

Mgmt 260: Introduction to Law
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2007

Instructor:

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Texts:

Reed et al, *The Legal & Regulatory Environment of Business*. McGraw-Hill Irwin, 2005.
Harr, Jonathan, *A Civil Action*. Random House/Vintage, 1995.

Available at Amherst Books at 8 Main Street, (413) 256-1547.

Course Objectives:

Through this course you will learn how to:

1. Spot legal issues:

- Identify legal issues that may impact your business and personal life;
- Identify the potential sources of law (such as case law, statutes, regulations) that apply;
- Identify the authority behind the law (such as federal government executive branch, etc.);
- Select a series of questions that you would ask of an attorney providing you counsel; and
- Based upon legal advice, make a business decision.

2. Apply legal analysis to fact patterns:

- When presented with a fact pattern consider and decide what you believe the right legal outcome should be;
- Clearly express in writing your position, including underlying reasoning;
- Articulate in writing the strongest arguments against your position, and weigh these relative to yours;
- Use legal precedent provided in the course to support your position; and
- Distinguish legal precedent when it runs contrary to your position.

3. Use law to examine larger social and cultural issues:

- Find examples in our materials of tension between ethics and law and
- Consider the legal substance and procedure in a non-fiction account of an environmental tort claim.

Grading:

Leadership of one discussion topic and regular participation in class discussion (25%) performance on the assignments and midterms (50%) and performance on the final paper (25%) all contribute to your grade. All assignments will include a deadline date and time. Credit will not be given for late work unless you have received an exception in writing from the instructor. A (94 - 100), A- (90 - 93), B+ (87 - 89), B (84 - 86), B- (80 - 83), C+ (77 - 79), C (74 - 76), C- (70 - 73), D (60-67), and F (0-59).

Evaluations and Exams:

Exams are open book and open notes. There are a number of reasons for this. First, Law, like any other discipline is in flux. One should be in the habit of confirming ones memory with authoritative texts. Second, even when the law has not changed, lawyers perform close readings of legal authority when a new fact situation arrives on their desks. A rule, statute or court decision will look different when one attempts to consider it in a new context. Third, I do not believe that the “fear factor” involved in closed-book exams is necessary to encourage students to read or learn. Knowing that your exams will be open-book/open-notes will encourage you to absorb and organize the information in such a way to be most useful in application.

Study Groups:

I recommend that you form informal groups of two or more for studying and discussing the material. For better or for worse, our legal system is adversarial. Accordingly, taking opposing positions and engaging in rigorous debate will greatly assist the learning process. In addition, the work you will do toward achieving the outcomes above involves deliberation, equivocation and conclusion. Having a partner will help you. Finally, the best way to learn is to ask seemingly “stupid questions.” When something is unclear to you, it is most likely unclear to many others. Having a safe space with a team mate to share this confusion, will give you the encouragement to bring forward these questions to the larger class, so we can examine them together.

Academic Honesty:

Original work is required. This means you may not cheat on exams, have others write your homework assignments or final paper. You also may not assist others in this behavior. If you choose to research beyond the texts provided, you must appropriately reference your sources. If you have any questions about the use of outside sources, please make an appointment to discuss this with me during office hours. If you have anyone, whether it be a friend, teammate or tutor etc., type, edit or review your work before it is submitted, you must make note of this. Cheating, copying, failure to reference sources and failure to inform instructor of editing assistance from others on written assignments can result in sanctions up to and including receiving a failing grade in the course. Keep in mind that some of the best scholarly work builds upon the ideas of others by refuting or refining prior thinking on an issue. It is just essential to properly reference the source and not to plagiarize. With regard to academic honesty, all University policies and procedures, rights and responsibilities apply.

Respect:

An important line exists between challenging an idea and challenging the person who expresses that idea. We should treat each other with dignity and respect. Conflicting views will create dynamic discussions and help each of us refine our thinking. However, personal attacks whether express or subtle will stifle communication. Let us work together to think and speak critically of ideas and not of each other.

Flexibility:

This syllabus is a guide. I will make reasonable efforts to communicate to you any material changes to this guide. However, please keep in mind that changes, additions and deletions may be made without notice.

Management 260 Assignments:

Class Dates	Topic	Reading	Class Discussion	Assessment/Exam
Wednesday, 9/5/07	Course Overview	N/A	Course Overview	N/A
Monday 9/10/07	Law as the Foundation of Business	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 1 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 1 – 25	Team 1	N/A
Wednesday 9/12/07	The Ethical Basis of Law and Business Management	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 2 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 25 – 51	Team 2	N/A
Monday 9/17/07	The Court System	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 3 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 51 – 82	Team 3	N/A
Wednesday 9/19/07	Litigation	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 4 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 82 - 100	Team 4	First Writing Assignment Due
Monday 9/24/07	Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 5 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 100 - 121	Team 5	N/A
Wednesday 9/26/07	The Constitution and Business	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 6 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 121 -147	Team 6	N/A
Monday 10/1/07	Principles of Contract Law	<i>Legal & Regulatory</i> , Chapter 7	Team 7	N/A

		<i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 147 -167		
Wednesday 10/3/07	Principles of Contract Law	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 7 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 167 - 195	Team 8	N/A
Monday 10/08/07 HOLIDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wednesday 10/10/07	FIRST MIDTERM EXAM	N/A	N/A	FIRST MIDTERM EXAM
Monday 10/15/07	Torts in the Business Environment	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 8 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 195 -215	Team 9	N/A
Wednesday 10/17/07 CLASS CANCELLED	N/A	<i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 215 -233	N/A	N/A
Monday 10/22/07	Torts in the Business Environment	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 8 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 233 - 265	Team 10	N/A
Wednesday 10/24/07	Criminal Law and Business	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 9 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 265 – 285	Team 1	N/A
Monday 10/29/07	Intellectual Property	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 10 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 285 - 291	Team 2	N/A
Wednesday 10/31/07	Intellectual Property	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 10 <i>A Civil Action</i>	Team 3	N/A

		Pages 291 - 310		
Monday 11/5/07	Agency Law and Business Organizations	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 11 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 310 - 330	Team 4	Second Writing Assignment Due
Wednesday 11/7/07	Agency Law and Business Organizations	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 11 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 330 -350	Team 5	N/A
Monday 11/12/07 HOLIDAY	N/A	<i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 350 – 377	Team 6	N/A
Wednesday 11/14/07	SECOND MIDTERM EXAM	N/A	N/A	SECOND MIDTERM EXAM
Monday 11/19/07	Administrative Law and Corporate Governance	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 12 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 377 – 402	Team 7	N/A
Wednesday 11/21/07	Antitrust Laws	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 13 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 403 – 423	Team 8	N/A
Monday 11/26/07	Sarbanes-Oxley and Securities Regulation	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 14 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 423 - 448	Team 9	N/A
Wednesday 11/29/07	Sarbanes-Oxley and Securities Regulation	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 14 <i>A Civil Action</i> Pages 449 - 470	Team 10	N/A
Monday 12/3/07	Employment and Labor Laws	<i>Legal & Regulatory,</i> Chapter 15 <i>A Civil Action</i>	Team (makeup)	N/A

		Pages 470 – 492		
Wednesday 12/5/07	Discrimination in Employment	<i>Legal & Regulatory, Chapter 16</i>	Team (makeup)	N/A
Monday 12/10/07	Environmental Laws and Pollution Control	<i>Legal & Regulatory Chapter 17</i>	Team (makeup)	N/A
Wednesday 12/12/07	A Civil Action	<i>A Civil Action</i>	N/A	N/A
TBD	FINAL EXAM	Cumulative	Multiple choice and essays	FINAL EXAM