

## Course Syllabus

**COURSE TITLE:** Bus 2008 LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

**DESCRIPTION:** A consideration of how the law is used to resolve potential and actual conflicts of interest in society, including those between and among business, government, individuals, and private institutions. Evaluate the effectiveness of specific laws, including securities, consumer, employment and environmental.

This course is an introduction to those institutions that influence doing business in our society. The legal system is one such institution. All other institutions, such as business, education, medical, religious, governmental, non profit organizations influence and are influenced by the legal system. We shall consider critically what problems are behind the laws that we pass, and whether or not these laws, some other laws, or no laws at all are the best solution to the problem at hand.

**SEMESTER & LOCATION:** Fall Term I - 2017 Canada College Campus, Bldg 5, Room 227

**COURSE START:** August 29, 2017; Class is every week for seven weeks

**CLASS HOURS:** 6:00pm – 10:15pm

**TEXT/MATERIAL:** Textbook: Law, Business and Society, 10th edition, by Tony McAdams (Chicago: McGraw-Hill Irwin) 2012 ISBN 978-0-07-352500-6; additional course material may be assigned

**INSTRUCTOR:** KeMiT Mawakana, A.B., J.D., LL.M.

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KeMiT Mawakana clerked for the United States District Court of the District of Columbia prior to entering private practice where he represented Fortune 500 companies in complex civil litigation. He has founded, or served as general counsel, for multiple companies and organizations including for-profit and non-profit entities. In academia, he has taught at Georgetown University Law Center and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. He is nationally acclaimed expert in the field of Contract Law, and has worked extensively with underserved communities and small businesses in organizing and transactional matters.

**OFFICE HOURS:** For up to 30 minutes after the end of each class or by appointment.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Academic honesty is a cornerstone of our values at NDNU. If any words or ideas used in an assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. Consult the NDNU Student Handbook regarding consequences of misrepresenting your work.

**PRIVACY and CONFIDENTIALITY:** One of the highlights of the NDNU academic experience is that students often use real-world examples from their organizations in class discussions and in their written work. However, it is imperative that students not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. Students must be mindful of any contracts they have agreed to with their companies. Also, do not record in any manner (other than your handwritten or typed notes) the lectures, discussions or classes, without the prior written permission of Professor Mawakana.

**LEARNING and OTHER DISABILITIES:** If you have a learning disability or other circumstance that requires accommodations in this class, you must bring it to the attention of Disability Services to arrange for possible accommodations.

**SYLLABUS UPDATES:** Refer to this syllabus for course assignments. However the course syllabus and schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor without prior notice.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Your attendance is very important to your studies at the University. Your absence or lack of participation in the class will be considered during the grading process. Intensive classes require a stringent absence policy since even one absence may significantly affect achievement of course learning objectives. With only 28 class contact hours as opposed to the traditional 45 contact hours, all class time is critical. A student who misses more than one class period or the equivalent (four accumulated hours) must withdraw from the class and will be assigned a failing grade for the course unless officially dropping the class. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the drop or withdrawal. There are no exceptions.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** The School of Business and Management requires the use of the American Psychology Association (APA) publication guidelines as a standard for all papers.

**LATE HOMEWORK:** All assignments not turned in on time are late. Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized.

**PARTICIPATION:** Both lecture and classroom activities are organized to encourage student involvement in the learning process. You will be evaluated on your comprehension of the material as well as your ability to discuss the relevancy (e.g., research pros and cons) of what is noteworthy in context of this class. Although instructor may not call on students, it will be up to the student to convey his or her preparation for the class, and participation will be a part of each student's grade (see below). Students may be asked to grade her or his participation in the classroom, in addition to an instructor's evaluation.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** No extra credit is given in this class, except for highly unusual circumstances at the discretion of the Professor.

**COURSE MATERIAL - Published Textbook Information**

In accordance with the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act, to the extent practicable, NDNU makes textbook information available as part its class schedule. NDNU makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the textbook information provided. Due to issues such as textbook availability, errors, and academic reasons, NDNU may need to change textbook information that has been published. NDNU cannot take financial responsibility when a student purchases a non-refundable textbook and a change occurs to published textbook information. Students wishing to avoid this risk, should purchase textbooks from sources that allow returns for refunds, such as the NDNU Bookstore managed by Follett.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. To introduce the student to using legal reasoning, a form of critical thinking applied to the law.
2. To introduce the student to the various kinds of law (e.g., administrative law, environmental law, employment law, consumer law, securities law).
3. To stimulate the student to consider how identity, philosophy and world view impact the making of laws, and to develop the ability to distinguish a "good" law from a "bad" law.

**TEACHING METHOD:** Class discussion, lecture, group/individual work/presentations, videos, guest speakers, papers, mid-term examination and final examination. Emphasis will be on critical thinking rather than on rote memorization. Students will be expected not only to read the material, but be able to discuss the implications, assumptions, purpose, dynamics and facts behind the material. A group/individual presentation may involve analyzing an assigned case or other topic.

**GRADING:**

Grading is based on exams, papers, class preparation and participation, which includes participation in class discussion and a showing of having prepared for class, as well as for group and individual presentations. Class participation is evaluated by instructor on a class-by-class basis, and may be assisted by occasional student evaluation of his or her preparation and/or participation. Preparation will be evaluated by student's ability to engage in discussion about the assigned topics.

**Ten Total Points (10)**

Written Assignments: There will be a written assignment(s) with specific due date(s).

**Ten Total Points (30)**

Class Participation (10), group (10)/individual (10) presentation(s) are evaluated by the Professor. Students may have the opportunity to evaluate her/himself and others within their group.

**Thirty Total Points (30)**

Mid-Term Examination: There will be a mid-term examination that may consist of essay(s), short answer(s) or multiple-choice question(s).

**Thirty Total Points (30)**

Final Examination: There will be a final examination that may consist of essay(s), short answer(s) or multiple-choice question(s).

Total points 100

**Grading Scale:**

100 – 95 = A+; 94 - 90 = A;

89 - 85 = B+; 84 - 80 = B;

79 – 70 = C;

69 – 60 = D;

59 and below = F.

CLASSES:

First Class August 29, 2017

Assignments due the first night of class:

Read Chapters 1, 2 and 3. For the first night prepare a paper (no longer than 1-page per response) answering the following questions: 1. After reading the chapters for the first night of class, how do you see if or where the philosophy of the role of government in a society affects the extent of and the form of laws in society? 2. What in your opinion should the role of government be in society and why? 3. What is the law? 4. What is business? 5. What is a society?

You will be given your group presentation assignments. Group assignments and individual presentation assignments will be explained and discussed.

Second Class September 5

Read Chapters 4 and 5.

Assignment due: Prepare a paper answering and analyzing the following questions:

1. What would the free market and communitarian approaches be in solving a particular societal problem? 2. What is a free market? 3. Give an example of one law that you think is a good law and explain why and give one example of a bad law and explain why?

Class discussion may include how cases are introduced to the court system, what it means to have the burden of proof, how precedent cases are used, and the Bill of Rights.

Third Class September 12

Read Chapters 6 and 7.

Class discussion may include how the law of contracts and business torts and product liability affect business law, with an emphasis on the major issues and the trends in the law.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Fourth Class September 19

Read Chapters 8 and 9.

Discussion may include the legal basis for government regulation of business, including federal and states, and an introduction to securities law.

Group 1 and 2 Presentations

Fifth Class September 26

Read Chapters 10 and 11.

Discussion may include restraints of trade and monopolies and mergers.

Group 3 Presentation

Begin Individual Presentations

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Sixth Class October 3

Read Chapters 12, 13 and 14.

Discussion may include the law related to employee rights and discrimination in the workplace.

Individual Presentations

Seventh Class October 10

Individual Presentations

FINAL EXAMINATION