GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO BUSINESS LAW!

Course number and title indicated: BA 225 (Business Law I)

Credits, semester, days & location: 3 credits Fall 2009: 8-9:20am TTR @ Harned 110

Instructor: Shawn Newman, J.D.
[http://homepages.stmartin.edu/fac_staff/snewman/]

Office Hours: By appointment

Required Resources:

SMU E-mail account: You must have an active SMU email account as I periodically send articles of interest, quizzes and exams via email.


Book Website Resources for Students:

You will need to create an account to access the book’s website by going to www.cengage.com/login this is necessary to access chapter resources, including on-line quizzes, internet exercises, terms, etc. You will need an access code. New books have Access Code cards bound inside or shrink-wrapped outside. If you don’t have one, enter the book’s ISBN number which is on the book’s back cover: ISBN -10:324-59000-8] (If you have problems, call tech support at: 1-800-423-0563). You will be asked to review on-line videos and other resources. [See Syllabus below by date for additional readings]

Course Description & Objectives:

Law facilitates orderly business transactions and impacts most business decisions. Accordingly, business persons need to be familiar with the legal system and key areas of substantive law to make optimal business decision. Upon completion of this course, student should have:

- Developed an understanding of the American legal system and learned
fundamental rules of law, particularly of torts, contracts, sales (including the Uniform Commercial Code Art. 2; product warranties and product liability).
- Developed an appreciation of the extent to which a wide variety of legal requirements affect business decision making
- Developed an understanding of the need for ethics and values in business.

Statement to Students concerning Academic Dishonesty:

Acts of academic dishonesty, plagiarism and cheating are considered unethical actions and a violation of university’s academic policy (SMU Catalog). Sanctions and procedures are included in the SMU Academic Catalog.

Statement to Students with Disabilities:

Students wishing to request appropriate accommodations are responsible for initiating contact with the SMU Office of Disability Support Services located at 214 OM [phone 438-4580; lpuryear@stmartin.edu]. The office will access the individual needs of each student, assist him or her in communicating those needs to faculty and staff and help the student obtain the materials, services, and the assistance necessary to successfully pursue their higher education.

University Mission and Academic Values (SMU Catalog - Selected Excerpts)

University Mission: To know, to care, to serve – to educate
University Academic Values: Knowledge, Spirituality, Hospitality, Service, Creativity, Communication, Inquiry, Discovery, Holistic Education.

Business Division Philosophy (SMU Catalog)

Built on the General Education foundation informed by Saint Martin’s Catholic, Benedictine heritage and values, Business and Economics offers a unified business program that integrates the separate functional areas of business. Acknowledging the technologic innovation, ever-changing global marketplace and challenged ecosystems currently shaping the world, the Business Administration Program offers students an opportunity to learn and practice general management skills, discover the need for ethical decision-making and acquire functional business area expertise. Through
practice and active learning, students also gain the ability to work cooperatively in diverse teams. They become effective writers and speakers, and they demonstrate sharpened critical thinking skills and professional judgment. Students graduate with a broad perspective on the business world and its place in our culture. Saint Martin’s graduates have the ability to work across business functions, adjust quickly to new situations, accept change and ambiguity as a natural part of life, and become enthusiastic lifelong learners. National or State Standards consistent with AACSB and AICPA

General Class Policy (Re-dos; Incompletes; Attendance; Participation; Other) see: http://homepages.stmartin.edu/fac_staff/snewman/general_class_policies.htm

Course Grading Scale:

93-100 = A  
90-93 = A-  
87-90 = B+  
83-87 = B  
80-83 = B-  
77-80 = C+  
73-77 = C  
70-73 = C-  
67-70 = D+  
63-67 = D  
60-63 = D -  
60: F

Grade determination method:

Quizzes (4+): 40% [may or may not be announced so keep up and do the problems at the end of each chapter]  
Midterm: 25%  
Final 25%  
Active* attendance 10%

I expect students to come to class ready to engage: discuss the readings, participate in weekly forum discussions and raise current events of legal interest.
Class participation can and does make a difference!!

August 31 - September 6

- **READING**: Introduction & The Foundations (Unit 1: Chapters 1-4) including: Sources of Law; The Court System; ADR and Ethics (including Benedictine Values)

**OTHER ASSIGNMENT**: Complete initial class survey or "voir dire" found at http://homepages.stmartin.edu/fac_staff/snewman/Class%20Survey.htm

**NOTE**: Thursday, September 3, Mass of the Holy Spirit

- Introductory discussion: Should unemployed grad sue college? Forum

September 7 - September 13

- **READING**: The Public and International Environment (Unit 2: Chapters 5-8) including overviews of Constitutional Law; Administrative Law; Criminal Law and International Law

**NOTE**: Friday, September 11, last day for changing or adding a class

- Criminal Law - Makeover for Gangster Forum

September 14 - September 20

- **READING**: The Public and International Environment (Unit 2: Chapters 5-8) including overviews of Constitutional Law; Administrative Law; Criminal Law and International Law.
NOTE: Text Appendix B (The US Constitution)

- Constitutional Law: US & State Differences Forum

September 21 - September 27

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment (Unit 3: Chapters 9-10): Contract Law
- Contract Law: understanding legalease Forum

September 28 - October 4

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment (Unit 3: Chapters 9-10): Contract Law

October 5 - October 11

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment continued (Unit 3: Chapters 11-13): Sales Law
  See: UCC Art. 2 see: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?Cite=62A

October 12 - October 18

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment continued (Unit 3: Chapters 11-13): Sales Law & Introduction to Torts
  See: UCC Art. 2 see: http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?Cite=62A

**MIDTERM - TUESDAY OCTOBER 13**

**NOTE: October 15-16 Fall break (no classes)**
October 19 - October 25

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment continued (Unit 3: Chapters 11-13): torts; strict liability and product liability.

  **NOTE:** Mid-semester grades due in Registrar's Office

October 26 - November 1

- **READING:** The Commercial Environment continued (Unit 3: Chapters 11-13): torts; strict liability and product liability.

  **NOTE:** Friday, October 30, last day to withdraw from a class.

November 2 - November 8

- **READING:** The Business Environment (Unit 4: Chapters 16-18): Sole Proprietorships; Franchises; partnerships; LLCs; Ltd. Partnerships; Corporations

  **NOTE:** Advising and pre-registration for Spring 2010 begins Nov. 2
  - Non-Profit (?) Corporations Forum

November 9 - November 15

- **READING:** The Business Environment (Unit 4: Chapters 16-18): Sole Proprietorships; Franchises; partnerships; LLCs; Ltd. Partnerships; Corporations

  **NOTE:** November 11 Saint Martin's Day (Holiday)
November 16 - November 22

- **READING:** The Business Environment (Unit 4: Chapters 16-18): Sole Proprietorships; Franchises; partnerships; LLCs; Ltd. Partnerships; Corporations

November 23 - November 29

- **READING:** The Employment Environment (Unit 5: Chapters 19 & 20): Agency & Employment Law

  **NOTE:** Thanksgiving recess Nov. 26-27

November 30 - December 6

- **READING:** The Employment Environment (Unit 5: Chapters 19 & 20): Agency & Employment Law

December 7 - December 13

- **READING:** The Employment Environment (Unit 5: Chapter 21): Employment Discrimination

  **NOTE:**
  Dec. 10 Last day of classes;
  Dec. 11 St. Thomas Acquinas Study Day.
December 14 - December 20

- SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS