

**MGMT 2050 - BUSINESS LAW**  
**Professor Trent T. Seegmiller, J.D.**  
**Spring 2010**

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment **LOCATION:** UHB 220 **CONTACT:** (Phone) 435-275-4324  
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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Beatty and Samuelson, *Legal Environment*, Third Edition (2008).

*"I have been asked what I mean by "word of honor." I will tell you. Place me behind prison walls—walls of stone ever so high, ever so thick, reaching ever so far into the ground—there is a possibility that in some way or another I might be able to escape; but stand me on the floor and draw a chalk line around me and have me give my word of honor never to cross it. Can I get out of that circle? No, never! I'd die first." KARL MAESER*

**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- 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 in Units II thru V.

**Unit II — 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.

**Unit III — 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.

**Unit IV — 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.

**Unit V — Student Presentations of Legal and Ethical Issues:** Stay tuned for further details.

### **GRADING:**

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

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

**GRADING STANDARDS:** I do not grade on a curve as a general rule. I do reserve the right to reward excellent class participation, and to grade on a curve based on overall class performance. If grading on the curve is used, it will not lower your grade obtained based on the components mentioned above.

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

Grade	Percent Earned	Grade	Percent Earned
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.)

### **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, 12 point font.)

**Short Paper 3:** Write a dissenting opinion in a case of your choosing. (Approximately 3 pages, typed,

double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font.)

**Short Paper 4:** Similar to Papers 1 and 2, but you will be analyzing a longer case and incorporating an ethical critique. (Approximately 4 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 point font.)

**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.

**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 (up to three students per group). An example presentation and grading rubric will be provided.

**Reading Quizzes:** Selected chapters will have reading quizzes. These are open book quizzes to be completed and submitted at the beginning of the class period following the quiz.

**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.

"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"

#### **REBELMAIL STATEMENT**

***Important class and college information will be sent to your Rebel mail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a Rebelmail email account. If you don't know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select "Rebelmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your Rebelmail email, so please check it often.***