convenient time to meet.

**Communication with the Professor:**

The most efficient and convenient means to ask questions or schedule appointments is via email. However, I also check my voicemail and if you call I will call you back as soon as possible, please just remember to leave me your return phone number.

I am available to meet with you almost any time by appointment. Please feel free to contact me to schedule a time to meet with you if the posted office hours are not convenient for you.

**Required Texts:**

West's Business Law, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition by Clarkson, Miller, Jentz and Cross. 2006, West Publishing Company. Consider the condensed version.

**Course Description:**

This course covers legal environment from a "preventative law," practical perspective. Specific subjects include: litigation, alternative dispute resolution, torts, business organizations, real and personal property law including asset protection-estate planning, and administrative law. The course provides an introduction to environmental law, consumer law, securities law, and human resources management law (labor law).

## Course Objectives:

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Develop and recognize legal problems.
- Recognize when federal and state laws impinge on personal and professional decision-making.
- Develop the analytical thinking process through the application of legal concepts in the resolution of legal disputes.
- Have the ability to research current law, rules and regulations related to specific disputes.

## Topics Covered:

Civil Litigation Processes and Procedures	General Knowledge
Alternative Dispute Resolution	“
Criminal Law	“
Tort Law	“
Property Rights and Responsibilities	“
Bailments	“
Real Property Issues	“
Probate, Trust & Estate Planning	“
Agency Law	“
Forms of Organizing Businesses	“
Ethics	“
Employment Law	“
Environmental Law	“
Insurance Law	“

## Religious Holy Days Policy:

Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one (1) week of returning to class. The student, not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester 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, or by calling ext. 1720.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance in this class is expected as is stated in the Sam Houston State University catalog. **Absences in excess of eight (8) hours will result in a failure. In this class that 8 hours is equivalent to 6 class absences.**

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 text, and over which the class will be tested. In this class you are encouraged to attend every class even if you are late. Please do not hesitate to come to class. You will be penalized for arriving to class late (see next paragraph), but you will still have access to all testable information.

I will take attendance of the class via a seating chart. If you are not in your assigned seat when attendance is taken, you are considered “late” for that period. Three “lates” will result in one (1) absence.

This system is automatic. No “permission” is given to miss a class – this system permits a reasonable number of absences for sickness, etc. It is not necessary to inform me if you plan or cannot attend class on a given day. **However, if you need to leave class early please inform me prior to class.**

Since we only meet once a week I take attendance very seriously. If you leave class early you will be penalized. If you leave early you will get one “penalty” for that period. Three “penalties” will result in one (1) absence.

## **Extra Credit:**

In addition to the above listed Attendance Policy and in an effort to encourage you to attend class, the following incentive has been adopted to encourage consistent attendance. Please note that this is extra credit and you must attend the entire class in order to receive this extra credit. If you are absent for any reason you will not be able to obtain the reward for perfect attendance.

Perfect Attendance:	I will add 10 points to your point total
Only 1 absence:	I will add 5 points to your point total.

If you feel like you are having trouble in the class contact me ASAP and we will discuss additional extra credit.

## **Classroom Policies:**

In order to facilitate a positive classroom environment, please observe the following:

- In accordance with university regulations, there will be no smoking, food or drink permitted in the classroom.
- Class will start promptly at the assigned time.
- Do not cause disruptions in class or you will be asked to leave.

## Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the following:

Five (5) Exams:	100 points each	500 points total
Five (5) "Extra Credit" assignments:	10 points each	50 points total

### Total Possible Points 550

Your grade is determined on a percentage of 500 points whether you complete any Extra Credit or not.

450+ points	= A
400 – 499 points	= B
350 – 399 points	= C
300 – 349 points	= D
<300 points	= F

- If class participation and reading preparation decline I reserve the right to have random quizzes. The quizzes will be handed out at the beginning or end of the class period. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. If quizzes are used the point total for the quizzes will be added to the total points for the class. For example, if two quizzes are given the total points for the class will increase from 500 points to 520. There will be no make up on class quizzes!!
- **STRICT POLICY ON EXAMS! If you miss an exam for any reason, you will be required to take a comprehensive final examination. The comprehensive final will be weighted heavier to compensate for the missed exam. If you miss more than one exam, you will receive an F in the course.**
- **If you arrive LATE for an exam: If you arrive after the first person has handed in their exam you will NOT be allowed to take the exam. You will have to take a comprehensive final. As stated above, if you miss more than one exam, you will receive an F in the course.**
- **For exam purposes you are responsible for all material in the text as well as all material discussed in class.**

## Legal Environment 281: Reading and Examination Schedule

Warning: This schedule is tentative and changes can be expected. Changes will be announced verbally in class.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter- Business Law</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	1/28	First Class Meeting, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	
2	2/4	Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 - Exam Review	
<b>3</b>	<b>2/11</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Legal Environments of Business</b>
4	2/18	Exam Analysis, Chapter 6 and Chapter 7	
5	2/25	Chapter 8 and 9 - Exam Review	
<b>6</b>	<b>3/3</b>	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Torts and Crimes</b>
7	3/17	Exam Analysis, Chapter 31 and 32	
8	3/24	Chapter 35 and 36 - Exam Review	
<b>9</b>	<b>3/31</b>	<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Employment, Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships</b>
10	4/7	Exam Analysis, Chapter 37, 38 and 39	
11	4/14	Chapter 40, 41 and 42	
12	<b>4/21</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>	<b>Corporations and LLCs</b>
<b>13</b>	4/28	Exam Analysis, Chapter 47 and 48	
14	5/5	Chapter 49 and 51 (via handout), Exam Review	
<b>15</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Exam 5 – FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Personal Property, Bailments, Professional Liability and Insurance.</b>