

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

BUL 3130 – LEGAL AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

FALL 2004

- Instructor** : Carl Pacini, Ph.D., J.D., C.P.A., C.F.S.A.
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- Office Hours**: Mondays and Wednesdays 10 am to noon
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am to 11 am
- Classroom** : AB3-110
- Class Times** : Tuesday and Thursday--11 am to 12:15 pm
- Last Day to Withdraw** : October 29, 2004
- Final Exam Date** : To be announced
- Required Materials** : *The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business*, 13th edition, by Corley, Reed, Shedd & Morehead
- Suggested Materials** : None

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THIS SYLLABUS. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE THAT I COULD ASK YOU AN EXAM QUESTION THAT IS BASED ON MATERIAL IN THIS SYLLABUS.

**COURSE
DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the contemporary legal and ethical environment of business. Topics covered include the legal system, ethics, constitutional law, criminal and civil law, intellectual property, environmental law, contracts, and agency and employment law. A principal feature of the course is to investigate ethical dilemmas arising in the business environment and to develop critical thinking abilities for application to various contemporary legal problems.

**COURSE
OBJECTIVES :**

This course is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To introduce the student to intellectual property law;
2. To gain an understanding of the significance of the legal system in making decisions and solving business problems;
3. To gain an appreciation of the Internet and other databases, such as Lexis-Nexis;
4. To acquaint the student with legal and ethical principles relevant to business enterprises;
5. To underscore the importance of the role of law in international business including international trade agreements, resolving international disputes, and risks involved in international trade;
6. To learn planning and analytical skills and communication skills;

**PROGRAM
OUTCOMES :**

This course is designed to help the student achieve the following outcomes:

1. To encourage and promote critical thinking, a skill necessary to succeed today as a professional. This means each student should be able to comprehend an unfocused set of facts, identify, and if possible, anticipate problems, and find acceptable solutions;
2. To improve the student's communication skills. Each student should be able to locate, obtain, and organize information from both human and electronic sources. Each student will also learn to defend his or her views through written work;
3. To enhance the student's interpersonal skills. Cooperative learning or working in teams is one key way of promoting achievement of this outcome; and
4. To gain an appreciation of the impact of geographical diversity on various organizations.

**CORE
COMPETENCIES:**

In addition to the program outcomes noted above, this course promotes the following core competencies:

1. Acquisition of a global perspective by each student to help their future employers (or their own businesses) better compete in international and domestic markets;
2. Development of an ability to formulate decisions that integrate practical, economic and ethical considerations; and
3. Appreciation of the vagaries and uncertainties of real life business situations and the importance of life-long learning.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance and completion of assignments are considered minimum requirements for all students. Penalties may be assessed in the final determination of your course grade for unreasonable deficiencies in either or both of these requirements. The penalty may take the form of a reduction in letter grade, the assignment of a failing grade or a grade of incomplete. This penalty assessment policy applies regardless of performance on written examinations and the form of the penalty is at the discretion of the instructor.

Also, please note that 70 points toward your final grade involves attendance. Each student starts the semester with 70 points for attendance. Each time you miss class after two absences you lose 7 points from your attendance grade. The instructor retains the discretion to approve excuses on a case-by-case basis. If you miss class for a medical reason, do not ask the instructor to be excused without written documentation from a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. Participation in FGCU team athletic events is also a reasonable excuse for missing class.

GRADING : **Each student starts this class with an A. It is your job to keep it.**

Two exams will be given in this course. Each exam will consist of objective questions and possibly short-answer essays. The final exam may be cumulative or comprehensive.

A series of quizzes will be given in this course. A quiz may be announced or unannounced. A quiz may also be given before text material is discussed in class but after it is assigned for reading. Each quiz is worth 10 to 20 points. A student who is not in class when a quiz is given will receive a zero for that quiz.

Each student's grade will be based on the following:

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Quizzes	50 points
Team Research Paper	100 points
Homework	80 points
Attendance/Participation	<u>70 points</u>
Total Points	500 points

The grading scale for final grades is:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	460-500
A-	445-459
B+	435-444
B	415-434
B-	395-414
C+	385-394
C	350-384
D	300-349
F	Below 300

Any grade challenge to a test, quiz, homework assignment, project or assignment of any kind must be in writing to be considered. An oral or verbal grade challenge will not even receive consideration. It will be dismissed out of hand even if it is correct. A written grade challenge (even for 1 point) must clearly describe what is being challenged and provide a rational basis for the challenge.

Make-up exams will not be given without the instructor's approval. If you miss an exam without a reason approved by the instructor, you may receive a "0". The instructor's discretion is final. If you hand in the Video Case Project or a homework assignment late, you may have points deducted from your grade.

Please bear in mind that you are responsible for all material assigned even if it is not covered in a class lecture. You are also responsible for material presented in class that is not covered in the textbook. You are also responsible for any outside reading material assigned by the instructor. Questions on outside reading material may show up on an exam.

HOMEWORK

ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student is responsible for writing answers to the problems assigned at the end of the chapters. The instructor will collect homework answers. The maximum number of points for any given assignment is 10. You may receive up to 80 points from homework assignments. Points are awarded based on a reasonable effort put forth by the student not on the correctness of answers. **ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE WORD-PROCESSED. HANDWRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

SEMESTER TERM

PAPER:

Students, in groups of 2-5 persons (individual papers not permitted), must complete a research paper on one of the following topics (the topics selected are related to the fact that is a presidential election year and are part of constitutional law):

- Why the electoral college should be abolished
- Why the electoral college should be kept
- Why the U.S. president should only serve one 6-year term
- Why the U.S. president should be elected for two 4-year terms
- Why the non-U.S. citizen detainees at Guantonomo should be allowed access to U.S. federal courts to challenge their incarceration
- Why the non-U.S. citizen detainees at Guantonomo should not be allowed access to U.S. federal courts to challenge their incarceration

The paper must be a minimum of 10 pages (double-spaced with no more than 12 point font). Each paper should contain at least 7 references with no more than 4 website citations. Court cases, treaties, statutes, etc., count as references. The due date is December 2, 2004. You may earn 5 bonus points if you turn the completed project in on or before November 30, 2004. Any paper turned in late may lead to the assessment of a penalty in the grade received.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Ch. 1 – Law as the Foundation of Business (pp. 1-21)

6,8,9,11,13,15

Ch. 3 – The Court System (pp. 57-82)

2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8,

Ch. 4—The Litigation Process (pp. 85-110)

2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13,
17

Ch. 2 – The Ethical Basis of Law and Business Management 3, 4, 5, 8, 10,13
(pp. 25-54)

Ch. 6– The Constitution and Business (pp. 143-172) 2, 3, 6, 9, 10

Ch. 10—The Criminal Law and Business (pp.287-316) 3,5,6,7,12,14,15
16,19

EXAM 1—Chs. 1,2,3,4,6,10 and any assigned outside readings

Ch. 8—Principles of Contract Law (pp. 215-249) 2,5,7,8,11,14,15,
16

Ch. 11 – Corporate Governance and Business Organizations (pp. 321-344) 8,9,11,12,15,16

Ch. 9—Torts in the Business Environment (pp. 255-282)	3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12
Ch. 17 – Environmental Laws and Pollution Control (pp. 507-537)	1,3,5,6,10,12
Ch. 15-Discrimination in Employment (pp.445-472)	1, 2, 4, 7, 9
Ch. 7—The Property System (pp. 177-211)	1,2,9,11,13, 14,16

EXAM 2—Chs. 7,8,9,11,15,17 and any assigned outside readings

The syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor as circumstances warrant.

ETHICS : Ethics have become an extremely important topic in today's environment. An accountant's only product is his/her service which is measured by his/her integrity and professionalism. It is expected that no academic dishonesty will occur. Cheating on any assignment will be pursued according to the appropriate procedures outlined in the Student Conduct Code. Cheating includes plagiarism on any of the assigned projects.

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found under the Student Code of Conduct on page 11, and under Policies and Procedures on pages 18-24 of the Student Guidebook. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodation to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request accommodations in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Multi-Access Services. The Office of Multi-Access Services is located in the Student Services Building, Room 214. The phone number is (941) 590-7925.