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Fall 9-1-2006

BUS 135T.01: Business Law

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: U 135T BUSINESS LAW
REVISED: Spring 2006
CREDITS: 3

PREREQUISITES: NONE

FACULTY:

Teresa Melcher Thompson, J.D.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview of law as it applies to business transactions. Topics include the nature and source of law; courts and procedure; contracts; sales and employment; commercial paper; bailments; property; business organizations; insurance; wills and estate planning; consumer and creditor protection; torts; criminal law; and agency law.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize ethical issues when they arise in business situations.
2. Describe relevant sources of law relating to criminal and civil justice procedure.
3. Analyze business transactions to determine need for legal intervention.
4. Interpret how different areas of the law apply to varying business transactions, such as contracts, landlord/tenant, consumer protection, tort liability, employment, and agency.
5. Be familiar with the Uniform Commercial Code.
6. Distinguish among various business organizational forms.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Final grade in this course will be determined from points earned through frequent quizzes, a midterm examination, and a final examination.

Each quiz and exam will be graded in an objective manner through use of a point allocation system and weight factoring formula.

Assignments will be posted weekly. Students are encouraged to use the course study guide and complete the pages related to each chapter. Most quiz and test questions will come from the study guide - and the answers are all provided in the back of the guide! Quizzes and tests will be open book, timed, and available over a period of at least two days, so you may take them according to your schedule.

GRADE SCALE:

A: 100-90%
B: 89-80%
C: 79-70%
D: 69-60%
F: below 60%

Quizzes: 50% of final grade; mid-term: 20% of final grade; final examination: 30% of final grade.

Grades will be posted in the grade book throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor with any questions regarding grades.

If any student requires special consideration for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to contact faculty to discuss the matter prior to any situation which might give rise to the special consideration requested.

Neither quizzes nor exams can be "made up" unless the student discusses the matter with the instructor, either by phone or in writing, at least two days prior to the scheduled time for the exam. It is the student's responsibility to discuss the matter with the instructor. Just sending an e-mail and/or leaving a voice message will not satisfy this requirement.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Brown and Sukys, Business Law with UCC Applications, 11th edition, published by Glencoe (McGraw-Hill) and Study Guide

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS:

As announced and/or distributed by faculty.

Nature of Course:

Many different business law topics are discussed to provide the greatest overview of the law. As a result, each "class" will consist of a posted "lecture" that will lead the student through the assigned chapters' concepts and highlights with emphasis on practical application of the theories.

Topics covered:

I. Ethics, Law, and the Judicial System

- A. Ethics
- B. Sources of the Law
- C. Criminal Law
- D. Tort Law

II. Contract Law

- A. The Nature, Characteristics, and Status of Contracts
- B. Offer and Acceptance
- C. Mutual Assent and Defective Agreement
- D. Contractual Capacity
- E. Consideration
- F. Legality
- G. Form of the Agreement
- H. Third Parties in Contract Law

III. Sales and Consumer Protection

- A. Sales and Leases of Goods
- B. Title and Risk of Loss in Sales of Goods
- C. Performances and Breach of the Sales Contract
- D. Warranties and Product Liability
- E. Consumer Protection

IV. Property

- A. Personal Property
- B. Real Property
- C. Landlord and Tenant
- D. Wills, Intestacy, and Trusts

V. Negotiable Instruments

- A. Nature and Kinds of Negotiable Instruments
- B. Drafting and Negotiating Instruments
- C. Holders in Due Course, Defenses, and Liabilities
- D. Bank Deposits, Collections, and Depositor Relationships

VI. Insurance, Secured, Transactions, and Bankruptcy

- A. The Nature of the Insurance Contract
- B. Mortgages and Other Security Devices
- C. Bankruptcy and Debt Adjustment

VII. Agency and Employment

- A. The Principal and Agent Relationship
- B. Operation and Termination of Agency
- C. Employment Law

D. Labor-Management Relations Law

VIII. Business Organization and Regulation

- A. Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships
- B. Corporate Formation and Finance
- C. Corporate Management and Control
- D. Government Regulation of Corporate Business

IX. Emerging Trends and Issues

- A. Professional Liability
- B. Alternative Dispute Resolution
- C. International Law

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.