COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: BU 353ZA Legal Environment of Business

CLASS MEETING TIME: Online Course using Blackboard

PREREQUISITES: Junior Standing

INSTRUCTOR and CONTACT INFORMATION: Dr. Kevin B. Johnson
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is an introductory course to business law. It describes how the U.S. Legal System is organized and how it operates. Several areas of substantive business law will also be covered, including: Constitutional Law; Criminal Law; Torts and Negligence; Property Law; Contract Law; Employment Law; Intellectual Property Law; Uniform Commercial Code; and Business Organizations. Ethical issues in the law will also be included as a part of each topic.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:
(1) Explain the sources of American Law and describe the American Court Systems;
(2) Understand and explain basic civil and criminal procedure;
(3) Understand the significant role of ethics in the law;
(4) Read, interpret, analyze, and write an effective and valid contract;
(5) Know the basics of creating, operating, and terminating the various types of business entities;
(6) Determine critical factors for selecting one type of business entity over another;
(7) Understand and discuss key issues in intellectual property law, employment law, agency law, debtor-creditor law, consumer protection law, environmental law, and international law;
(8) Understand the rights and obligations of business owners and managers; and,
(9) Generally have a good, basic grasp of business law issues and principles.

HOW TO SEND ASSIGNMENTS AND THE TEST TO DR. JOHNSON:
Send all assignments, your final exam, as well as anything else you may want to send to Dr. Johnson (questions, comments, etc.) by email. Do not attach your work to the email, instead, either write it or paste it directly into your email message. Do not use the Digital Drop Box or any other tool in Blackboard. Your email message, therefore, will be your assignment, the final, or your other message. Also, be sure to write your name in the body of your email message.
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting the intellectual or creative work or accomplishments of another as your own, as well as failing to properly credit all sources used or referred to in your work). Consistent with University policy, the professor reserves the option of failing any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty on an exam, paper, or otherwise. The matter may also be referred to other academic personnel for further action. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the University.

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:
FINAL EXAM: There will be a final exam that is due no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012. You may begin this exam at any time. It is designed to be taken all at once at the end of the course (like a traditional exam), or, to be taken throughout the course by finishing as many questions at one time as you wish. Once completed, email your exam answers only (do not include the written questions with each answer, just the question number next to your answer). The final exam is included in the “Assignment” section on Blackboard for this course and is available all semester. The final is worth 100 points.

EXAMS: There will be 8 assignments. The first assignment is worth 20 points, but assignments 2 – 8 will be worth 40 points each. The total number of points possible from all 8 assignments is 300 points. See the assignments section in Blackboard for the details of each assignment and the due date for each assignment. Each assignment must be submitted by email no later than its deadline. No assignment will be accepted for credit after the time and date it is due. Note: Do not wait until the day the assignment is due to attempt to submit your assignment. If there are problems with your computer or your email service or with anything else, it could make your assignment late and you will not get credit. All assignments are available from the beginning of the semester, which means you do not have to wait until the deadline to submit them. A late assignment will not be accepted for credit, period.

ASSIGNMENTS: At the end of each chapter is a section called: “Applying the Information in this Chapter to Actual Situations.” Pick any four chapters of your choice and go to this section in each of the chapters you pick. Select one item from this section in each of the four chapters and do it. Write a brief paper explaining what you chose to do and the results of your efforts. Include any documents you prepare with your paper. Each of the four papers (and accompanying documents, if any) are worth 25 points. The first two papers are due no later than November 2, 2012 and the final two papers are due no later than December 7, 2012. Email your papers to me as you do with your exams.

EXTRA CREDIT: No extra credit is available in this course.

GRADING: There is a total of 500 points possible in this course. Your course grade will be determined on the following basis:

- A = 500 to 450 points (90 to 100%)
- B = 449 to 400 points (80 to 89%)
- C = 399 to 350 points (70 to 79%)
- D = 349 to 300 points (60 to 69%)
- F = 299 to 0 points (0 to 59%)
HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AND YOUR FINAL EXAM

- Send by email all assignments, your final exam, as well as anything else you may want to send to Dr. Johnson (questions, comments, etc.).
- Do not send your work as an email attachment. Instead, either write it or paste it directly into your email message. **Attachments to email will not be accepted nor opened.**
- Do not use the Digital Drop Box or any other tool in Blackboard. **These will not be checked to see if you submitted anything through Blackboard.**
- Write your name in the body of all email messages along with the answers to assignments or with other messages you send.
- An assignment or test is late at 1 minute after the time and date of the deadline. **Late assignments and tests will not be accepted for credit, for any reason.** Therefore, do not wait until the last minute to submit your work. Technical problems with email, the Internet, your computer, or with anything else will not be a valid reason for late work. It is your responsibility to do your work on time, to submit, to resubmit if necessary, and to make sure your equipment and systems are in operating condition. All assignments for the semester are available to work on from the beginning of the semester.
- If you have a technical problem that cannot be fixed in time for a deadline, you have two options: (1) Use other equipment or another system; or, (2) Fax your work to Dr. Johnson at 620-341-6345.
- The email address for Dr. Johnson for all purposes is: kjohnson@emporia.edu

GRADES:
Assignments and the final exam will be graded as soon as possible after each deadline. Your grade will be posted in the Blackboard Gradebook as soon as grading is complete. If you should have questions about any grade or assignment, please contact Dr. Johnson.

HOW DR. JOHNSON CONTACTS YOU AND OTHERS IN THIS CLASS
Each student has an email address listed in the Blackboard Address Book. This is probably your emporia.edu account. Whatever email address is listed as yours in Blackboard, though, this is what will be used for any and all email messages sent to students.

NOTHING IS FOOL-PROOF
Sometimes something will come up that seems to defy all efforts to get things done well and on time. Ordinarily, this does not happen and truly is an unusual, emergency situation. Here are things you can do to help guard against problems:

- Keep copies of every assignment you send, of your final exam, and of all messages you send to or receive from Dr. Johnson until after your final course grade is posted and any questions you have about this course have been fully answered.
- Communicate with Dr. Johnson as soon as possible when you discover an emergency that is not going to be easily dealt with and that will result in your inability to comply with a requirement of this course.
- If there is a reasonable method for dealing with an actual emergency, that method will be considered.
- In all things, be patient, but also be persistent. No one is responsible for your success (or lack thereof), but you.
MAJOR FIELD TEST IN BUSINESS: All students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business are required to earn a score of 135 (or higher) of a possible 200 on the Major Field Test in Business (MFT). The MFT is administered to students enrolled in MG 473 – Business Policy. Some of the content of this course (BU 353) is a portion of the material that is examined on the MFT. More information about the MFT is available at http://www.ets.org/mft. You are encouraged to learn this material in depth and remember it. Also, you are encouraged to keep your course materials to assist you in doing a quick review prior to taking the MFT. From this course, BU 353 – Legal Environment of Business - the following topics are included in the MFT:

A. Legal environment
   1. Courts and legal systems
   2. Constitution and business
   3. Administrative law
   4. Tort law
   5. Crimes

B. Regulatory environment
   1. Employment law
   2. Labor law
   3. Antitrust law
   4. Consumer protection
   5. Environmental and international law
   6. Security regulation
   7. Intellectual property

C. Business relationships
   1. Contract and sales law (UCC)
   2. Business organizations
   3. Law and agency
   4. Intellectual property

D. Ethics and Social Responsibility

SCHEDULE OF DUE-DATES:

Friday, August 24, 5:00 PM: Test 1
Friday, September 7, 5:00 PM: Test 2
Friday, September 21, 5:00 PM: Test 3
Friday, October 5, 5:00 PM: Test 4
Friday, October 19, 5:00 PM: Test 5
Friday, November 2, 5:00 PM: Test 6; and, Assignments 1 and 2
Friday, November 16, 5:00 PM: Test 7
Friday, November 30, 5:00 PM: Test 8
Friday, December 7, 5:00 PM: Assignments 3 and 4
Friday, December 7, 11:59 PM: Final Exam