BUSINESS AND PUBLIC LAW

2301.HO2

Class Meetings:

TTH – 11:30 – 12:45

Classroom:

JSOM 12.222

Professor:

Matt Polze
JSOM 4.233
972-883-4742
polze@utdallas.edu

Office Hours:

M,T,W,TH
1:00-4:00
Or By Appointment

Important Dates:

Exam #1: 9/22

Exam #2: 10/27

Exam #3: 12/6

Writing Assignments:
Due Weekly on Tuesdays

Please note: All policies, dates and assignments in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.



What will I get out of this class? (Course Objectives) Appendix B of this syllabus contains detailed course objective information

This class will provide you with an opportunity to develop several skills. These include:

- Understanding basic legal issues faced by businesses
- Enhancement of communication skills
- Enhancement of critical thinking skills
- Understanding of ethical considerations in legal issues

How will I develop the skills mentioned above?

A study and discussion of court cases, statutory law, administrative law, and current events that are impacted by the law will help develop these skills. The discussions in class provide an opportunity to improve oral communication and listening skills, and the written assignment(s) will provide an opportunity to enhance your writing skills.

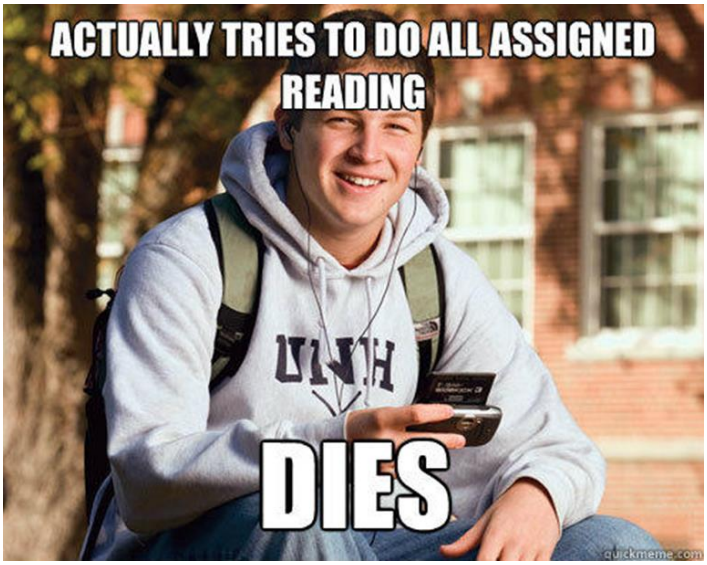
The issues raised in discussions will challenge you to think critically not only about what the law is, but also about what it should be. These discussions will also present opportunities to explore the intersection of law and ethics.

What legal topics will I learn about in this class?

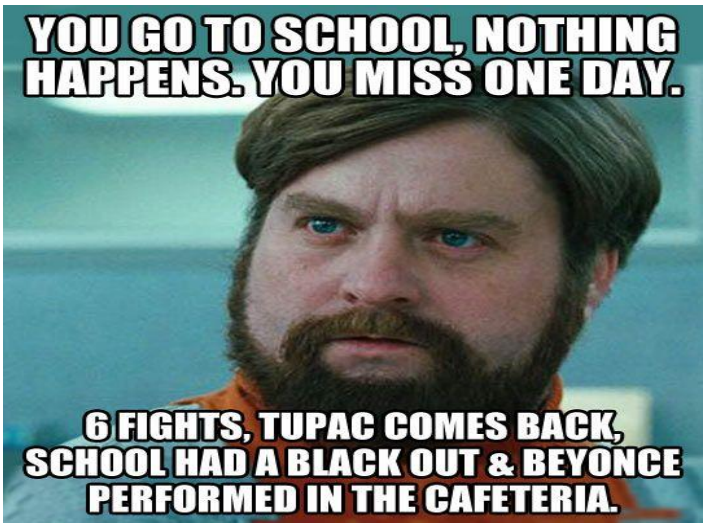
This class will cover a wide range of legal topics. Some of the topics covered include: the basic legal system, the Constitution, torts, negligence, contracts, agency, employment law, employment discrimination and choice of business entity.

Do you have any recommendations for how I can do well in your class?

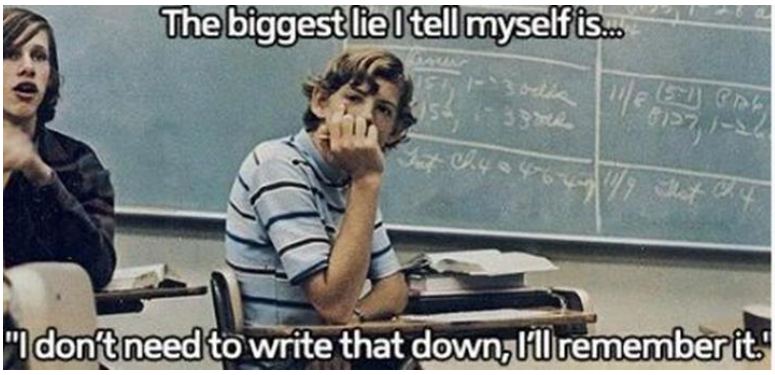
Thank you for such a great and insightful question, and I do have several recommendations for how you can succeed in this class.



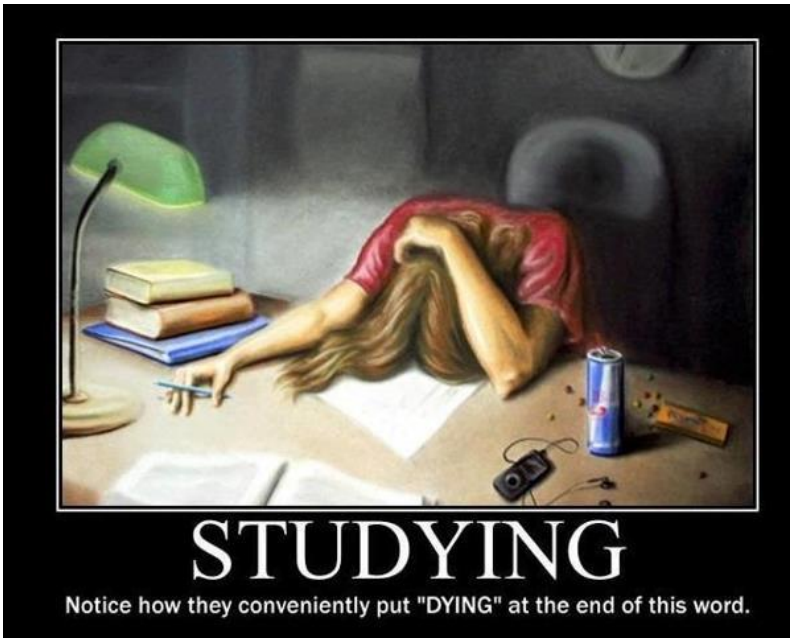
Do the reading before class – it won't kill you!



Coming to class will maximize your chances for success.



Take notes and be actively engaged in class. PowerPoints are available on elearning.



Study regularly. Work the practice problems available on the MindTap site. Ask questions.



Pay particular attention to directions on writing assignments and on exams. Failure to follow directions can result in a zero.

Do I need the textbook? Can I use an older version? Can I save money and use my roommate's calculus book for business law?

I highly recommend having the current edition of the textbook for this class. The textbook for this class is a bundle that consists of a loose-leaf version of the textbook as well as a digital edition. The digital version of the textbook includes a great number of practice questions and other tools that will help in your preparation for the exams. I encourage you to utilize them. There is also a textbook information sheet posted on elearning and included as Appendix A to this syllabus that provides detailed information regarding the textbook.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

Beatty/Samuelson - Bundle: Business Law and the Legal Environment, Standard Edition, Loose-leaf Version, 7th + MindTap® Business Law, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card

1/5/2015 © 2016

7th Edition Z

You can purchase the textbook directly from the publisher's website:

http://services.cengagebrain.com/course/site.html?id=1154764

You can also purchase the textbook at the campus bookstore or at bookstores near campus.

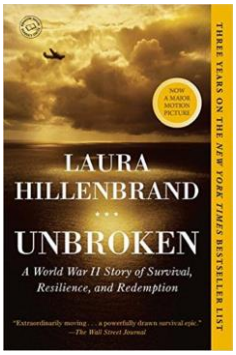
Detailed information about both purchasing options is included in Appendix A to this syllabus.

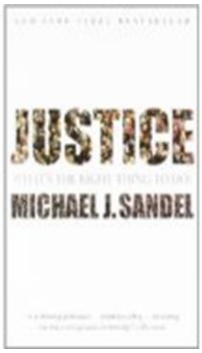
I also highly recommend reading anything that will keep you up to date on current events around the world.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED BOOKS:

(Links are to Amazon, but feel free to get them wherever you can find the best deal)

Summer Readings: Complete Prior to First Day of Class

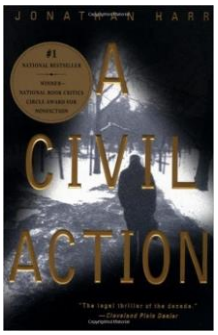


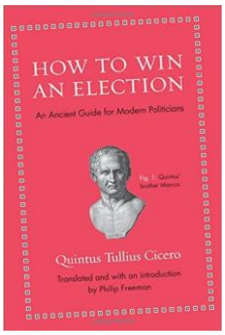


Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Justice by Michael J. Sandel

Complete Prior to Exam #1:

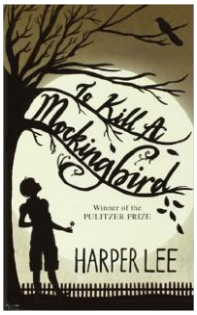


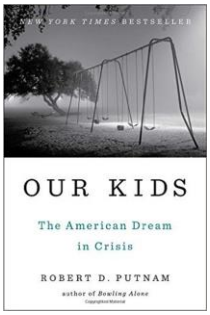


A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr

How to Win An Election: An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians Translated by Philip Freeman

Complete Prior to Exam #2:

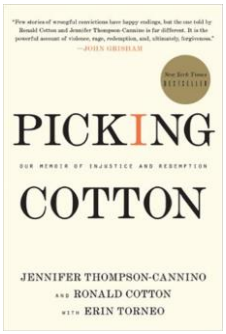


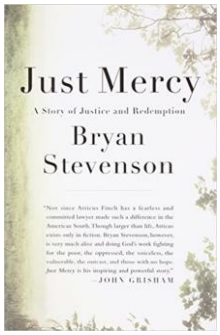


To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis by Robert D. Putnam

Complete Prior to Exam #3:





Picking Cotton by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

How will I be graded in this course?

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on four graded elements. Those elements are:

Exam #1	200 Points	September 22nd
Exam #2	200 Points	October 27th
Exam #3	200 Points	December 6th
Writing Assignments	10 Points Each (approx 15)	Each Tuesday
Total Points	**750 Points (approximate)**	

What is the format of the tests and the writing assignment?

The exams will be given in class (with occasional take-home portions), and they will be some combination of essays, multiple choice, true/false, short answers, and other types of questions. Each exam will be worth 200 points. Exams are not cumulative.

The writing assignments will be one page writing assignments on a wide-range of topics. Each one is worth 10 points. They will generally be due each Tuesday. Specific details will be provided in class.

Is there a curve in this class?

This class is graded on the curve outlined below. Please note, this is an approximation of what the curve will look like at the conclusion of the semester. Students are ranked by total points earned.

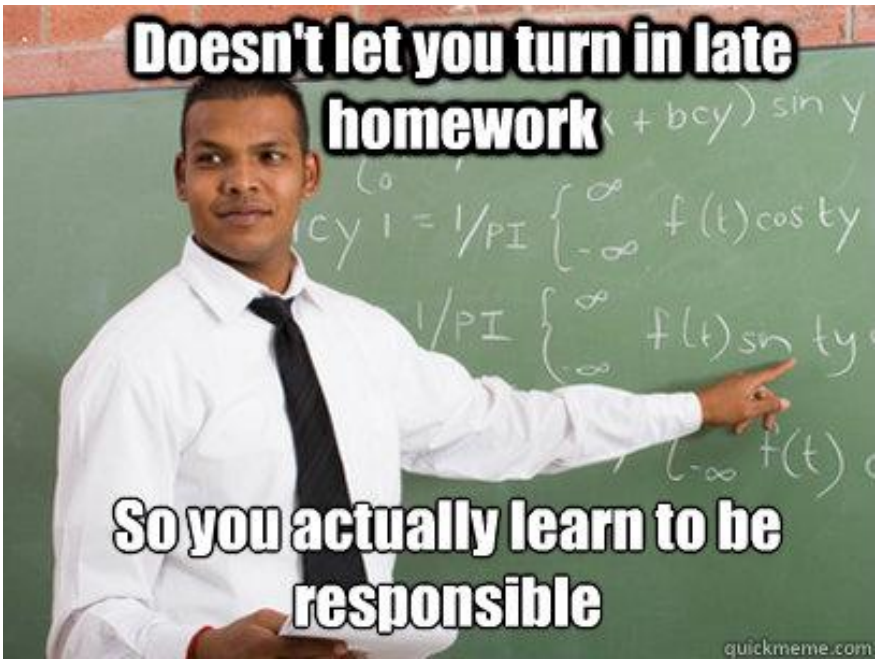
Percentage Of Class	Letter Grade
Top 25%	A
Next 10%	A-
Next 10%	B+
Next 10%	B
Next 10%	B-
Next 5%	C+
Next 5%	C
Next 5%	C-
Next 5%	D+
Next 5%	D
Next 5%	D-
Bottom 5%	F

Are there any extra credit opportunities or additional assignments that I can do to boost my grade?



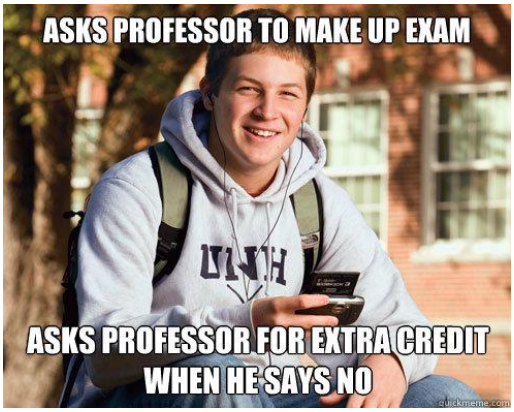
No extra credit is offered. Do well on the "Regular Credit".

Should I turn in assignments late or come to an exam late?



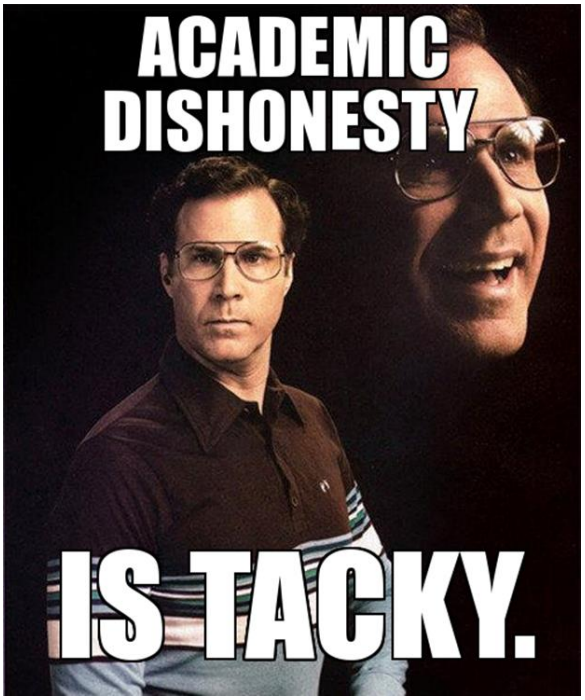
Late assignments are not accepted. If late to an exam you lose one point for each minute you are late. If you arrive after any student has completed the exam, you will receive a zero.

Should I ask for a makeup exam?



Makeup exams are only given for very compelling reasons and with proper documentation.

I have heard business and public law is pretty hard. Is it a good idea to cheat in this class?



Don't cheat. Academic dishonesty will be reported to Judicial Affairs. Academic dishonesty is discussed in the University policies link: http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/

My recommendation to Judicial Affairs for acts of Academic dishonesty on an exam will be for an F in the course, and my recommendation to Judicial Affairs for Academic dishonesty on a writing assignment will be for a grade of zero on the writing assignment.

Can you give us a calendar so we can stay on top of assignments and readings?



Please Note: These items (including test and writing assignment due dates) are subject to change!!!

PLEASE NOTE: Additional topics will be added if time permits!

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Introduction to Course and Syllabus No Reading Assignment	24	25 Introduction to Law Chapter 1 *Plessy v. Ferguson* *Brown v. Board of Education*	26	27
28	29	30 Introduction to Law Chapter 1	31			

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility Chapter 2	**2**	**3**
4	**5** **Labor Day** **No Class**	**6** Common Law, Statutory Law, and Administrative Law Chapter 4	**7**	**8** Constitutional Law Chapter 5	**9**	**10**
11	**12**	**13** Dispute Resolution Chapter 6	**14**	**15** Intentional Torts and Business Torts Chapter 8	**16**	**17**
18	**19**	**20** Negligence, Strict Liability, Product Liability Chapter 9	**21**	**22** **Exam #1 - Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9** **Format will be discussed in class**	**23**	**24**
25	**26**	**27** Introduction to Contracts Chapter 11	**28**	**29** The Agreement: Offers and Acceptances Chapter 12	**30**	

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	**3**	**4** Consideration Chapter 13 Legality Chapter 14	**5**	**6** Voidable Contracts: Capacity and Consent Chapter 15	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11** Written Contracts Chapter 16	**12**	**13** Third Parties Chapter 17	**14**	**15**
16	**17**	**18** Performance, Breach and Discharge Chapter 18	**19**	**20** Performance, Breach and Discharge Chapter 18	**21**	**22**
23	**24**	**25** Remedies Chapter 19	**26**	**27** **Exam #2** **Chapters 11-19** **Format will be discussed in class**	**28**	**29**
30	**31**					

NOVEMBER

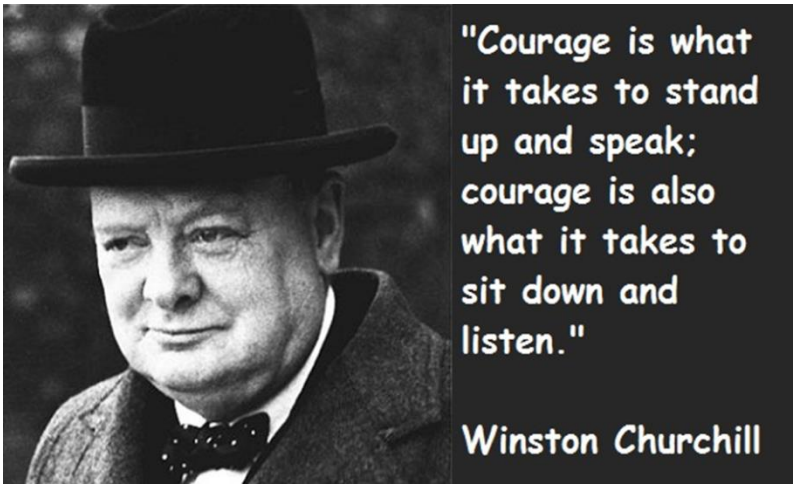
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Agency Law Chapter 28	**2**	**3** Agency Law Chapter 28	**4**	**5**
6	**7**	**8** Employment and Labor Law Chapter 29 Election Day 	**9**	**10** Employment and Labor Law Chapter 29	**11**	**12**
13	**14**	**15** Employment Discrimination Chapter 30	**16**	**17** Employment Discrimination Chapter 30	**18**	**19**
20	**21** **No Class**	**22** **No Class**	**23** **No Class**	**24** **No Class**	**25** **No Class**	**26**
27	**28**	**29** Starting a Business: LLCs and Other Options Chapter 31	**30**			

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Crime Chapter 7	2	3
4	5	6 **Exam #3** **Chapters 28-31 and Chapter 7** **Format will be discussed in class**	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

PLEASE NOTE: Additional topics will be added if time permits! Dates are subject to change!!!!

It sounds like we are going to talk about some pretty Interesting and/or controversial topics in class. How should we treat each other during these discussions?



Be civil and respect others' opinions even if you might disagree with them.

Are there University Policies that I should know about that apply to me while taking this class?



You are bound by all University of Texas at Dallas Policies and Procedures. The Policies and Procedures can be found at the following link: http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/

This syllabus has been so helpful and fun to read. I learned so much because it was so detailed. I assume in class you will give us all the answers, right?



Appendix A: Textbook Information

There are two options for purchasing the required business and public law textbook for the fall 2016 semester. You are welcome to use either option, and I encourage you to select the one that works best for you (i.e. saves you the most money). You can purchase the required text directly from the publisher's website or from a bookstore on or near campus. Both options are explained below.

The required textbook for Business and Public Law (BLAW 2301) for fall 2016 is a bundle that consists of a loose-leaf version of the textbook as well as a digital edition. This bundle is being offered at a negotiated price that is better than what the publisher would be able to offer to students for either one alone.

The digital edition also includes a resource from the publisher called MindTap™ which includes many helpful features:

- Practice problems
- Flashcards
- Ability to highlight in the text
- Ability to write notes in the text
- You can have the text read to you
- Searchable text

This document provides the basic information for getting you the text that you need as well as information on how to access the MindTap™ resources.

The last page of this document contains links to videos that explain how to access MindTap™ and how to use its features. I have also included contact information should you have any questions.

Continued on Next Page

TWO OPTIONS FOR PURCHASING BOOK

Option #1: Purchase Directly From Publisher's Website

Please Note: If you purchase from the publisher's website, there are no refunds. However, there is a 21 day grace period on MindTap™ that allows you to access the digital edition of the product before making a purchase.

Step 1: Visit the publisher's website for this class:

http://services.cengagebrain.com/course/site.html?id=1154764

Step 2: At the link above, you will see a green button on the right about halfway down the page labeled "+Add to Cart."

Step 3: Add the required textbook to your cart and complete your purchase.

Step 4: After you complete your purchase, you will automatically be directed to login.cengagebrain.com. The loose leaf version of the book will be mailed to you.

Step 5: At login.cengagebrain.com register as a new user or login if you already have a Cengage Learning account.

Step 6: Once you have logged into cengagebrain.com enter course key**MTPN-MMFP-X1L4** to access the course. You will now have access to MindTap™.

Step 7: **System Check**

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using MindTap™, go to http://ng.cengage.com/static/browsercheck/index.html

Please Note: the System Check is also accessible in the drop down box next to your name located in the upper right corner of your MindTap™ page.

Option #2: Purchase From a Bookstore on or Near Campus

Please Note: Policies regarding refunds are set by the bookstores. Be sure to check with them if this is a concern of yours.

Step 1: Purchase the loose-leaf version of the textbook at the bookstore of your choice. The loose-leaf version of the textbook will include an access code for you to be able to access the digital version.

Step 2: Go to login.cengagebrain.com

Step 3: Once on login.cengagebrain.com register as a new user or sign in if you already have a Cengage Learning account.

Step 4: Enter Course Key **MTPN-MMFP-X1L4** and the purchased Access Code that was included with your loose-leaf textbook.

Step 5: **System Check**

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using MindTap™, go to http://ng.cengage.com/static/browsercheck/index.html

Please Note: the System Check is also accessible in the drop down box next to your name located in the upper right corner of your MindTap™ page.

In case you would like to verify that you are getting the correct book from the bookstore, I have included the ISBN information below. You will not need this information if you order directly from the publisher's website because the link in option #1 above takes you directly to the required text.

Beatty/Samuelson - Bundle: Business Law and the Legal Environment, Standard Edition, Loose-leaf Version, 7th + MindTap® Business Law, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card

ISBN-10: 1305717090
ISBN-13: 9781305717091
1/5/2015 © 2016
7th Edition Z

Videos and Contact Information

Videos Produced by Textbook Publisher:

Signing up for your digital resource: http://screencast.com/t/3tW0Awrk

Using MindTap™ Ebook features: http://screencast.com/t/g54RslaLi

Using MindTap™ Apps: http://screencast.com/t/hh6fnhtD87

Completing Assignments in MindTap™: http://screencast.com/t/KtI74QpfzM

Contact Information for Questions:

You can always feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. My email address is polze@utdallas.edu and my office phone number is 972-883-4742.

If you have questions regarding access to MindTap™ or purchasing the text from the publisher's website you can contact:

Call: 1-866-994-2427 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Time

24 hour chat: cengage.com/support

Create a Tech Support Ticket (the button to create is on the right above the "Critical Issues" section of the website):

http://support.cengage.com/magellanweb/ClassLandingPage.aspx?optyId=1-22OJPXV

Appendix B: Course Description and Learning Objectives

Course Description	The law and the public policy behind the law impact our everyday lives. Laws are a key component to an orderly functioning society. The business community is greatly impacted by laws, public policy, and legal regulation. As future members of the business community, and as future business leaders, it is critical to have an understanding of the ways in which laws, public policy, and legal regulation impact the business environment. Current events will be featured prominently in class lectures and discussions. An understanding of current events can help to place the material we learn in a "real-world" context.
Learning Objectives	1. **Understand basic legal issues faced by businesses** • Businesses face wide-ranging legal challenges • An appreciation of legal issues will allow you to be a more effective manager, employer, employee or business owner • Knowledge of legal issues can also help to reduce potential liability – both personally and for a business • An appreciation of the impact of current events on business law is critical for success • Development of an understanding of these concepts will be shown on exams and in the writing assignment(s) 2. **Enhancement of Communication Skills** • Through class participation and discussion your communication skills will be developed and improved • The writing assignment(s) will allow you to enhance your written communication skills 3. **Use of Critical Thinking** • You should be able to understand and apply legal concepts that influence the lives and decisions of individuals and businesses on a day-to-day basis. • The course will focus on the following areas: o Torts o Negligence o Contracts o Agency o Employment Discrimination o Choice of Entity 4. **Understand Ethical Considerations Involved in Legal Issues** • You should have an understanding of the ethical issues involving legal topics that confront both individuals and businesses on a day-to-day basis • You should also understand that laws and morality do not always intersect perfectly

Appendix C: Photo Credits in Order of Appearance

Eagle Picture:
http://www.lightheadedbeds.com/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/3/0/30036-00-rfr-eagle_with_flag_and_constitution_1600px.jpg
Does All the Reading:
http://s2.quickmeme.com/img/ee/ee773578f4bbb5b3dc6084d1ceffda162ecc33f3644f4a02d17fbc0fccc27859.jpg
Goes to Class, Usually
https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwii3trv5KXNAhVC2yYKHSfVC_YQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnotalwayslearning.com%2Fcategory%2Fextras%2Fpage%2F118&bvm=bv.124272578,d.eWE&psig=AFQjCNHjWFA0AyzOo_Ev90xjHp-Lz9DFfw&ust=1465934202565670
Biggest lie I tell myself….
http://bemoxie.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Screen-Shot-2015-01-25-at-9.27.10-PM.png
Studying……
http://accountingprofessor.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/studying-meme.jpg
Didn't Follow Directions….
http://s2.quickmeme.com/img/7b/7b6e8ac65fc63cea435c718d13bf445ee4242ddcdd6f3c0dfe0d72d37545c63e.jpg
Extra Credit
https://i.imgflip.com/izsk2.jpg
Doesn't let you turn in late homework…
http://s2.quickmeme.com/img/09/097990d7e11affffb012d31fc8420c90d222783f427561c01876e5e793fa789.jpg
Makeup Exams
http://s2.quickmeme.com/img/c1/c1d52193aba241288655c08bdefbd3411ca229b4b345dc308ee784df324b8559.jpg
Academic Dishonesty
http://weknowmemes.com/generator/uploads/generated/g1376847872639742484.jpg
Calendar
http://d2ws0xxnnorfdo.cloudfront.net/meme/331274
Churchill on Courage
https://anakalianwhims.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/winston-churchill-quotes-5.jpg
Rules
http://cdn.meme.am/instances/52836555.jpg
Good Teacher
https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/9e/35/1d/9e351d72983208169002b18a658b4816.jpg