Lives of Significance and Service
NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

School of Business and Nonprofit Management
Course Syllabus

Course: *2520, Business Law A1*
Academic Year: 2012/13 **Semester/Quad:** *Fall A*
Credit Hours: 2
Prerequisites: *BSE 2211*

Instructor: *Professor Jeff Dillard*

Phone: 312-504-9587

Email: jdillard@northpark.edu

Availability:

Email anytime outside of class. Available by appointment at SBNM Building

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the foundational concepts in business law. It examines the fundamental legal principles under our federal and state legal system, including constitutional rights, the different sources of laws and regulations, the litigation process and legal principles relating to the formation of contracts and intellectual law.

Introductory Comments:

The law provides the framework within which individuals, businesses, and other organizations operate on a daily basis. It governs conduct and expectations, while providing predictability and security. Business scandals involving fraud and other unlawful and unethical conduct have made frequent headlines over the past five to ten years, and there has been a virtual explosion of new laws and business regulation in response. It is incumbent upon all who pursue a business career to be familiar with fundamental legal concepts, how the law operates, and why. This familiarity is one of the basic tools in everyone's career toolbox, regardless of the type of work they do.

Course Materials:

REQUIRED

Textbook(s): ***Essentials of Business Law****, Anthony L Liuzzo, 8th edition, McGraw Hill, 978-0-07-351185-6*

Essential IDEA Objectives:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).

Specific Course Objectives:

By the completion of this course, students will have a grasp of the legal framework within which they will live and work. Students will receive a business law orientation that will provide familiarity with legal concepts and terminology that they will encounter in their future careers.

Course Methodology:

The teaching of Business Law consists primarily of highly interactive presentations, Socratic interchange, small groups interaction and small case studies.

Computer Requirements:

In order to effectively participate in and successfully complete this course, each participant will need to have access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection. Please visit http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Information-Technology/Network/Minimum-Requirements for information on computer requirements.

Technical Skills Required:

None

Schedule of Weekly Assignments:

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignment(s)
1	*Aug. 30*	*Our System of Law* *Ethics and the Law*	*Read Chapters 1 & 2 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*
2	*Sep. 6*	*Tort Law* *Sales* *Business Organizations* *Bankruptcy*	*Read Chapters 4, 17, 20 and 21 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignment(s)
3	*Sep. 13*	*TEST* *Introduction to Contracts* *Offer and Acceptance*	*TEST 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 17, 20, 21); Read Chapters 7 & 8 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*
4	*Sep. 20*	*Mutual Agreement* *Consideration* *Competent Parties* *Legal Purpose of Contracts* *Form of Contracts* *Discharge of Contracts*	*Read Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*
5	*Sep. 27*	*TEST*	*TEST 2 (Chapters 7 thru 13 and 15)*
6	*Oct. 4*	*Introduction to Commercial Paper* *Transfer and Discharge of Commercial Paper* *Intellectual Property*	*Read Chapters 22, 23, and 28 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*
7	*Oct. 11*	*The Employer-Employee Relationship* *Employment Law* *Product Liability*	*Read Chapters 31, 32 and 33 and be prepared to discuss all questions at the end of the chapters.*
8	*Oct. 18*	*TEST*	*TEST 3 (Chapters 22, 23, 28, 31 thru 33)*

Grading:

Assignment	Grade %
TEST 1	25%
TEST 2	25%
TEST 3	30%
Attendance	10%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

Grade Mapping:
[In the table below, enter the specific range of points required to attain each letter grade. The percentages shown are general guidelines, these percentages can be adjusted if desired. Note that for graduate courses, grades of D+, D and D- are not typically given so those cells can be omitted in that case.]

Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade
	A (95-100%)		B- (80-82%)		D+ (67-70%)
	A- (90-94%)		C+ (77-79%)		D (63-66%)
	B+ (87-89%)		C (73-76%)		D- (60-63%)
	B (83-86%)		C- (70-72%)		F (<60%)

Assignment Grading Policies:

N/A

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance is expected for each class. You should be on time and fully prepared by having read and studied the textual material, and having prepared each of the homework assignments. An unexcused absence from class will result in 0 points for that class.

Participation in class will be a critical factor in your ability to succeed in this course. Students are required to read a substantial quantity of unfamiliar material in a relatively short period of time. By being mentally engaged in classroom discussion, you will more readily grasp the concepts and issues that are presented in your reading. In addition, a class with active participation becomes a learning team, rather than just a room full of individual students.

Instructor Responsibilities:

As your instructor I will provide information relevant to your understanding of the subject matter. I will facilitate a learning environment that is focused on the student and I will respond to all emails and phone calls in a timely manner.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Academic Honesty

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University and the School of Business and Nonprofit Management are committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion.

Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

In the special instance of group work, the instructor will make clear his/her expectations with respect to individual vs. collaborative work. A violation of these expectations may be considered cheating as well.
For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.

In conclusion, it is our mission to prepare each student for a life of significance and service. Honesty and ethical behavior are the foundation upon which such lives are built. We therefore expect the highest standards of each student in this regard.

Attendance Policy for Graduate Courses

The graduate courses in the SBNM are all 7 weeks in length. Missing one class session is allowed without penalty as long as all readings and assignments are made up by the student within a reasonable time

period (the following week). Failing to log into an online course site for an entire week is allowed, but a penalty may be applied at the instructor's discretion. Missing a second class session is allowed only in unusual circumstances by prior arrangement with the instructor. Since this represents almost 30% of the engagement time for the course, the student runs the risk of receiving a lower overall grade for the class. Faculty are encouraged to drop the course grade by a full letter grade in this situation. A student who misses three classes (or the equivalent for an online class) will automatically fail the course, unless the student drops the course before the seventh week of class. Students who drop a course will be held responsible for tuition, based upon the current North Park University policy outlined in the University Catalog (found on the NPU website).

Attendance Policy for Undergraduate Courses

Attendance and participation are vital. Thus, students are expected to attend every class session, and to arrive on time – tardiness is undesirable and disruptive to your fellow classmates. This course has a strict requirement of documented, advance notification. If you are unable to attend any class session, you are to inform me (preferably by email) ***prior to*** that session. You need to provide a reason for your absence. Failure to provide advance notification will result in an unexcused absence. Be advised that poor attendance can affect your grade adversely

APA Requirement

The School of Business and Nonprofit Management (SBNM) has adopted the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) as the standard and required format for all written assignments in SBNM courses.

Our goal in adopting the *APA Manual* is to enhance student learning by:

1) Improving student's writing skills.
2) Standardizing the required format of all written assignments in all SBNM courses.
3) Emphasizing the importance of paper mechanics, grammatical constructs, and the necessity of proper citations.
4) Holding students accountable for high quality written work.

If you are unfamiliar with the requirements of the *APA Manual*, we recommend that you purchase the reference manual and/or that you consult one or more of the suggested resources as listed on the Student Resources section of the SBNM website. ***It is your responsibility to learn and ensure that all written work is formatted according to the standards of the APA Manual.***

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact your program's office (Business: 773-244-6270). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website: http://www.northpark.edu/ada