

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
MGT. 3500 (FKA 350) - SEC. 10186

J. PAUL SUGAMELI - INSTRUCTOR

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EH 235

PREREQUISITES :

ECN 201 or ECN 210 and “major” standing

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL:

Cheeseman, Henry R. The Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce
Eighth Edition (Prentice Hall, Copyright 2016)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Various discussions on the integration of legal principles and business applications. Course material along with discussion of current business issues provide an introduction to the legal system and a survey of government regulations of business, legal, ethical and political issues dealing with employment, contracts, torts, consumer protection, administrative law, securities, labor, environmental, debtor/creditor relations, product liability and business associations. There will be a special lecture on Negotiation Techniques. The goal of the Instructor is to instill certain fundamental legal and non-legal principles that will aid the student’s personal academic and business life.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To review the various schools of thought of ethics and social responsibility;
- To enrich student understanding of legal topics essential to business through presentation as well as participation in critical thinking and analysis;
- To acquaint each student with methods that they may adopt to resolve management or workplace issues in an ethical manner and as a business strategy;
- To equip each student with the basic knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment affecting business so as to be able to identify, avoid, and manage legal issues they will encounter in business;
- To encourage students to develop personal values and standards and engage in creating a credo for professional life;
- To connect the course material to situations students will face in the workplace through practical examples of ethical dilemmas and the legal consequences of poor as well as good management decision-making.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

1. The class meets each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. at Elliott Hall Room 235 from January 3, 2018 through April 25, 2018.
2. The final exam is Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The final will be made available online via Moodle at the instructor's discretion.
3. Class attendance is mandatory. Except in extraordinary circumstances, final grade will be affected if a student misses more than three (3) classes. Attendance will be taken after the break each class. If you are not in class after the break, then you are considered absent. Being late and leaving early is being rude and you will not accomplish what you need to if you are not with us. Absolutely no cell phones will be permitted in use during class. Instructor reserves the right to restrict or otherwise ban use of laptops or other computers during class as well. 3. Class attendance is mandatory. There are no exceptions. As this is a blended course, there will only be seven (7) live classes. Consequently, each class is critical to your understanding of course material. Except in extraordinary circumstances, final grade will be affected if a student misses more than one (1) class. Attendance will be taken after the break each class. If you are not in class after the break, then you are considered absent. Being late and leaving early is being rude and you will not accomplish what you need to if you are not with us. Absolutely no cell phones will be permitted in use during class. Instructor reserves the right to restrict or otherwise ban use of laptops or other computers during class as well.
4. Learning Assurance Process: The learning assurance process is an SBA initiative to continuously assess and improve the quality of the SBA's undergraduate and graduate programs. The SBA has identified a set of learning goals and objectives for its undergraduate programs (each learning goal has between 1 and 5 learning objectives). These goals will be assessed on a two-year cycle. MGT 350 (Legal Environment of Business) has been identified as an undergraduate course that will be used for assessment of one of these goals. The learning assurance process will be overseen by the Learning Assurance Committee (LAC), which is an SBA standing committee.

Ethics Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize basic concepts related to business ethics.
2. Apply an ethical decision making process to an ethical dilemma presented to them.

These skills will be incorporated into the assignments discussed below.

4. Class preparation is mandatory. You will be called upon at random early and often to answer questions and comment on topics that you should have prepared for in advance of the class. Be ready. Staring straight down when I ask for a volunteer is a dead giveaway that you want to be called on. Be warned. Standing assignments for each class shall be as follows:

A. Read assigned chapters and emphasize the cases and questions. Be ready to discuss the cases. It will be very easy to tell if you have not read the material therefore I urge you to come prepared;

B. Chapter problems. Students may be assigned chapter problems for preparation and turning in. Write answers to problems on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper. Be sure to put your name on the paper which you will hand in at the front desk as you enter class. Problems will not be returned to students so if you want a record, keep a copy for yourself. Credit will be given for well reasoned responses and opinions. I will know if you have faked it or are guessing so don't try it. If you read the chapter, you should be able to come up with a reasoned response as the questions are not overly onerous. Remember, in the legal field, the right answer is only correct if you can provide a reasoned argument to support it. Sometimes a good explanation can sell a unique conclusion;

C. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you are unable to attend class, email answers to me. Date of sending cannot be after assignment is due;

D. Four to Six pages on Court Room observation. Physically go to any of the Macomb County Circuit Court, Wayne County Circuit Court, Oakland County Circuit Court, or any other county circuit court (Lapeer, Livingston, Washtenaw, Ingham etc.) in Michigan and find a courtroom with a **trial** in progress and observe. **IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO OBSERVE AT A DISTRICT COURT.** It is helpful to call or stop by the Clerk's Office or the Jury Room Office and ask for assistance as they are more than happy to help. You must stay a minimum of two (2) hours. Paper must include:

- Date and Time;
- Judge, type of case(s);
- Observation and issues involved, including discussion on parties, Judge, attorneys and issues;
- What you learned/impression and how they relate to course topics. This section should be a minimum of 2 pages.
- Paper is due by no later than **March 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** Please email your papers in either Word or PDF format. 12 point font and double spaced. Word to the wise: do not procrastinate.
- Please note that the assignment is to watch a **TRIAL**. Observing a sentencing, arraignment, pre-trial, motion hearing or any other non-trial is not acceptable. You'll certainly learn the anatomy of a trial which will help you identify but it's also encouraged to ask questions and, by all means, ask the court staff who are generally very friendly and helpful.

E. Argument Presentation. Students will pair up (teams of 2) to present an oral argument of a legal topic (examples include medical marijuana, same sex marriage, gun control etc.). Students will confirm their group and topic and sign up for their presentation day by no later than the 3rd class. Professor must approve the topic. Each student will present for a maximum of 5 minutes however each student can reserve 1 minute of rebuttal (to be deducted from their 5 minute allotment). Time limit will be

strictly followed just as state and federal appellate courts do and students will be graded on flow, effectiveness and organization of argument as well as ability to address opponent's arguments within the time limit.

Presentations can begin before class begins. This assignment may be altered in an effort to accommodate the number of students and to achieve all SBA Learning Assurance objectives.

*** Additional or different assignments may be given at any time by the Instructor. Deficiency in completing assignments will affect grades.

CONSULTATION WITH INSTRUCTOR:

Instructor will be available for appointments and for consultation before and after each class. Instructor will always be 15-20 minutes early for each class so feel free to approach and chat. Other times may be scheduled by appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact the Instructor by telephone or email.

<u>GRADING</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF FINAL GRADE</u>
Quiz (T/F, MC and 1 Essay)	15%
Midterm Examination (T/F, MC & Short Answer)	25%
Final Examination (T/F, MC & Short Answer)	25%
Problems and Class Participation	5%
Paper	15%
Presentation	15%

100%

NO MAKE UP FOR ANY EXAMINATION

Also, extra credit will be awarded if the student turns in proof of Instructor Evaluation on or before the day of the final examination. Instructor reserves the right to make further extra credit available.

GRADE SCALE

The following percentage/point grade scale will be used for this course:

99-100=4.0	79=2.9	68=1.8
97-98=3.9	78=2.8	67=1.7
95-96=3.8	77=2.7	66=1.6
93-94=3.7	76=2.6	65=1.5
91-92=3.6	75=2.5	64=1.4
90=3.5	74=2.4	63=1.3
88-89=3.4	73=2.3	62=1.2
86-87=3.3	72=2.2	61=1.1
84-85=3.2	71=2.1	60=1.0
82-83=3.1	70=2.0	Below 60=0.0
80-81=3.0	69=1.9	

MISCELLANEOUS CONTENT:

- You will get out of the course what you put into it which means your time, attention, enthusiasm and questions/discussions will greatly affect your enjoyment level. You are attending an evening course and some or most of you may be attending after a long day of work. I understand this is difficult and tiring however you will find it easier to manage if you get involved in the lecture;

- Ask questions!! If an unfamiliar word/term is used (an occupational hazard in the legal field), or if something is ambiguous, you are strongly encouraged to ask questions;

- You will be called on during class to discuss certain parts of the chapter, to answer chapter problems or simply to participate. If this bothers you, get over it quickly. The Instructor's teaching philosophy is that education is best achieved when questions are asked, not when answers are given, so speak up;

- Get involved!! This may be one of the best business courses you will ever take. I'll be giving it my best shot to reach that level but I need your help. You need to read the materials in advance of class, ask questions and participate. My goal is to provide you with information that you will actually be able to use for the rest of your life;

- Please complete an on-line Instructor Evaluation at the end of the semester to let me know how I did and if you got as much out of the course as I hope you did.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

You will be expected to adhere to the Academic Conduct Policy regarding cheating on examinations and plagiarizing the work of others. ***Plagiarism is stealing the words and ideas of another and presenting them as your own.*** Unintentional or intentional, plagiarizing is a serious offense. Students suspected of cheating on an assignment, exam, or on a paper will be reported to the Dean of Students. Possible consequences for being proved a plagiarist or a cheater include an academic disciplinary warning, academic probation, suspension or expulsion (dismissal) from the university, and/or a course grade of 0.0.

Unauthorized Collaboration . According to the Academic Conduct Policy, collaboration on course work is presumed unauthorized, and a violation of the Policy, unless the Instructor specifically indicates otherwise. For this class, collaboration on take-home assignments which will be graded and your ethics paper is unauthorized. Studying with another classmate for exams does not constitute collaboration. If you have any questions, please be sure to speak with me.

Class Schedule - MGT 3500

Week	Subject Matter	Chapter(s)
1/3/18	Legal Heritage & the Digital Age	1
	Ethics of Managers & Soc. Resp	2
1/10/18	Courts, Jurisdiction & Admin. Agencies	3
	Judicial, Alternative, and E-Dispute Resolution	4
1/17/18	Constitutional Law for Business & E-Commerce	5
	Criminal law and Cyber Crimes	7
1/24/18	Credit, Secured Transactions & Bankruptcy	13
	Agency Law	18
1/31/18	Quiz	
	Torts & Strict Liability	6
2/7/18	Contracts	9
	Presentations	10
2/14/18	Contracts - Continued	11
		12
2/28/18	Mid-Term Exam (Moodle)	
3/7/18	Intellectual Property & Cyber Piracy	8
	Presentations	
3/14/18	Small Business & General & Limited Partnerships	14
	LLC's, LLP's and Special Forms of Business	15
3/21/18	Corporations & Sarbanes-Oxley	16
	Presentations	
3/28/18	Employment Law and Worker Protection	20
	Labor Law and Immigration Law	21
	Equal Opportunities in Employment	19
	Presentations	
4/11/18	Real Property	25
	Presentations	
4/25/18	Final Exam	