BA 200 BUSINESS LAW-LEGAL FOUNDATIONS  
Winter Quarter 2007

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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Text: Understanding the Law, Carper, Mietues, West, 4th Edition. The instructor recommends a legal dictionary but it is not required.

COURSE SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with legal problems and issues that occur in our society in general. This course will provide students with a general understanding of the law and how it related to business and our society. The course materials emphasize legal processes rather than substantive rules of law. We will attempt to cover the nature, development, and operation of law. Students will learn how the courts analyze disputes using legal reasoning and case analysis. We will also explore specific areas of law, such as, contracts, torts, constitutional law, and criminal procedure. Although this course is not limited to laws applicable to business transactions, much of this course is business related and students gain a better understanding of the interaction between law and business.

Due to the time limitations, it will be difficult to explore the various principles in-depth. Students should not expect to acquire the knowledge, skills, or experience needed to solve practical legal problems. By the end of this course, however, students should have a better understanding of how our complex legal system functions and how that system relates to business and society.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

To receive a passing grade in this course, students must complete all of the assignments and exams. Students must submit the assignments on the due dates. The instructor will grade each student individually on a possible total score of 300 points, which is structured as follows:

1. **Exams (50 points):** These two tests will be either a combination of true/false, short answers, or multiple choice. The exams are based on all of the assigned reading material regardless of whether or not we discuss the material in class. Tests may also cover handouts, material presented in class including but not limited to, lecture, videos, and guest lecturers. There will be no makeup exams.
   a. Midterm Exam (25 points)
   b. Final Exam (25 points)
2. **Law related article notebook (25 points):** Clip, photocopy, or download at least five articles from any current publication source that is less than one month old. For each article, in no more than one double spaced page, please briefly discuss how the subject matter of the article relates to a legal issue, a case or problem that we have studied or discussed in class. You may include any personal comments or questions that the article has raised. This notebook is due one week before your final exam.

3. **Field Trip assignment (25 points):** Visit any local King County Superior Court, District Court, or Municipal Court proceeding (civil or criminal), observe the proceedings for at least two hours and write a 2-3 page double spaced paper describing your observations. Please include your thoughts on the case or cases that you observed. You may include comparisons between what you have seen on television and what you observed in real life. Use the blue pages in the telephone book or visit Seattle Courts to get some basic information on the courts. This assignment is due the 8th week of class.

4. **Class participation:** In addition to the above-referenced grading criteria, the instructor does take into account the degree and quality of your class participation when he determines the final grades. If, for example, your final grade is on the borderline between a B and an A, your class participation may persuade me to give you the A if you have shown that you have made attempts to consistently participate in the class. Thus, class participation can only help your grade and it is highly recommended.

**COURSE RULES**

1. Class lectures are kept informal to facilitate discussion. Students should conduct their side conversations very quietly, they should keep those conversations to a minimum, and they should be related to the topic being discussed in class.

2. Students are expected to do their own work. Cheating of any type is prohibited and students who fail to comply with this requirement may be denied credit for the course. IF appropriate, the college may also impose other sanctions. Those wishing further clarification may seek advice from the instructor or consult their Student Handbook.

3. The instructor will not accept any late work and he will not give any make-up work or make-up exams. Attendance is strongly encouraged, though neither required nor recorded. Students are encouraged to study all assigned readings before class because performance on class assignments and on exams are directly related to the student's knowledge of the text reading materials.
4. Students are encouraged to discuss concerns or class problems, if any, with the instructor. The instructor is available throughout the Quarter to discuss the student's current approximate grade and ways to improve the grade.

5. Students with special needs should contact Disable Student Services (DSS) and notify the instructor during the first week of the course. DSS will evaluate your specific needs and issue an Accommodation Memorandum as needed. If the student does not do the above, it is assumed that the student does not have a disability requiring some form of an accommodation.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1
Chapter 1 - Introduction to Law.

Week 2
Chapter 2 - Our Constitution.

Week 3
Chapter 3 - The Court System.

Week 4
Chapter 4 - The Attorney-Client Relationship.

Week 5
Chapter 6 - Criminal Law.

Week 6
Chapter 6 continued
Midterm review

Week 7
Midterm
Chapter 7 - Torts.

Week 8
Chapter 7 - Torts continued
Chapter 8 - Contracts.
Field Trip assignment due

1 All test and assignment shown above in this syllabus are tentative and subject to change upon notice given during class. The instructor may give additional assignments in class throughout the quarter. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed as to any announced assignments or schedule changes. If a student cannot attend a class, be sure to get any missed information from a classmate or contact the instructor.
Week 9
Holiday
Chapter 8 - Contracts continued

Week 10
Chapter 9 - Family Law.
Law article notebook due

Week 11
Chapter 11 - Renters and Landlords.

Week 12
Review
Final Exam