

***“If you are a student with a documented physical or mental impairment that will substantially limit a major life activity, please contact the Disability Resource Center on the main campus. The Center Coordinator and staff will assist you in analyzing your eligibility for services. If you are deemed eligible, reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability will be assigned. If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact the Center at 652-7516; we are located in the Student Services Center, Room #201 of the Edith Whitehead Building.”***

**MGMT 2050 – BUSINESS LAW**  
**Professor Keith A. Maxwell, J.D.**

Summer 2010

**OFFICE HOURS:** Each evening before and after each class, and by appointment

**LOCATION:** UHB 220

**CONTACT:** (Phone) 435-673-0144; (e-mail) Use **Blackboard Mail** only.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Beatty and Samuelson, *Legal Environment*, 4th Edition (2010).

If you do not want the full textbook, you may purchase individual “eChapters” on line at:

[http://cengage.com/cengage/student.do?disciplinenummer=404&product\\_isbn=9780324786545&courseid=BL11&codeid=276E&sortByShow=all&sortBy=copyrightYear&instructorFlag=true&newProducts=false&codeFlag=true](http://cengage.com/cengage/student.do?disciplinenummer=404&product_isbn=9780324786545&courseid=BL11&codeid=276E&sortByShow=all&sortBy=copyrightYear&instructorFlag=true&newProducts=false&codeFlag=true)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a survey of the legal environment for business majors or students with interest in business law. It covers the legal system including dispute resolution, property, crimes, fundamental principles of tort liability, government regulation of enterprise and individuals, contracts, agency, business organizations, and employment law.

This course will introduce students to the two primary constraints that society places on business and personal behavior. The first and most formal constraint is law in its various forms: case law from courts, statutory law from legislatures, and regulations from government agencies. However, in addition to law, there are the informal, but extremely powerful constraints imposed by generally accepted norms of ethical behavior. In this course, students will explore the relationship between legal and ethical standards to critically analyze and evaluate social issues, and the behavior of business owners, managers, and employees.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course:

- Students will have learned some of the most important basic legal principles of constitutional law, tort law, contract law, agency law, employment law.
- Students will have examined and analyzed the most common and important legal and ethical issues arising in the conduct and government regulation of economic activity.
- Students will have a sound knowledge of various ethical approaches to making ethical choices.
- Students will have developed skills in both legal and ethical reasoning.
- Students will become aware of interrelationships among personal ethics, professional responsibility, and law.

**COURSE TOPICS**

- **Unit I – Introduction to Law and Ethics (Chapters 1, 3, 4):** This unit will be an overview of the most basic legal and ethical principles. This will provide the necessary background for the more in-depth coverage of the following topics.
- **Legal Concepts and Legal Reasoning In-depth, Chapters 6, 9 – 13:** This unit is an introduction to the common law principles of torts and contracts; learning to use precedent-, rule-, and policy-based legal reasoning.
- **Ethical Approaches and Constitutional Law (Chapter 5) Ethical Reasoning In-depth:** acquiring tools for making ethical choices; utilitarianism; deontology and *prima facie* duties; justice and rights.
- **Law and Ethics Applied to Issues in the Workplace, Chapters 14-15, 17-18:** The issues might include such things as whistle blowing, product liability, employment discrimination, and sexual harassment. Issues relating to starting a business are also covered.
- **Student Presentations of Legal and Ethical Issues:** Stay tuned for further details.

*"Work like you're not getting paid;*

*Love like you've never been hurt;*

*Dance like no one's watching."*

**GRADING:**

You will receive a grade based on your performance in the following areas:

<b>Grade Components</b>	<b>Points</b>
I. Short Papers (4 x 50)	200
II. Scheduled Exams (2 x 150)	300
III. Final Exam (Comprehensive)	200
IV. Presentation: Law and Ethics Issues	150
V. Reading Quizzes	100
VI. Class Contribution	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

**GRADING STANDARDS:** I do not grade on a curve; instead, I assess your work as shown in the following table. (I grade exams and assignments on the basis of points earned. To find out your letter grade use the percentages below.)

- A - 90-100% (Excellence in content, organization, writing and presentation, originality, analysis and understanding.)
- B - 80-89% (Excellence in some, but not all of the above categories.)
- C - 70-79% (Satisfactory completion of the content and structure of the assignment.)
- D - 60-69% (I can tell you at least tried a little bit.)
- F - Below 60% (I'm embarrassed, and you should be too.)

The plus (+) / minus (-) system is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percent Earned</u>
A	94-100	C	74- 76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	0-59

(Fractional scores of .5% or above are rounded up to the next full percent.)

*"Dark clouds may hang o'er me sometimes, but I'll work it out..."*

--Dave Matthews Band, "Dancing Nancies"

**GRADE COMPONENTS**

Your written assignments will be essays that require you to apply legal and ethical reasoning. *Your grades are based on content and writing quality.*

- ✓ **Short Papers 1 and 2:** For these papers you must analyze the legal reasoning of a judicial decision. These are called "Case Briefs." *(Approximately 3 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1" margins)*
- ✓ **Short Paper 3:** Write a formal decision in a hypothetical case. *(Approximately 3 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1" margins)*
- ✓ **Short Paper 4:** Similar to Papers 1 and 2, but you will be analyzing a much longer case and incorporating an ethical critique. *(Approximately 4 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1" margins)*

- ✓ **Exams:** These will consist of definitions of concepts and short essay questions that require you to apply the concepts learned. **NOTE:** *Make-up exams are allowed only if missed due to a documented health reason or for official participation in a university event. A grade on a make-up exam is calculated on a 5% higher grading standard (Subtract 5% from your score.)*
- ✓ **Presentation:** Each student will be involved in a class presentation on legal and ethical issues in current events. These presentations will be done either individually or as a member of a group. Stay tuned.

*"Sometimes you just have to try something, and see what happens."*

- ✓ **Reading Quizzes:** Selected chapters will have reading quizzes. These are open book quizzes to be completed and submitted via Blackboard before each class.

#### **GRADE COMPONENTS (CONTINUED)**

- ✓ **Class Contribution:** Mastery of the content and decision-making skills developed in this course depends on active participation in discussions of the assigned material. Regular attendance is essential for success in this class. You may miss one class without it affecting your contribution grade. Each additional absence will reduce your contribution grade by 20%.)

*"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." – Eleanor Roosevelt*

*"Our behavior implies consent." – KM*

#### **NOTES**

