Huntingdon College  
W. James Samford, Jr. School of Business and Professional Studies

COURSE NUMBER: BUS322  
COURSE NAME: Legal Environment in Business  
Fall 2015, Session I – Shelby  
Monday, 8/31, 9/7, 14, 21, 28 from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR’S NAME: Dr. Ken Nixon  
CONTACT INFORMATION: knixon@hawks.huntingdon.edu

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: The philosophy and evolution of law is examined. The first part of the course focuses on the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals under and before the law: torts, property, contracts, and agency. The second part of the course focuses on the legal rights and responsibilities of the businessman and the firm: negotiable instruments, partnership, and corporation law, equity, and related subjects. This course also examines many basic legal issues that pertain to the operation of a business in the United States.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVE: This course is designed to acquaint the student with the structure and operation of the legal system and its relationship to the modern business environment. Historical text and case precedents will be reviewed and discussed to provide a background and understanding of the general legal principles utilized in the business world.

PREREQUISITE: None

TEXT REQUIRED: Essentials of Business Law and the Legal Environment, by Richard A. Mann and Barry S. Roberts. 12th ed., Cengage,

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: At the completion of this course, students are expected to competently:

• Articulate legal issues that arise in the business environment with an appreciation of the larger context of the American legal system.
• Analyze legal concepts and apply them to circumstances that commonly arise in business.
• Evaluate legal risk in the realms of tort, contract and criminal law.
• Identify and articulate ethical issues that arise in the contexts of law and of business.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA: There will be writing assignments due during Weeks One (1) and Five (5). The Week One (1) assignment will be two (2) short essays detailed below; and the Week Five (5) assignment will be more lengthy final project detailed below. Students will be required to participate in classroom discussion based on the week’s reading assignment.

Writing assignments will be graded for clarity of thought and organization of ideas as well as grammar and punctuation. Each writing assignment should be typed, and double-spaced. Writing assignments are due on the night specified on the student course module at the beginning of class; late assignments will not be accepted.
Tests will be administered at the beginning of Weeks Two (2), Three (3) and Four (4). Each test will be allotted fifteen (15) minutes to complete.

**Grading Elements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Elements</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week One (1) writing assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Tests</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**GRADE POINT EQUIVALENTS** - Describe the point range for each letter grade.

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59-below

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Absences and Tardiness** – All students are required to attend the first session. Those who do not attend the first session will be automatically dropped from the course. Students with more than one absence will receive an "F" for the course. Since this class meets only five times, missing a single class meeting is equivalent to missing three weeks of a regular term. If you cannot attend a class you must let the instructor know via email as soon as possible. In case of absences you are responsible for obtaining all handouts and assignments. Tardiness may result in a deduction in your class participation grade. Excessive tardiness may count as an absence.

**Participation** – Participation is not the same as attendance. Participation requires students to come to class prepared to actively participate, which makes the classroom experience more meaningful. However, participation is not just speaking out in class. The contributions made by the student should be related to the course content and meaningful to the class discussion.

**Late Assignments** – *No shows* fail the assignment. It is expected that the students fulfill their assignments on the date they are scheduled to do so. Students with illness or other problems that prevent them from attending class on the day a presentation or written assignment (including a test and/or exam) is due must contact their instructors PRIOR to the deadline via Huntingdon College email with supporting documentation to request an extension or a make-up. In most cases, missed assignments are logistically difficult to make-up while maintaining the integrity of the module. In rare cases, approval to make-up an assignment may be granted at the discretion of the faculty member based on the seriousness of the circumstance and on the supporting evidence provided by the student. Contacting a fellow class member does not substitute for contacting the instructor.

**Accommodation of Special Needs** – Huntingdon College makes every reasonable accommodation for disabilities that have been processed and approved through our Disability Services Committee in accord with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to request disability-related services at Huntingdon College, students must self-identify to the Disabilities Intake Coordinator, Camilla Irvin, and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. After the accommodations have been approved by the Disability Services Committee, the 504 Coordinator, Dr. Lisa Olenik Dorman, will notify your professor(s) of the committee’s decision. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodation or need to
request disability-related services, please contact Disability Services at (334) 833-4577 or e-mail at disabilityservices@huntingdon.edu.

**Academic Honesty** – Plagiarism is literary theft. Failure to cite the author of any language or of any ideas which are not your own creation is plagiarism. This includes any text you might paraphrase, as well. Anyone is capable of searching the Internet or any printed media; your research paper is intended to broaden your knowledge, stimulate your creativity, and make you think, analyze, and learn. It is not consistent with the College Honor Code, nor with scholarly expectations to submit work which is not the product of your own thinking and research. Severe penalties will result upon the submission of any work found to be plagiarized, including potential failure of the entire course. It is easy and simple to properly cite all sources used in your paper. Take no risks – cite your sources.

**Huntingdon College Library:** As an EB student you have access to the full-range of electronic resources provided by the Library of Huntingdon College. Your first step upon enrollment at Huntingdon should be to register for a library account. You can do this by going to the Library’s web site at [http://library.huntingdon.edu/](http://library.huntingdon.edu/) and under “EB Services” complete the “Library Card Application” form and submit it. You will receive shortly your personal library account information, which will then allow you to access a variety of resources including databases. Should you ever have a problem accessing the Library’ electronic resources, please contact the Library (specifically, Systems Librarian Brenda Kerwin at bkerwin@huntingdon.edu).*

* Among the Library’s electronic resources, you will find a number of databases specific to the area of business administration and its allied fields of study (e.g. databases within /EbscoHost/, /Gale/, and /ProQuest/, as well as /Oxford Journals/). You will also find databases that support your core courses in such fields as English, history, communications, the arts, and the sciences. You may be familiar with the AVL (the /Alabama Virtual Library/) and have your own AVL card. As a student at Huntingdon College, you no longer need to maintain your own AVL card, if you access the AVL through our web site. Simply click on “Campus &Library” rather than “Home Access” within the AVL. A few other mentions: /Countess/ is the name of the Library’s online catalogue and among its holdings you will find electronic books. If you want to know what full-text electronic journals are available to you through the Library’s databases, you can use the /Serials Solutions/ link on our web site. You can limit your search by discipline (such as “Business & Economic”). If you use Google for any of your research, we greatly encourage you to use /Google Scholar/ and /Google Books/. These features of Google will direct you to resources appropriate for academic research.*

**First Night Assignment - ** *A FIRST CLASS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE WEEK ONE*

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1:**

**TOPICS**

1. Historical and Constitutional Foundations
2. Courts and Procedures
3. Business Organizations
4. Ethics

**Reading Assignment**

   Chapter 1: Introduction to Law
   Chapter 2: Business Ethics
Chapter 3: Civil Dispute Resolutions

Writing Assignment Writing assignment (5% of writing assignment grade)
Prepare two short essays for submission for the first class. Each essay should be 2 pages, typed and double-spaced. The essays will be graded for clarity of thought and presentation as well as grammar and punctuation.

Essay Topics
1. How do the duty of care and the duty of loyalty govern the conduct of directors and officers in a corporation?
2. Describe, in detail, the sources of law in the United States and how they work together and separately.

Week 2:
TOPICS
1. Torts and Negligence
2. Criminal Law
3. Administrative Law
4. Product Liability

Reading Assignment
Chapter 5: Administrative Law
Chapter 6: Criminal Law
Chapter 7: Intentional Torts
Chapter 8: Negligence and Strict Liability
Chapter 22: Product Liability: Warranties and Strict Liability

Week 3:
TOPICS
Contracts: Introduction, Mutual Assent, Conduct, Consideration

Reading Assignment
Chapter 9: Introduction to Contracts
Chapter 10: Mutual Assent
Chapter 11: Conduct Invalidating Assent
Chapter 12: Consideration

Week 4:
TOPICS
1. Agency and Employment
2. Employment Discrimination
3. Negotiable Instruments
4. Corporations

Reading Assignment
Chapter 24: Negotiable Instruments – Form and Content
Chapter 28: Agency – Relationship of Principal and Agent
Chapters 30-33: Corporations
Week 5:

TOPICS
1. Course Evaluation Questions (15 minutes)
2. Final Project Presentations
3. Final Exam

Writing Assignment: Final Project (25% of final grade)

Final Project: Prepare an 8 - 10 page final paper on a topic that is addressed in the text that student wishes to research in more detail.

Examples for Final Project topics
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- The Law of Defamation
- Misappropriation of Trade Secrets
- Computer Crime; Email and Privacy Issues
- Contracts Contrary to Public Policy
- Promissory Estoppel and Detrimental Reliance
- Derivative Suits
- Fiduciary Duties of Board Members
- Respondeat Superior; Affirmative Action
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Discrimination and Harassment

Presentation Assignment

Conduct a formal presentation of your final project using visual aids (PowerPoint, overheads, handouts, etc.). It should be 8 to 10 minutes, with time for questions and answers, at the end of your presentation.