LSB 5163: Legal Environment of Business
Spring 2015
Spears School of Business
Oklahoma State University

Instructor: Dr. Laurie A. Lucas, Associate Professor of Legal Studies; Puterbaugh Professor of Legal Studies and Ethics in Business

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Office Hours: Live chat room: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST
Course Site: Desire2Learn (Online Classroom): http://oc.okstate.edu
Technical and administrative support: spearsdistance@okstate.edu
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Course Overview: This course considers the legal environment within which businesses must operate. The course reviews the nature and source of law, the operation of the judicial system, the operation of administrative agencies, selected Constitutional provisions involved in the litigation of business problems, and selected substantive legal areas having a direct relationship with business operation and ethical decision making.

Course Prerequisites: Admission to graduate program or consent of MBA director.

Text and Supplementary Materials (note this book is now in the second edition):

Other materials
On D2L, you also will find the following study aides:
- PowerPoints for each unit of material—these are located with the content area of D2L—note there may be more lectures than PowerPoint files, as the PowerPoints were combined, while some of the lectures were split into parts for easier viewing. These are in outline form and will not work as a substitute for the reading or the lecture videos
- reading objectives for each unit of material—to help narrow the reading assignments
- course handouts that are used to clarify the materials and are discussed in lectures

LSB 5163 Course Learning Goals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Program Learning Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students should be able to explain the function of law in society.</td>
<td>Business Knowledge &amp; Competency</td>
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<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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<td>Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students should be able to discuss how the law emerges in US society by analyzing the primary sources of US law and their function.</td>
<td>Business Knowledge &amp; Competency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
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| Students should be able to compare and contrast litigation with different forms of alternative dispute resolution. | Ethics  
Business Knowledge & Competency  
Critical Thinking  
Innovation |
|---|---|
| Students should be able to compare and contrast different tort theories in different contexts, including products liability. | Ethics  
Business Knowledge & Competency  
Critical Thinking |
| Students should be able to define, discuss and analyze the use of contracts in the business environment. | Ethics  
Business Knowledge & Competency  
Critical Thinking  
Innovation |
| Students should be able to explain the structure and interplay between federal and state employment laws and civil rights statutes. | Ethics  
Business Knowledge & Competency  
Critical Thinking  
Innovation |
| Students should be able to define the basic forms of property including intellectual property. | Business Knowledge & Competency  
Innovation |

**Description of Course Requirements and Grading Rubric (Please read carefully):**

*Exams:* There will be three exams throughout the semester each worth 100 points. The exams consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (50 @ 2 = 100). Exams are constructed under the assumption that you have completed, for each unit of material, all the assigned readings and watched all the assigned video lectures.

*Exams must be taken at an approved testing center using a computer.* You should contact the Spears School of Business Distance Learning Office to inform them of your proctoring site. You can call 405.744.4048 or read the proctor policies and exam procedures and complete the appropriate Testing Center form at: [http://spears.okstate.edu/distance/guide](http://spears.okstate.edu/distance/guide). You can also access their twitter account: @Spearsdistance

There is a 48-hour window during which each exam may be taken, since you must take the exams at an approved testing center—you basically have two business days to schedule the exam. Exams are **required** to be taken during the scheduled time period and only one attempt during that time period will be allowed.

*Exam dates also are clearly listed on the syllabus, so please plan ahead.* Here are the specific testing windows:

- **Exam 1- Tuesday, February 17 to Wednesday, February 18**
- **Exam 2- Tuesday, March 31 to Wednesday, April 1**
- **Exam 3- Tuesday, May 5 to Wednesday, May 6**

If you have a problem or conflict with the scheduled exam dates, you are required to contact me, preferably by email, to schedule an alternative.
Exams require the use of Respondus, a lockdown browser. Most testing centers are familiar with Respondus and know how to download and use the program. Additionally, the on-line exam presents only one question at a time and you are not allowed to go back to a question once you have selected your final answer choice. There are many reasons for this policy, but they are primarily technical issues with administering an exam online. I understand that this format is different from most exams you may take and therefore the exam scores will be curved to account for this policy. You will have up to 90 minutes to complete each exam, so you’ll have plenty of time to consider each answer before you move on to the next question.

Missing an exam is strongly discouraged. Makeup exams require advance approval, except in cases of a documented emergency. In all cases, you (or a family member, etc.) must contact me—use email (best choice) or voice mail—within 24 hours of the missed exam or you will not be allowed to makeup the exam. Makeup exams are essay exams and you will be required to take the exam at an approved testing center.

Grading Policy:
In an academic environment, grades are awarded on the basis of student merit and not need or consequence. The following scale will be used and no adjustments will be made unless academically appropriate.
270 – 300 (A)
240 – 269 (B)
210 – 239 (C)
180 – 209 (D)

Online Office Hours (Chat room) and Emails: If you are in Stillwater, you are more than welcome to stop by my office during my regular office hours: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CST or by appointment.
Otherwise, there is a weekly live chat room also each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11a.m. CST where you may ask questions about the course. This chat room is accessible to everyone in the course, so if you have a personal issue, contact me directly by email.

If you send an email, please identify the course in which you are enrolled or I cannot guarantee a timely response. Please use this subject line: [your last name]—LSB 5163. For example: Smith—LSB 5163.

Except in unusual circumstances, you can expect a reply to your emails within 48 hours. Please do not send duplicative emails within one 48-hour period.

University Policies:
Academic Integrity: Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance
access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu.

Disability Notice: If any member of the class believes that he or she has a physical, emotional, or psychological disability and needs accommodations of any nature, the instructor will work with you and the university Office of Student Disability Services (SU 315, 744-7116 v/t) to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the accommodations as soon as possible. You also will need to contact the Student Disability Services office in order to receive accommodations. No accommodations will be made without prior notification.

Drop Policy: Information about university drop policy and dates is at this website: http://registrar.okstate.edu/ Click on “class schedules,” and “short, internet, and outreach courses.” To drop this course, login to SIS, or contact the Registrar’s office, (405) 744-6876.

Class Schedule: experience indicates that most students who fail to do well in an online course fail because they do not complete the work in a timely manner. Some believe they need only watch the lectures or just read the text. You must do all the assigned work to pass this class. Trying to watch hours of lectures right before the test will likely yield poor results, since you need time to think about and apply what you are learning. Additionally, exams reflect the lectures, which explicate, but also add information to the textbook information.

NOTE: When the syllabus lists something as “background/lecture” that means it is not required—only suggested—reading, but it will be discussed in the video lectures and therefore is fair game for an exam. Anything discussed in the video lectures may appear on the exam.

Week 1: January 12-16
Read these two chapters:
- Chapter 1 – Legal Foundations
- Chapter 3 – The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, and Venue
Watch these three video lectures:
- How to think about law in this course (about one hour)
- Part 1: Court Structure (about 40 minutes)
- Part 2: Accessing the Courts – Jurisdiction (about 45 minutes)
Other material:
- Structure of Oklahoma Courts
- Map of Oklahoma Counties
- Map of Federal Circuits
Week 2: January 19-23

*Work this activity (posted in the content area of D2L):*
  - Application Exercise – Legal Precedent (work the activity BEFORE you watch the video)

*Read this chapter:*
  - Chapter 4: Resolving Disputes: Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Options

*Watch these three video lectures:*
  - Part 1: Pretrial Considerations – Dealing with Attorneys (about 51 minutes)
    (This lecture provides the basis for exam material, (i.e., there is no reading assignment on this material), but note page 6—Role of Counsel)
  - Part 2: Stages of Litigation (about 55 minutes)
  - Application Exercise – Legal Precedent (about 44 minutes)

Week 3: January 26-30

*Read this chapter:*
  - Chapter 2 – Business and the Constitution

*Watch these two video lectures:*
  - Part 1: Constitutional Authority (about 80 minutes)
  - Part 2: Constitutional Authority (about 53 minutes)

Week 4: Feb. 2-6

*Finish this chapter:*
  - Chapter 2 – Business and the Constitution

*Work this activity (posted in the content area of D2L):*
  - Application Exercise: civil rights (work the activity BEFORE you watch the video)

*Watch these two video lectures:*
  - Part 3: Constitutional Authority (about 78 minutes)
  - Application Exercise – Civil Rights (about 27 minutes)

Week 5: Feb. 9-13

*These chapters are for background only—focus on the lectures:*
  - Chapter 12 – Employment Regulation and Labor Law (as background only, but FMLA is discussed on page 285-86 – discussed in lecture)
  - Chapter 13 – Employment Discrimination (background/lecture)

*Watch these video lectures:*
  - Employment Law (about 50 minutes)
  - Business Ethics (about 50 minutes)

*Work this activity:*
  - Mission & Life Goal Exercise (this is not for submission and is not graded)

Week 6: —EXAM THIS WEEK—Feb. 16-20 (see below for specific testing dates)

*Testing Window: Tuesday, Feb. 17– Wednesday, Feb. 18. The exam must be taken during the exam window. You are required to go to a testing center for the exam, so you basically have two working days to take the exam. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.*

*Watch this video lecture: Exam Strategies (about 15 minutes)*
**Week 7: Feb. 23-27**  
*Read these chapters:*  
Begin reading Chapter 6—Overview and Language of Contracts  
Chapter 25—Intellectual Property (background/lecture)  

*Watch these video lectures:*  
Introduction to Managing Intellectual Property  
Introduction to Contracts  

**Week 8: March 2-6**  
*Read this chapter:*  
Begin reading chapter 7: Contract Formation  

*Watch these video lectures:*  
Do I have a Contract?  
Is the Contract Enforceable?  

**Week 9: March 9-13**  
*Read this chapter:*  
Finish reading chapter 7  
Read Chapter 8: Contract Performance: Conditions, Breach, and Remedies  

*Watch these video lectures:*  
Contract Performance and damages  

**Week 10: March 16-20**  
Spring Break—No assignments, no chat room  

**Week 11: March 23-27**  
*Read this chapter:*  
Chapter 9: Contracts for the Sale of Goods (background/lecture)  
Chapter 22: Consumer Protection Law (pages pgs. 607-09—for lecture on UCC Warranties)  

*Watch these video lectures:*  
Third-Party Rights  
Contracts & the UCC  

*Other reading materials:*  
Handout: Assignments of rights and delegation of duties  

**Week 12: EXAM THIS WEEK—March 30 – April 3 (see below for specific testing dates)**  

*Exam Two Testing Window: Tuesday, March 31 to Wednesday, April 1.* You are required to go to a testing center for the exam, so you basically have two working days to take the exam. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.
Week 13: April 6-10
Begin reading this chapter:
Chapter 10: Torts and Product Liability

Watch this video lecture:
Introduction to torts

Week 14: April 13-17
Continue Reading this chapter:
Chapter 10—Torts and Product Liability

Watch these video lectures:
Intentional Torts against a Plaintiff’s Person or Property
Intentional Torts against a Plaintiff’s Reputation or Business

Week 15: April 20-24
Continue Reading this chapter:
Chapter 10—Torts and Product Liability

Watch these video lectures:
Negligence and Strict Liability—part 1
Negligence and Strict Liability—part 2

Week 16: April 27-May 1
Finish reading this chapter:
Chapter 10—Torts and Product Liability
Review information on warranties in this chapter:
Chapter 22: Consumer Protection Law (pages 607-09)

Watch this video lecture:
Product Liability

Other handouts:
Federal Preemption—Summary of Recent Cases

Final Exam Week: May 5-8 (see below for specific testing dates)
(The third exam is not comprehensive.)

Exam Three Testing Window: Tuesday, May 5 – Wednesday, May 6. You are required to go to a testing center for the exam, so you basically have two working days to take the exam. Only one attempt during this window is allowed.