

Los Angeles Mission College
Business Law
Syllabus Fall 2012
0147 Business 5 (UC:CSU) 3 Units

INSTRUCTOR: Norris (Rashe) Dorsey, Ed.D.
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COURSE DATES: Aug 28, 2012 to Dec 16, 2012
Tuesday & Thursday 9:05am to 10:30am Room Inst-2005

OFFICE HOURS: **Thursdays 10:35-11:15am and by Appointment**
Required Textbook:

Textbook: Clarkson, Miller, Jentz & Cross, West's Business Law: Text and Cases
(Thomson South-Western West, 12th edition, 2011)

Website information:

http://websites.swlearning.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20bI&flag=instructor&product_isbn_issn=9780324655223&discipline_number=404

<http://profj.us/currentclasses.htm>

COUSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with the basic principles of law that are applicable to business transactions and the legal system. Topics include social and legal forces that shape our government and business society. This course is designed to give the student an introduction to the various areas of law that pertain to business, and to teach the student to critically evaluate legal issues. Relevant topics will include criminal law, negligence theories, contracts, forms of business entities (including limited liability companies and corporations), agency, and employer-employee relationships. While not a specific topic, time in each class will be spent considering the international/global implications of the subject.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This survey course is designed to provide the business student with a basic understanding of the legal and regulatory environment in which business must operate. The intent of this course is not to create lawyers or legal experts, but rather to provide an introduction to fundamental principles of business law in such areas such as contracts, torts, employment issues and intellectual property. Business students, regardless of career focus, will undoubtedly be exposed to business situations that have significant legal implications. As such, the goal of this course is to provide the student

with tools he or she will need to make well thought out decisions and devise strategies, to recognize legal issues or impediments, and to react appropriately to situations as they arise.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Brief law cases in contracts including issues related to offer, acceptance, consideration, formation, defenses, breach, and damages.
2. Critically analyze and argue issues of contracts, the UCC, as it applies to contracts for sales of goods, Statute of Frauds, other defenses, and remedies for breach of contracts.
3. Students will demonstrate appropriate application of ethics in legal matters.

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of this course, students should expect

- To have acquired an introductory understanding of the vocabulary of the law, to be measured by quizzes.
- To have acquired a general understanding and awareness of government regulation of business and business transactions, to be measured by quizzes and the final exam.
- To be better equipped as a business person or manager to recognize legal issues and to manage legal risks in the business decision-making process and to apply the concepts learned to a practical business environment, to be measured by preparation of written legal reasoning and analysis exercise and final exam.
- To have learned basic analytical and critical thinking skills, based upon the reading materials and dialogue with other students, to be measured by final exam.
- To demonstrate their knowledge in the substantive law and procedures of contracts, including offer, acceptance, consideration, legality, enforceability, breach, damages, and the other essential elements of a contract, relevant contract forms, complaint for breach of contract
- "think critically" in law, and in the area of contracts and business law
- brief a law case in business law and contracts and prepare certain legal documents, forms or papers in the area of contracts

RECOMMENDED READINGS AND USEFUL BACKGROUND MATERIALS

West's California Codes or California Codes on the Internet (From the Legislative Counsel of California) <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html>

US Securities and Exchange Commission (Home Page) <http://www.sec.gov/>

U.S. Constitution <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.overview.html>

American Bar Association official Home Page <http://www.abanet.org/>

Useful free legal research site: <http://www.findlaw.com/>

Black's Law Dictionary.

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Norris Dorsey, Ed.D., is a college professor currently at University of Phoenix, Los Angeles Mission and Pierce College. Dr. Dorsey earned his Doctoral degree in Education (Organizational Leadership) from the University of La Verne. His background consists of theory, practice, and application, which include work experience, educational experience, and athletic experience. Dr. Dorsey's overall work experience is diversified and extensive in all areas of business, accounting, management, finance, sales and marketing, education, coaching, real estate, and banking.

He teaches various business classes such as: Accounting, Business, Management, Marketing, and Supervision. He also consults nonprofit organizations and small business owners on issues related to management, networking, leadership, accounting, and how to motivate employees. Dr. Dorsey's book *The Art of Inclusion* was released in March 2006 and is considered a guide for minority leadership and management positions. Dr. Dorsey's key belief is to make a difference in his student's lives inside and outside the classroom.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/READING REQUIREMENTS

(In the Units assigned below, concept summaries, questions and case problems are not assigned for "reading" assignments; however, they are strongly recommended as study aids. In-class work and outside assignments sometimes will be based on the problems in the textbook and variations of these problems.)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in class is required because it is necessary for class participation and discussion, which are essential ingredients for the learning process. More than two absences during the term will result in lowering of the student's grade by one point (e.g., a B grade will be lowered to a C, a C grade will be lowered to a D). A student who arrives more than 1/2 hour late for any class (without instructor permission) will be deemed to have missed 50% of that class session. Likewise, a student who leaves class more than 15 minutes before the end of a class session (without instructor permission) or fails to return to class after the break will be counted as having missed 50% of that class session. Any student who is "habitually tardy" (i.e. arriving between 10-15 minutes late for more than 4 class sessions) will be marked down as having missed 50% of one class session. Roll will be taken at each class session.

CLASS PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Within the constraints of the class time limitations, we will conduct in-class discussion and analysis exercises that will require the participation of all students. Students are expected to actively discuss assignments and legal issues raised in class. Therefore, all assignments must be prepared in advance of the class in order to gain the full benefit of the course. Students will be called upon in class to report and discuss assigned reading material.

GRADING

Students in this class will receive letter grades.

There will be four components to the students' final grade for the course:

- 1 One legal reasoning and analysis exercise, presented orally and in writing.
- 2 Two or Three quizzes.
- 3 A written short essay on a Business Law topic (of student's choice)
- 4 A written midterm & final examination.

Legal Reasoning and Analysis Exercise

At the end of each Unit in the assigned textbook, there are questions for discussion and analysis. Students will be required to prepare a short analysis of one of the problems, as assigned by the instructor. This will consist of a short (10-15 minute) explanation of the issue, relying upon the assigned reading material and class notes, which will be presented orally to the class at the next session. In addition to preparing the oral presentation, the student will prepare a short written (2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced) narrative and analysis of the question, with a summary of the issue(s) presented and arguments to be made to support the response.

Quizzes

Students will take two or three short quizzes (each approximately 30 minutes in length), based upon the material learned in the previous classes. Each quiz may be composed of multiple choice, true-and-false, short answer questions, and/or an essay response.

Short Essay

Each student will write a short essay on a business law topic of the student's choice (which will be approved by the instructor). The essay (consisting of approximately 1,500-3,000 words, approximately 3-5 pages in length, typed, double-spaced) will be evaluated for analytical thinking and understanding of the topic. In evaluating a student's performance, clarity of expression, correct grammar and spelling, and logical thought will count. In other words, a student who grasps the issues and concepts in his or her written work will be expected also to analyze these concepts clearly, logically and grammatically. To receive credit, the essay must be turned in at the beginning of class on **Tuesday Nov 20**. This essay is intended to supplement and as necessary may replace one class session that may have to be canceled.

Final Exam

At the last class session (**Maybe**), the instructor will distribute a take-home final examination. This final exam may be part short answer and part essay. It will include material that is covered in class that is not in the textbook. Students may consult their notes and written materials distributed in class to write the exam, as well as the course textbook. All essay answers to test questions must be supported by appropriate reasoning. In evaluating a student's performance, clarity of expression, correct grammar and spelling, and logical thought will count. In other words, a student who grasps the legal issues and concepts in his or her written work will be expected also to analyze these concepts clearly, logically and grammatically. The final exam must be turned in at or before the beginning of class on **Thursday, Dec 6**. (Email transmittal is preferred.)

A total of 100 percentage points can be earned through the critical analyses, quizzes, and the exam, to be distributed as follows:

Quizzes/Test 1 & 2	30% points total (15% each)
Legal Reasoning and Analyses	20% points total
Short Essay	20% points
Final	30% points
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Total	100% points

There will be no makeup sessions for any of the quizzes. If a student misses a quiz for any reason, the percentage assigned to that quiz for that student will be applied to the final exam. For example if a student misses one quiz, the final examination for that student will be worth 45%. If a student misses two quizzes, the final examination for that student will be worth 60%. (Missing quizzes is not recommended.) The Legal Reasoning and Analyses exercise will be accepted at any time before and up until Dec 4, but not after. The deadline for completion of the final examination is absolute.

The grading scale is:	A+ =100%	B = 85-88%	C-= 70-74%
	A = 95-99%	B-= 80-84%	D = 60-69%

A-= 90-94%
B+ =89%

C+ = 79%
C = 75-78%

F = below 60%

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are bound by the Code of Student Conduct to uphold high standards of conduct. This code requires students to act respectfully towards others and to adhere to the honor system. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism or cheating on exams) will not pass the course. We will specifically cover in class what constitutes plagiarism, but if you have any questions at all in this area, please discuss them with me.

SPECIAL CONCERNS

- Students should keep a copy of all assignments turned in for their own safeguards, if possible.
- Students interested in assistance or support in writing the critical analyses should contact the LA Mission college Academic Support Center, Director at 818-364-7600.
- Students who have a documented disability and require accommodations are encouraged to share relevant information with the instructor early in the course so that their learning needs may be met appropriately.

I am available before and after class for any individual questions or concerns and at the above e-mail address and telephone number.

Reading Assignments to be completed by:

***prior to class**

*Due to Instructor's travel schedule one class during the term may have to be cancelled. In such a case students will be given an outside exercise to do during the week when class would ordinarily have been held.

Date	Chapters/ Topics	Guest Speaker
Week 1	Unit 1	
Aug 28 & 30	Chapter 1 Intro to Law & Legal Reasoning An Introduction to Business Law, the Legal Environment of Business and International Law.	
Week 2	Labor Day	
Sept 4 & 6	Chapter 2	
	Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution	
Week 3	Last Day to Drop	
Sept 11 & 13	Chapter 3	Derek Tucker
	Court Procedures	David Figueroa Jr.
Week 4		
Sept 18 & 20	Chapter 4	
	Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business	
Week 5		
Sept 25 & 27	Chapter 5	
	Ethics and Business Decision Making	
Week 6	Unit 2	
Oct 2 & 4	Chapter 6	
	Intentional Torts and Privacy	
Week 7		
Oct 9 & 11	Chapter 7	
	Negligence and Strict Liability	
Week 8		
Oct 16 & 18	Chapter 8	Faye Tillery
	Intellectual Property and Internet Law	
Week 9	Chapter 9	
Oct 23 & 25	Criminal Law and Cyber Crime	
Week 10	Unit 3	
Oct 30 & Nov 1	Chapter 10	
	Nature and Terminology	
Week 11		
Nov 6 & 8	Chapter 11	
	Agreement in Traditional and E-Contracts	

Date	Chapters/ Topics	Guest Speaker
Nov 6 & 8	Chapter 11	
	Agreement in Traditional and E-Contracts	
Week 12		
Nov 13 & 15	Chapter 12	
	Consideration	
Week 13	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Nov 20 & 22	No Class	
Week 14		
Nov 27 & 29	Chapter 36 & 37	
	Sole Proprietorships and Franchises &	
	Partnerships and Limited Liability Partnerships	
Week 15		
Dec 4 & 6	Chapter 38	
	Limited Liability Companies and Special Business Forms	
Week 16	Final Exam Week	
Dec 11 & 13		
Week 17	Winter Break	
Dec 16 & 18		