FINANCE 240 – The Legal Environment of Business
FALL 2012
Sections 1, 2 & 6
HH 214

Instructor: Seth M Kaplowitz
E-Mail: skaplowitz@mail.sdsu.edu
Office: SSE-3369
Phone: 619.594.6844
[Email is best]

Course Objectives:  The goal of this course is to familiarize students with basic legal and ethical concepts that impact the business world. Students will develop a practical understanding of topics such as: alternative dispute resolution, criminal law, administrative agencies, contract law, labor law, torts, business organizations, securities regulation, antitrust law, real property, employment discrimination, environmental law and sustainability.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1) Identify and be familiar with the variety of statutory and case law affecting business entities and employers;
2) Assess the legal, monetary, and practical risks/benefits of doing business, both domestic and international;
3) Correctly apply laws in the work place that govern and foster positive employer-employee relations;
4) Know and abide by constitutional guidelines that set parameters for acceptable business conduct;
5) Make thoughtful, well-reasoned business decisions that promote the health and growth of one’s business; and
6) Professional Responsibility

Text:  The Legal Environment of Business: A Critical Thinking Approach
By Kubasek, Brennan & Browne (6th Edition)

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS AND POINT VALUES
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Reading Assignments: Complete noted text readings before each class. Be prepared to discuss chapter problems and/or cases when called upon. A lack of preparation will negatively affect your grade. Class participation is worth 100 points.

Midterm Exams: There are two midterms in this course. The first midterm will be given after completing Week 5. The second midterm will be given after completing Week 10. Each exam is worth 100 maximum points.

Final Exam: A final exam will be given during the designated week for finals. The final exam will cover material from Weeks 11-15. The final is worth 100 maximum points.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Week 1
Reading: Chapter 1 - Critical Thinking & Legal Reasoning
Discussion: Chpt 1: Case 1-1 (Martha Stewart)

Week 2
Reading: Chapter 2 – Intro to Law & the Legal Environment of Business
Chapter 3 – The American Legal System
Discussion: Chpt. 2: Review Qs 2-1, 2-4 & 2-6, and Review Prob 2-7
Chpt. 3: Review Q 3-1, and Review Prob 3-9

Week 3
Reading: Chapter 4 – Alternate Tools of Dispute Resolution
Chapter 5 – Constitutional Principles
Discussion: Chpt. 4: Review Q 4-3
Chpt. 5: Review Qs 5-1 & 5-6

Week 4
Reading: Chapter 6 – Cyberlaw and Business
Chapter 7 – White-Collar Crime and the Business Community

Discussion: Chpt. 6: Case 6-4 (Pillsbury), and Review Qs 6-2 & 6-4
Chpt. 7: Review Qs 7-2 & 7-5, and Review Prob 7-12

Week 5
Reading: Chapter 8 – Ethics, Social Responsibility, and the Business Manager
Chapter 9 – The International Legal Environment of Business

Discussion: Chpt. 8: Review Q 8-2, Review Prob 8-9
Chpt. 9: Review Q 9-3

Week 6
FIRST MID-TERM

Reading: Chapter 10 – The Law of Contracts and Sales I (Review UCC)

Discussion: Case 10-2 (Pamela Lee), Review Qs 10-1, 10-2, & 10-5, and Review Prob 10-11

Week 7
Reading: Chapter 11 – The Law of Contracts and Sales II

Discussion: Review Qs 11-2 & 11-5, and Review Prob 11-13

Week 8
Reading: Chapter 12 – The Law of Torts

Chapter 13 – Product and Service Liability Law

Discussion: Chpt. 12: Review Q 12-3, and Review Prob 12-8

Week 9
Reading: Chapter 14 – Law of Property: Real and Personal
Chapter 15 – Intellectual Property

Discussion: Review Qs 14-1 & 14-2, and Review Prob 14-8

Week 10
SECOND MID TERM EXAM
Reading: Chapter 16 – Agency Law
Chapter 17 – Law and Business Associations

Discussion: Chpt. 16: Review Qs 16-3 & 16-5, and Review Prob 16-9
Chpt. 17: Review Q 17-1, and Review Prob 17-10

Week 11

Reading: Chapter 19 – The Law of Administrative Agencies

Discussion: Review Qs 19-3 & 19-6

Week 12

Reading: Chapter 20 – The Employment Relationship
Chapter 21 – Law Governing Labor-Management Relations

Discussion: Chpt. 20: Case 20-3 (Fraser), Review Qs 20-1 & 20-3, and Review Prob 20-8
Chpt. 21: Review Qs 21-1 & 21-4, and Review Prob 21-10

Week 13

Reading: Chapter 22 – Employment Discrimination

Discussion: Review Qs 22-2 & 22-4, and Review Prob 22-10

Week 14

Reading: Chapter 23 – Environmental Law
Chapter 24 – Rules Governing the Issuance and Trading of Securities

Discussion: Chpt. 23: Review Q 23-2, and Review Prob 23-11
Chpt. 24: Review Qs 24-2 & 24-6

Week 15

Reading: Chapter 25 – Antitrust Laws

Discussion: Case 25-4 (Microsoft)

Reading: Chapter 26 – Laws of Debtor-Creditor Relations & Consumer Protection

Discussion: Review Q 26-3, and Review Prob 26-10
The final for 10:00 AM section is presently scheduled for DECEMBER 10TH at 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
The final for 11:00 AM section is presently scheduled for DECEMBER 12TH at 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
The final for 1:00 PM section is presently scheduled for DECEMBER 14TH at 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

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GRADING

Your final grade will be based on two midterm exams, a final exam, one case brief, three group exercises, and class participation/attendance. Exams will be calculated on a straight percentage method, not a curve.

Points will be tallied as follows:

1. Two midterm exams @ 100 each 200 points
2. Final exam 100 points
3. Class preparation/attendance 100 points
Total Possible Points 400 points

At the end of the course, you will have earned a maximum of 400 points. The total points will be divided by 400, giving a percentage. Your final grade is based on the percentage.

Pluses and minuses will be assigned to final grades.

The following is a policy of San Diego State University:
Undergraduate grades shall be: A, outstanding achievement; B, praiseworthy performance; C satisfactory performance; D minimally passing and F, failing. The grade for average undergraduate achievement shall be C.

ABSENCES/TARDINESS

It is imperative that you make a good faith effort to attend all classes. Attendance and class preparation will be factored into your grade.

Attendance will be taken at least three times during the semester--on random dates. I will not announce the dates in advance. If you are absent on those dates, 10 points will be deducted from your attendance category. Your absence affects your point total, so please try to come to class every day!

Please do not be late to class – it is very disruptive to the other students and myself. If you must leave class early, please let me know before class starts.
In addition, the use of mobile phones or devices during the time that class is in session is not only rude, but will result in the deduction of points. Laptop computers may be used for note taking or class work.

QUESTIONS OUTSIDE OF CLASS

If you have a question that was not answered in class, or have a special issue to discuss, I am available to discuss anything of importance to you by appointment. Please contact me by e-mail to schedule an appointment.

OFFICE HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT.

As a result of my teaching and work schedule I have not yet set specific office hours for drop in visits. I am hoping to arrange that shortly. Once I do I will notify everyone.

In addition, I will be setting up regular study/review sessions throughout the semester which will be on a first come appointment basis since the study room only holds 12 people.

I will make myself available to meet with your individual study groups as well. That too will need to be by appointment.