

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

SYLLABUS

Fall 2013

Course: PSCI 323.001 – Business Law

Time & Location: Tuesday: 7:20 PM- 10:00 PM

Instructor: Donna Perkins

Office and hours: 30 minutes after each class and by appointment

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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the legal environment of business including elements of tort and contract law, product liability, employment law and discrimination, consumer law, and the basics of the legal system, including ethics and foreign and international law.

## **B. TEXTS**

Miller and Jentz, *Business Law Today*, Ninth Edition, (South-Western, Cengage Learning 2012)  
Comprehensive Edition ISBN 978-0-538-45280-9 or 0-538-45280-3

## **C. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide an overview of the basics of the legal system, both nationally and internationally.
2. To develop skills in working with legal materials and understanding the language of the law
3. To provide a general understanding of the major legal issues that impact the business environment, both nationally and internationally.
4. To provide knowledge of specific basic laws which affect business structure and finance.

## **D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Readings as assigned.
2. Chapter quizzes (20% of grade)

3. Three examinations including the final (50% of grade). The final will not be comprehensive. Normally there will be no make-up exams. Exams will be graded on the following scale. 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; Below 60=F.
4. Two practical written assignments will be given. The written assignments should be neatly typed (20% of grade).
5. Class participation is required (10% of grade). Plan to participate throughout the course. Attendance is part of this grade. 0-3 absences=A; 4-6=B; 7-9 =C; 10-12 =D; 13 on up =F.

E. **OUTLINE OF COURSE.** This outline as to dates and assignments is tentative. It assumes the material will be covered at maximum speed.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Assigned Reading</u>
Aug 27	Introduction to law and the course	
	The Legal Environment of Business	Chapter 1
Sept 3	Constitutional Law	Chapter 2
	Ethics and Business Decision Making	Chapter 8
	Written Assignment Given	
Sept 10	Written Assignment—No Class	

Sept 17	Written Assignment Due—No Class	
Sept 24	Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
	Administrative Law	Chapter 38
Oct 1	Exam I (Chapters 1,2,3,8 and 38)	
	International Law in a Global Economy	Chapter 27
Oct 8	Promoting Competition	Chapter 39
	Torts and Cyber Torts	Chapter 4
Oct 15	Criminal Law	Chapter 6
	Cyber Crime	Chapter 7
Oct 22	Exam II (Chapters 4,6,7,27 and 39)	
	Written Assignment Given	
Oct 29	Written Assignment Due—No Class	
Nov 5	Contracts—Nature and Classification	Chapter 9
	Agreements in Traditional and E-Contracts	Chapter 10
Nov 12	Breach and Remedies	Chapter 16

	Intellectual Property	Chapter 5
Nov 19	Exam III (Chapters 5,9,10 and 16)	
Nov 26	Employment, Immigration and Labor Law	Chapter 29
	Employment Discrimination	Chapter 30
Dec 3	Consumer Law	Chapter 40
	Environmental Law	Chapter 41
Dec 10	Final Exam (Chapters 29,30,40 and 41)	

## Classroom Etiquette

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) You are expected to exhibit respect for the instructor and fellow students at all times. All electronic devices (except laptops) must be turned off during class. Laptop use is limited to reading notes made for class and taking notes during class. In the event you choose to use a laptop, sound features must be disabled. Surfing the internet and playing games on your laptop during class time are strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in removal from class.

## Disability Statement

### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**“What is Plagiarism**

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

**But can words and ideas really be stolen?**

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- .turning in someone else's work as your own
- .copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- .failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- .giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- .changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- .copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized." ([www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org))

If you plagiarize, you will receive an F for the assignment in question and the matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

