



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **WCOB 1012 Legal Environment of Business**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to the legal environment, including a study of:

- Introduction to law and its application to the business environment.
- Resolution of disputes through the legal system as well as via alternative systems.
- Tort liability of businesses.
- Formation and enforcement of contracts in business.
- Business organizations.
- Agency issues in business.
- Property, including real property and intellectual property.
- Debtor/creditor relations.
- Employment law, including laws prohibiting certain forms of employment discrimination.
- Ethics and corporate social responsibility.

TEXT:

Legal Environment of Business, 8th ed., by Cross and Miller (Cengage Learning, 2012). We will be using a specially edited soft cover version of this text.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist you in becoming familiar with the legal principles which affect businesses.
2. To assist you in developing an ability to recognize legal issues and to avoid actions which are likely to result in unnecessary legal risks.
3. To assist you developing an appreciation of the importance of ethics and personal integrity in the practice of business.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Although we will not be taking roll, your attendance in class is expected. Based upon our years of experience teaching this course to thousands of students we can say with some degree of assurance that students who do not attend class seldom do well in this course. If you do miss a class it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a friend in the class. Please do not E mail the instructor asking "did I miss anything important?"

USE OF LAPTOPS:

You may use a laptop to take notes, but if only if you are sitting in the first three rows. You are not permitted to use your laptop for any purpose other than to take notes (ie, web surfing, E mailing, etc.). We reserve the right to confiscate your laptop for the remainder of the class period if this policy is violated.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail. Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which is available in the Catalog. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately notify their instructor.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you are registered with the Center for Educational Access and require special accommodations, please come see me in my office as early in the semester as possible. In any event, any testing accommodation requests must be made at least ten school days in advance of the test date.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

Good news: if the university is open, there will be class! If the university should be closed due to weather, the assignment for that day will be carried over to the next class

TUTORING:

There is free tutoring for this class provided by the Walton College. Please see the Walton College web site for details.

FINAL EXAM:

There is a common final in this class at the university scheduled common final exam time. The date is: **Tuesday, December 11, 6:00-8:00 PM**. Exceptions will be made for students who have a university excused absence or a specific conflict with another officially scheduled final exam. Exceptions will NOT be made for any non-university excused absence. These include: early travel departure dates, vacations, business trips, weddings, attending other graduations, non emergency medical appointments, oversleeping, etc.

GRADES:

Grades are based exclusively on academic achievement, and are not a reflection of need, desire, or even effort (although students who work hard tend to make better grades than those who do not). Your grade will be based solely on three exams, all of which are multiple choice. There will be a total of 120 questions on these three exams, allocated as follows: Exam 1: 35 questions; Exam 2: 35 questions; Final exam: 50 questions.

Letter grades will be assigned on the basis of your total number of correct answers out of 120, as follows:

- A: 108 – 120
- B: 96 – 107
- C: 80 – 95
- D: 70 – 79

All exams are departmental and are given at a common time. "Extra credit" for papers, etc., is not available in this course. **If you see that you will miss an exam due to a documented emergency, you must notify your instructor prior to the time of the exam. In such a circumstance the usual practice is for the final exam to count for both the final as well as for the exam which was missed.**

WCOB 1012: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

I. Introduction to the legal system, torts, and contracts:

| Week | Date | Topic | Chapters |
|------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Aug. 20, 22 | Introduction to law / legal system | 1 |
| 2 | Aug. 27, 29 | Structure of judicial system / ADR | 2 |
| 3 | Sept. 5 | Torts | 3 |
| 4 | Sept. 10, 12 | Finish torts, Formation of contracts | 3, 4 |
| 5 | Sept. 17 | Finish formation of contracts | 4 |

Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:00 P.M: Exam 1

II. Business organizations, agency, property, and debtor/creditor relations:

| | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 6 | Sept. 24, 26 | Enforcement of contracts | 5 |
| 7 | Oct. 1, 3 | Business Organizations | 6, 7 |
| 8 | Oct. 8, 10 | Agency | 8 |
| | Oct. 15, 16 | Fall Break | |
| 9 | Oct. 17, 22 | Real property / Intellectual property | 9, 10 |
| 10 | Oct. 24 | Finish Intellectual property | 10 |

Thursday, Oct. 25, 6:00 P.M: Exam 2

III. Employment law and ethics:

| | | | |
|----|-------------|--|--------|
| 11 | Oct. 29, 31 | Debtor/creditor relations | 11 |
| 12 | Nov. 5, 7 | Employment law | 12 |
| 13 | Nov. 12, 14 | Employment discrimination | 13 |
| | Nov. 19, 21 | Thanksgiving break | |
| 14 | Nov. 26, 28 | Finish Employment discrimination, Ethics | 13, 14 |
| 15 | Dec. 3, 5 | Review and Wrap Up | |

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:00-8:00 P.M.: Departmental Comprehensive Final Exam: This date is set by central administration and cannot be changed. Do not continue in the course if you cannot take the final exam on this date.

Other important dates: Aug 31: last day to drop without a W. Nov. 16: last day to drop with a W