SYLLABUS  FINANCE 3201 - BUSINESS LAW

Instructor:  Michael Simon Room 2166, CEBA

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Text: Smith & Roberson, 11th Edition (Older editions are inadequate).

Course Objectives: The primary focus of this course is on contracts. You will get an introduction to the legal system, both state and federal. You will get a good look at tort law, both intentional and negligence theory. You will get a view into criminal law, constitutional law, the law of agency, business ethics and community property and marriage contracts as they relate to business transactions. Since the thrust of this course is contacts, we will spend about half of the course on contracts. We will cover a chapter on each of the essentials of contracts, getting into contracts and getting out of contracts. We will study which contracts need to be in writing and how parties to a contract complete their obligation in contracts without being sued. When the course is completed, you should know when people have entered into a contract and be able to provide solutions to the parties. Most importantly, you should learn enough in some of these areas covered in the course to know when to seek legal counsel for you, your business or your employer.

Office Hours: By appointment. If you ever need to talk to me, try to do so before or after class. You may call me at my school office (there is a recorder), or at my law office (there are secretaries or answering service to take your message). Please leave a specific message, including which class you are in and the nature of your call. I will return your call as soon as I can. I am always available to talk to you about any problems that arise. We will see each other approximately 25 times this semester. If you are in hurry after class, you need only leave me a note with your name and phone number and I will call you. You should meet several of the students in the class so that if you miss class, you can call someone for the assignment.

Prerequisites: No course prerequisites, however, the student is required to have 60 hours of course credit to remain in 3,000 level courses such as this one.

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

Grades will be determined as follows:

Small exams 5 @ 15 points each 75 points
Large exams 2 @ 50 points each 100 points
Attendance and participation 50 points
Final exam 75 points 1 hour long
Court Report-- extra credit-- separate syllabus 15 pts. possible if submitted by 2\19\02
                      11 pts. possible if submitted by 3\12\02
                      8 pts. possible if submitted by 4\16\02
                      After 4\16\02 too late

ORDER that material will be covered:
Chapters 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 7--approximately for the first large exam
Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 2 --- approximately for the second large exam
Chapters 17, 19, 20, 6, 8, community property,
Marriage-contracts and other covered material (these materials and others for the final exam)

Working students: If you are working, please advise your employer that you will have a group (university scheduled) final exam in this course.

SCANTRONS You will need to bring to class scantron sheets starting on class 2--buy a pack of the small ones right off.

If you read the assignments and brief the cases in the assignment you will not likely need the textbook in class. You may wish to bring your book to class for participation. You should outline each chapter and brief each case according to Chapter One suggestions---before each class.

Small exams will usually be on assigned but not yet-covered-in-class material. These will be a measure of your preparedness for class and your ability to participate. A few will be announced, most won’t. Your performance on these will generally improve as we progress through the semester.

ATTENDANCE is an integral part of the course. If you miss three (3) classes during the semester you must contact the instructor before or after class on the day you return to class. If you fail to see the instructor after missing 3 classes, you will automatically loose 5% on your final grade. Any student who misses 6 classes during the semester will loose 10% off his final grade. Any student who misses 10 classes or more will receive an AF grade in the course. If you seek understanding or excuse for an absence, it must be approved by the instructor and documented by the student to the satisfaction of the instructor at the time you return to class. Small exams will not be made up. No makeup exams will be allowed without real good reasons and documentation provided by the student immediately following the missed exam. For large exams, you should notify the instructor when you know you are going to miss an exam. Approved makeups will be a fair discussion exam given on your return to class.

ON TIME: You must come to class on time in order to be marked present. Classes are difficult to manage due to the numbers of students enrolled in them. It is not nice to interrupt class by coming late. There may be good reasons at times for being late. The first two times you are late, you may submit a signed written request with good reasons why you should be marked present for that class. Beyond that, you will be marked absent if you come in after the role has taken. We will not begin class early. If a student is repeatedly late, he will be asked to discontinue the course.
A seating chart will be utilized. You will be required to sit in your assigned seat each class.

University policy on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced