Course Number and Title: BU573 XA Law of Commerce (Web)
Prerequisite: Graduate Standing
Instructor and Contact Information:
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  620-341-6302

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a comprehensive business law course in which we will cover the major substantive areas of the law, with an emphasis on contracts, the Uniform Commercial Code, debtor-creditor relationships, and business organizations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able generally to describe and explain:

1. The structure and role of the courts
2. The major sources and priorities of law
3. The Commerce Clause and Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution
4. Torts and remedies
5. The definition and protection of intellectual property
6. How a crime is prosecuted and basic Constitutional rights of the accused
7. The requirements of an enforceable contract
8. Rights and remedies for breach of contract
9. Contract formation and breach under the Uniform Commercial Code
10. Secured transactions
11. The law of agency
12. The legal structure and function of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations
13. The principal federal securities laws
14. The principle laws governing the employment relationship
15. Real and personal property interests

RESOURCES: An introductory lecture posted in Course Content provides an overview of the course, sample Law Applied and Critical Thinking assignments with answers, and examples of suitable topics for the Legal Topic Essay assignment. Lectures, including associated PowerPoint slides, for each chapter, except those that will not be covered on the exams, have been recorded and are posted in Course Content (Blackboard). The slides alone are in the PowerPoint folder.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:
As set forth in the assignment schedule below, an assignment is due every Wednesday of the semester beginning on August 22, excepting the Wednesday during the Thanksgiving holiday. All assignments must be posted to Blackboard by midnight on the due date. An assignment is
late at 1 minute after the time and date of the deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. 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.

1. **LAW APPLIED (FIVE):** Each of these assignments will include a summary of a recent court decision, statute, Executive Order, or other law or legal topic in the news. Your task is to ensure that you understand and can apply the legal principles we are covering in class to events in the real world by answering the questions presented about the law at issue. Your answers should be succinct and specific. You may review any and all news sources or other information available in print or online to understand and answer the questions presented, but use caution: many of these sources may contain inaccurate or incomplete information, or focus more on politics (or other subject) than the law. Each of these assignments is worth a maximum of twenty (20) points.

2. **CRITICAL THINKING (FIVE):** For many legal issues there is no “right” or “wrong” answer. Reasonable minds can differ. For example: there may be two precedents the facts of which are close, but not exactly similar to the case being decided. Depending on which precedent is followed, a different outcome will be reached. Thus, many court decisions include a “majority” and a “dissent.” By thinking critically, one can understand and appreciate both outcomes. This assignment requires such critical thinking. Each assignment describes an actual case in which the court split (i.e., included a majority and a dissent) and sets forth the applicable legal rules. You will write a reasonable and logical argument for why one party to the case should win, based on the application of the rules, AND a logical argument why the other party should win. Your arguments should be succinct and specific. Each of these assignments is worth a maximum of twenty (20) points.

3. **EXAMS:** There will be four interim exams, each worth one-hundred (100) points (50 questions, 2 points per question), which will cover the immediately preceding topics, and a comprehensive final exam (200 points)(100 questions, 2 points per question). The exam format will include true/false and multiple-choice. Each exam will be available in the Assignments folder in Blackboard one week before its due date. Exam answers must be posted to Blackboard by midnight on the due date.

4. **LEGAL TOPIC ESSAY:** Each student will write an essay on a legal topic of interest. The paper must be five to ten pages, single-spaced, and should discuss a significant and topical legal issue, providing background, a full discussion of the issue, and some original analysis. This paper is due the Wednesday after the fall break (October 24).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Applied (5)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking (5)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim Exams (4)</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Topic Essay (1)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>Total Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>900</strong></td>
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A = 810 - 900 points (90 to 100%)
B = 720 - 809 points (80 to 89%)
C = 630 - 719 (70 to 79%)
D = 540 - 629 points (60 to 69%)
F = 0 to 539 points (0 to 59%)

Note: scores of .50 and above will be rounded up and .49 and below rounded down to the next whole number.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
At Emporia State University, 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.

ASSIGNED READING AND DEADLINES FOR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Aug. 22  
*Structure and Function of the Legal System*
Chapter 1, Historical and Constitutional Foundations  
Chapter 3, Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution  
**Law Applied: Assignment 1**

Aug. 29  
*Legal Environment of Business*
Chapter 4, Torts and Cyber Torts  
Chapter 5, Intellectual Property and Internet Law  
Chapter 6, Criminal Law  
Chapter 7, Cybercrime  
**Critical Thinking: Assignment 2**

Sept. 5  
*Ethics*
Chapter 2, Ethics and Business Decision Making  
**Exam 1: Chapters 1 – 6 (Material in Chapter 7 not on exam)**

*Contracts*
Sept. 12  
Chapter 8, Nature, Classification, Agreement, and Consideration  
Chapter 9, Capacity, Legality, Assent, and Form  
**Law Applied: Assignment 3**

Sept. 19  
Chapter 10, Third Party Rights, Breach, and Remedies  
**Critical Thinking: Assignment 4**

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1 Subject to change with reasonable notice
Uniform Commercial Code

Sept. 26
Chapter 11, Formation, Title, and Risk
Chapter 12, Performance and Breach

Exam 2: Chapters 8 – 10

Oct. 3
Chapter 13, Warranties, Product Liability and Consumer Law
Chapter 14, Negotiable Instruments

Law Applied: Assignment 5

Oct. 10
Chapter 15, Checks and Banking in the Digital Age
Chapter 16, Security Interests

Critical Thinking: Assignment 6

Business Organizations

Oct. 17
Chapter 17, Agency
Chapter 19, Partnerships

Exam 3: Chapters 11 – 16

Oct. 24
Chapter 20, Corporations

Law Applied: Assignment 7
Legal Topic Essay Due

Government Regulation of Business

Oct. 31
Chapter 18, Employment Law

Critical Thinking: Assignment 8

Nov. 7
Chapter 21, Investor Protection, Insider Trading, and Corporate Governance

Exam 4: Chapters 17 – 20

Nov. 14
Chapter 22, Promoting Competition
Chapter 24 (pg. 745 – 755), Environmental Law

Law Applied: Assignment 9

Property

Nov. 28
Chapter 23, Personal Property, Bailments, and Insurance
Chapter 24, Real Property

Critical Thinking: Assignment 10

Dec. 5
International Law

25

Dec. 5
FINAL EXAM DUE BY MIDNIGHT