COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: BU 573 PA
Law of Commerce

CLASS MEETING TIME: 11:00 – 12:20, T/R, Cremer 520
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Marian K. Riedy, Cremer 502
OFFICE HOURS: T,R 1:00-2:00 p.m.
W 9:00-12:00 a.m.
Or by Appointment
CONTACT INFORMATION: Office: 620/341-6302
E-mail: mriedy@emporia.edu


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. Learning will be based primarily on the case method.

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

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

1. PREPARATION OF STUDY GUIDE (TWO): A team of two students will be responsible for preparing a study guide for two chapters of the text. The study guide may consist of an outline, a series of questions and answers, or any other format that clearly and thoroughly covers the material. During class on the day scheduled for the chapter, Dr. Riedy will review the
study guide, to ensure that the chapter material is covered accurately and completely. Thereafter, the study guide may be revised by the authors, if they deem revisions to be necessary, up to March 1 for the first study guide and May 1 for the second. The study guide will be scored by both Professor Riedy (maximum of 20 points) and the remainder of the class (average of all scores given, maximum of 5 points). The study guide is due by noon on the day before the team’s scheduled Chapter Review and Case Analysis (see below).

2. **CHAPTER REVIEW AND CASE ANALYSIS (TWO).** The team that prepared the study guide for the chapter will lead the class discussion of the material in the chapter and also present a Case Analysis. Cases will be selected that explain and explore more deeply one or more of the key principles in the chapter. Specific questions that must be addressed for the chapter review and case analysis will be posted in advance but, in general, for the chapter review the team should outline and explain the material in the chapter, and for the case analysis the team should explain the facts of the case; the specific legal issues presented; the reasoning of the court; and the outcome. The maximum score for this assignment is fifty (50) points. Points will be assigned based on the accuracy and completeness of the material presented and demonstration of some understanding and thinking about the subject matter.

3. **CHAPTER REVIEW QUESTIONS (TWENTY).** For ten (10) chapters in the textbook, students who are not presenting a case for that chapter must bring two written questions to class on the date scheduled for that chapter. The questions may address any topic within the chapter or the case for that chapter. The questions will be collected at the beginning of class. Selected questions will be presented to the class for general discussion. In order to qualify for points (five maximum per question), the question must demonstrate some understanding of and thinking about the subject matter.

4. **LEGAL ISSUE SPOTTING.** The class will view one or more short videos. After the video each team will write a short paper identifying (a) the key legal issue(s) presented in the video and (b) the legal principles that should be applied to resolve the issue. The papers will then be handed in, followed by a class discussion. The maximum score for each paper is ten (20) points. Points for the papers will be assigned based on the accuracy and completeness of the content.

5. **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. The essay is due on or before midnight, March 15.

6. **EXAMS.** There will be four interim exams, each worth fifty (50) points, which will cover the immediately preceding topics, and a comprehensive final exam (100 points). The exam format may include true/false, multiple-choice, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. 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.

**GRADUATES ONLY: BUSINESS CASE ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION.** This is a group project in which graduate students will analyze a proposed business transaction and/or pending litigation in terms of the legal issues presented and provide a written report and oral presentation to the client, making recommendations as to what actions to take and explaining the
reasons for the recommendations. The cases will be provided after the spring break. The written presentation is due and the oral presentation will be given during the last week of class (May 1 and 3).

EXTRA CREDIT: Extra credit will be given for presentation of a Topic in the News. A maximum of three (3) presentations is allowed per student. The presenter should identify a news story on a legal topic or issue, explain to the class the legal background and significance of the news story, and be prepared to answer questions posed by the class. These presentations will be scored between one (1) and ten (10) points, depending on the complexity of the topic and the level of understanding demonstrated in the presentation.

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700 Total Points
800 Total Points

A = 630 - 700 points (90 to 100%)
B = 560 - 629 (80 to 89%)
C = 490 - 559 points (70 to 79%)
D = 420 - 489 points (60 to 69%)
F = 0 to 419 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.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, the Office of Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.
CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS (Subject to change with reasonable advance notice)

Jan. 12: Introduction, Review of Assignments, Chapter 1, Dr. Riedy
Jan. 17: Chapter 1, Dr. Riedy (cont.)
Jan. 19: Chapter 3, Team 1
Jan. 24: Chapter 4, Team 2
Jan. 26: Chapter 5, Team 3
Jan. 31: Chapter 6, Team 4
Feb. 2: Legal Issue Spotting
   EXAM ONE (Chapters 1, 3-6) DUE MIDNIGHT
Feb. 7: Chapter 8, Team 5
Feb. 9: Chapter 9, Team 6
Feb. 14: Chapter 10, Team 7
Feb. 16: Chapter 11, Team 8
Feb. 21: Legal Issue Spotting
   EXAM TWO (Chapters 8 - 10) DUE MIDNIGHT
Feb. 23: Chapter 12, Team 9
Feb. 28: Chapter 13, Team 10
March 1: Chapter 14, Team 1
March 6: Chapter 16, Team 2
March 8: Legal Issue Spotting
March 13: Chapter 2, Class Discussion
   EXAM THREE (Chapters 11 - 16) DUE MIDNIGHT
March 15: Chapter 17, Team 3
   LEGAL TOPIC ESSAY DUE MIDNIGHT
March 20, 22: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS
March 27: Chapter 18, Team 4
March 29: Chapter 19, Team 5
April 3: Chapter 20, Team 6
April 5: Chapter 21, Team 7
April 10: Legal Issue Spotting
   EXAM FOUR (Chapters 17 – 20) DUE MIDNIGHT
April 12: Chapter 22, Team 8
April 17: Chapter 23, Team 9
April 19: Chapter 24, Team 10
April 24: Chapter 25, Dr. Riedy
April 26: Legal Issue Spotting
May 1: Graduate Student Presentations
May 3: Graduate Student Presentations

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 10, 8-9:50