THE CAMERON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

MBA 5X09  Business Law  Spring 2018

Online Course
Class is held from January 18 – March 7, plus final exam

Instructor: Dr. David D. Schein  Office: 224 Welder
Phone: 713-942-5936*  Skype: ProfDSchein1
Email: scheind@stthom.edu  Emergency: 713-880-9563
*Please do not leave voicemails. If you get voicemail, send me an email.

SPECIAL NOTE – While this course is an online course, I will be teaching some of the same material for two sections of Business Law this semester. If at all possible, it would be great if you can attend some or all of these classes. This is not possible for many of you. So, I have loaded my own lecture videos to Blackboard. The in-person classes meet at the below times and locations:

Section A: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:35-4:50, Strake 204
Section N: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30-6:45, Strake 204

Spring 2018 Office Hours:
Tuesdays: 1:00 - 3:30 PM, 5:00-5:30 and 6:45 PM
Wednesdays: 1:30 - 3:30 PM
Thursdays: 1:00 - 3:30 PM, 5:00-5:30

Other times by appointment. I am on campus a great deal, so let me know if you need to meet at a time other than listed. As Director of Graduate Programs, I attend many meetings, so often on campus, but not in my office. Please email me to confirm your time and day.

Skype is now an option for students, as well. Contact me through my Skype address to initiate contact, and I will accept your invite, and then we can Skype.

Text:

● Title: Business Law – 5th Edition
  Author(s): James F. Morgan
  Access for this e-book is at the following website:
  https://www.bvtstudents.com/2139?filter_tag=James%20Morgan
The book is also available in a hard copy loose-leaf format that many students have found useful:  
https://www.bvtstudents.com/2140
This book is required for the course and you must either have an e-copy of this text or you may purchase a hard copy of the book from the publisher. You may also print out some of, or the entire, book. You are not required to have a hard copy, but you must have access to the book. This is a very affordable way to obtain a textbook. Other learning aids are available at the textbook site.

- Additional resources will be posted to the Blackboard course site. Please check it often and check your UST email for updates emailed to you. Note that all of the PowerPoints for this text are already loaded to your course site. Some students find it is useful to take notes on the slides.

**Course Description**
This course introduces students to the general principles of the law as it relates to business. Specific topics include the legal system, business formation, contracts, agency, bailment, sales, mortgages, negotiable instruments and bankruptcy.

**Program Goals and Objectives**
The Masters of Business Administration program has six goals. When students complete the MBA degree at the University of St. Thomas:

**Goal 1. They will be effective communicators.**
1. Objective 1: Graduates will deliver a compelling oral presentation.
2. Objective 2: Graduates will write professional quality documents.

**Goal 2. They will be effective team members.**
- Objective 1: Graduates will demonstrate appropriate group techniques to participate in a team task that results in effective performance.
- Objective 2: Graduates will demonstrate effective leadership skills in a group project.

**Goal 3. They will be ethical decision makers.**
- Objective 1: Graduates will recognize the ethical issues implicit in a business situation.
- Objective 2: Graduates will describe and use ethical frameworks applicable to business situations.
- Objective 3: Graduates will develop a variety of ethical alternatives for resolving or at least addressing, a problem in business.

**Goal 4. They will be globally aware.**
- Objective 1: Graduates will perform a global business situation analysis.
- Objective 2: Graduates will formulate global business strategy.
- Objective 3: Students will evaluate global business strategy.

**Goal 5. They will be able to integrate knowledge across multiple business disciplines.**
- Objective 1: Graduates will identify business problems and opportunities that result from factors internal and external to the organization.
- Objective 2: Graduates will apply quantitative and qualitative techniques from the
different business disciplines to address problems and opportunities.

Goal 6. They will be knowledgeable about multiple business disciplines

Course Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and appreciate the impact of law on most aspects of business.
- Identify and analyze the key legal components of business operations, with emphasis on business forms, negotiating and drafting contracts, and dealing with many of the daily issues business persons face, such as financial instruments and bankruptcy.
- Work together in teams to prepare projects designed to give students real world experience with legal issues in business.
- Understand the legal ramifications of being an employer within a digital and physical space.
- Understand the U.S. court system, legal terminology and legal procedures.
- Understand the different forms of business structures and ownership.
- Write case analyses related to business organizations and their legal environments.
- Analyze and distinguish the differences between various agency relationships.
- Define and explain different types of torts that apply to business and product liability.
- Identify and distinguish the various types of intellectual property rights.

Class Design / Instructional Methods

Class Design/Discussion Participation:
Class format uses an adult learning model with all online instruction. Dr. Schein previously made videos of his lectures. You are not required to watch the lectures, but it is strongly encouraged.

We will be using the Discussion tool in Blackboard. Each week of this seven week course, students will be required to post at least one question and at least one answer. You must post in the current week. In another words, you cannot wait until the end of the semester and then go back and post to the Discussion Board. You need to do this each week. This will be the basis of the participation grade below. The focus of this class is on learning business law principles that promote critical thinking and ethical analysis of business management issues.

Quizzes and Exams:

- Quizzes help to keep you on track and prepare you for the mid-term and final exams. Quizzes will be spaced throughout the semester. Most quizzes will have multiple-choice questions.
- Exams are comprehensive and cover the course material up to that point in the course.
- Blackboard’s Test Module will be used to administer the tests. Keep in mind that the tests are timed and are closed book. If you try to look up the answers while taking the quizzes or exams, you will not be able to complete the work in the assigned time. There will be
no extensions. If you have a technical issue while testing, contact Dr. Schein via email immediately, providing as much information as possible. Rather obviously, each quiz, exam or discussion post is to be your own work. Cheating is a major problem in academia today and this course follows a “zero tolerance” approach.

**Please Note:** All assignments, including quizzes, exams and participation, are due on the dates/times listed in the Detailed Course Schedule. There is a penalty of one letter grade per day for any work that is submitted later. There are no make-up assignments. All assignments are graded in absolute terms and in relationship to your colleague’s work. The class schedule may be amended due to scheduling needs beyond the instructor’s control.

**Grading:**

**Important Note:** A grade of “B-” or better is required in each proficiency course in order to proceed to core or elective courses.

The grading scale below indicates the ranges for specific letter grades. The numeric scores you receive from the tests and assignments will be weighted based on the weights indicated below. The final score will be automatically rounded to a whole number. The rounded score will then be used to assign a course grade, based on the scale below.

**Graduate Grade distribution:**
95-100 = A
94-90 = A-
87-89 = B+
84-86 = B
80-83 = B-
79-77 = C+
74-76 = C
70-73 = C-
69 or less - F

**Grading:**

The following assignments comprise the student’s grade:

- Participation in Discussion Posts: 10%
- Quiz #1: 10%
- Quiz #2: 15%
- Midterm Examination: 25%
- Quiz #3: 15%
- Final Examination: 25%
**Detailed Course Schedule**

It is the instructor’s intention to stay on this schedule as much as possible, but it is not guaranteed. It is your responsibility to read this schedule and check Blackboard on a regular basis to stay up on your school work and prepare for class and other assignments.

In addition to your regular assigned reading below, before your first day of class, read Part I - Chapters 1 through 6 in Morgan. You will need these for background, but will not be reviewed as part of the covered material. You can ask questions about these chapters by participation in the Discussion part of the course.

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<tr>
<th>Day. Date</th>
<th>Topics/Notes</th>
<th>Area of lecture or tasks being completed in class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Thur. 1/18</td>
<td><strong>Foundational Legal Concepts</strong> Quiz #01 (covering Morgan Chapters 7-12) will be due BEFORE MIDNIGHT 01/31 via Blackboard</td>
<td>Readings:</td>
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<td>to Wed. 1/24</td>
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<td>● Syllabus (Blackboard, Course Documents)</td>
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<td>● Morgan Part 2, Chapters 7-12</td>
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<td>● Anatomy of a lawsuit (Blackboard, Course Documents)</td>
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<td>● Blatt - How to Brief a Case (Blackboard, Course Documents)</td>
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<td>Actively participate in discussion of this material in the online Discussion Tool in Blackboard.</td>
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| Week 3 | Thur. 2/1 to Wed. 2/7 | Part IV: Domestic and Global Sales; Part V: Agency and Employment | Readings:  
- Morgan Part 4, Chapters 21-23  
- Morgan Part 5, Chapters 24-27  
- EEO power point (Blackboard, Course Documents)  
Actively participate in discussion of this material in the online Discussion Tool in Blackboard. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week 4 | Thur. 2/8 To Wed. 2/14 | Part 6: Business Organizations  
Part 7: Negotiable Instruments | Quiz #02 (covering Morgan Chapters 13-23) will be due BEFORE MIDNIGHT 2/14  
Readings:  
- Morgan Part 6, Chapters 28-32  
- Morgan Part 7, Chapters 33-36  
Actively participate in discussion of this material in the online Discussion Tool in Blackboard.  
The Midterm Examination (covering Morgan Chapters 7-32) will be due BEFORE MIDNIGHT 2/21  
Readings:  
- Morgan Section 7, Chapters 35-36  
- Morgan Section 8, Chapters 37-39  
- Bankruptcy Basics (Blackboard, Course Documents)  
Actively participate in discussion of this material in the online Discussion Tool in Blackboard.  
Quiz #03 (covering Morgan Chapters 33-39) will be due BEFORE MIDNIGHT 2/28  
Readings:  
- Readings:  
  - Morgan, Part 9, Chapters 40-44  
  - See Sarbanes-Oxley Slide Supplement |
| Week 7  | **Part 10: International and Entrepreneurial Realms** | Actively participate in discussion of this material in the online Discussion Tool in Blackboard.  
Readings:  
- Morgan, Part 10, Chapters 45-46 |
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<td>Thur. 3/1 to Wed. 3/7</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>Your Final Exam, covering all course material, will take place via Blackboard and must be completed by Midnight on Saturday, March 10.</td>
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Available Support Services:

- **Tutorial Services Center (TSC)**
  
The Tutorial Services Center offers assistance to all current UST students in a variety of content areas, including academic subjects, general concepts, and writing skills. Tutors are available anytime the center is open. The TSC offers on-site tutoring, online tutoring, and tutorial workshops. Office hours and schedules can be found at [http://www.stthom.edu/public/index.asp?page_ID=100289](http://www.stthom.edu/public/index.asp?page_ID=100289). Please contact the center at 713-525-3878 or tutoring@stthom.edu.

- **CSB Tutorials**
  
The Cameron School of Business offers tutoring in business subjects. Please visit [http://libguides.stthom.edu/cameron](http://libguides.stthom.edu/cameron) (under the “CSB Tutorial Services” tab) for the most current tutorial schedule and available subjects.

- **Information Technology Services**
  
The UST IT Solution Center offers assistance with technical issues related to general computer issues, software, email, passwords, MyStThom, and blackboard.

Manuals, contact information, and discounted software and hardware purchase information may be found at [http://www.stthom.edu/Offices_and_Services/Information_Technology/Index.aqf](http://www.stthom.edu/Offices_and_Services/Information_Technology/Index.aqf).

**Seven Steps for Moral Decision Making**

1. Determine the relevant facts.
2. Identify the ethical issues.
3. Develop alternatives for resolving the issues.
4. Define the stakeholders for each alternative.
5. Evaluate the ethics of each alternative.
6. Take stock of the practical constraints.
7. Decide on and plan implementation of an alternative.

Based on: Velasquez, Manuel, “Conducting an Ethics Case Discussion,” Copyright 1992 Arthur Anderson & Co. SC.
The Cameron School of Business at the University of St. Thomas

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the Basilian Fathers’ motto of Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge, the Cameron School of Business provides a comprehensive, high quality, ethically oriented business education to a diverse student body enabling graduates to serve as leaders of faith and character in a global economy.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Ethical conduct is essential to a community of scholars and students searching for truth. Anything less than total commitment to honesty and honorable conduct undermines the efforts of the entire community. Academic integrity lies at the very heart of any institution of higher learning. In the Cameron School of Business, students and faculty are expected to commit to a code that exemplifies each individual's honor and integrity. Any conduct that violates this standard and betrays the respect of others is a matter of grave concern and, accordingly, is deemed unacceptable.

The tests/exams will be individual efforts. Student may work together on homework assignments, but must submit their own assignments.

The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the professor, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of F for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of St. Thomas abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may impact your performance in this class and for which you may require accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to Counseling and Disability Services which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. Contact Debby Jones or Rose Signorello at 713-525-6953 or 713-525-3162.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to provide documentation from the Counseling and Disability Office during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.
Some Suggestions for Writing Better Papers

After grading many student papers, I have developed a list of suggestions for students striving to write better papers and to receive higher grades for their efforts:

- Understand the difference between first person, (“I”), second person, (“You”), and third person, (“He”). Formal writing is generally in the third person. For your written assignments, however, when you are making reference to your own involvement or views, that should be written in the first person.
- Avoid contractions in all formal writing, unless the contraction is actually included in the material you are citing.
- Avoid colloquialisms. Again, this is formal writing. Your paper should make sense regardless of who is grading or reading your paper.
- Write short, concise sentences, wherever possible. “Run-on sentences” are very common in student papers and it makes them difficult to read.
- Follow generally accepted writing techniques. Make an outline before you begin writing. Have an introductory section. Then, in the body of the paper, you should present evidence and argument relying on your evidence. End your paper with a conclusion that logically flows from the body of the paper. You will find a great deal of helpful information in the American Psychological Association (“APA”) Publication Manual, 6th Edition.
- Student papers often misuse citations. Every statement of another, whether a direct quote or not, should have a citation in APA form identifying the source of the information. Your opinion should be differentiated from your statement of information from others. The current APA citation form does not use the traditional footnote/endnote format for citations. Endnotes/footnotes are now used only for information that is not appropriate for inclusion in the text, and should be avoided in your papers.
- The quality of your research is illustrated by the quality of the sources you cite. Try to find original research on your subject, “primary sources,” not just an interpretation in a general magazine or newspaper, “secondary sources.”
- Vary your sources of information. Different types of publications should be cited. Even if there is a journal that contains a number of helpful articles, do not rely on that one publication for most or all of your citations.