GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Business and Public Administration

COURSE: BLAW 325 A, BUSINESS LAW I
FALL TRIMESTER 1999

INSTRUCTOR: RICHARD FINKLEY, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

OFFICE: C-3388

PHONE: 708-534-4960, E-MAIL: r-finkle@govst.edu
FAX NO.: 708-534-8457

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., 3:15 – 5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., 3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

CREDIT HOURS: THREE (3)

PREREQUISITE: NONE

COURSE TYPE: LECTURE/DISCUSSION


COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to the American legal system followed by study of the following substantive areas of law: contracts, personal property, bailments, sales, agency. The principles discussed are applicable to personal as well as business use.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, the student is able to:

1. Discuss the terms law/justice and ethics/morals and relate them to societal development.

2. Describe the organization of the American legal system and how its function of dispute resolution works.

3. Describe how the American legal system differs from the legal systems in other countries by comparing factors such as origin, development, organization, sources of law, civil and criminal procedure, burden of proof, and federalism/local rights.

4. Discuss the “problems” posed by “international law” for American business by examining concepts such as choice of law/forum shopping, conflict of laws, extraterritorial enforceability of judgments, extradition and treaties.
5. Discuss the history of race relations in the United States using legal concepts such as precedent, *stare decisis*, executive orders, constitutional relativity, judicial review, equal protection and due process and citing landmark cases like *Dred Scott*, *Plessy*, *Brown*, *Baake*, *Hopwood*.

6. Discuss an issue related to diversity like affirmative action by finding and stating the existing law, identifying and evaluating the opposing views, and supporting a position with reasoned argument.

7. Discuss the adaptability of law to new technology in a context such as intellectual property law.

8. Apply the basic principles of commercial law in functional areas like contracts, sales and agency to resolve or, more importantly, to avoid legal problems.

9. Use critical thinking and reasoning skills to define the legal issues involved in a dispute, discuss the alternative outcomes, decide the issue, and effectively communicate such a well reasoned conclusion in oral or written form.

10. Recognize that even though a legal decision is logically derived, laws like actions have consequences and what a law “has done” or “will do” must be considered.

**EXAMS:**

Two hour exams (100 points each) and a comprehensive final exam (200 points). Exams will consist of essay and objective questions with each type approximating 50% of the 400 possible exam points.

**GRADING:**

Legal principles “live” through their application to factual situations. Knowing the five essential elements of a contract, for example, will do you little good if you cannot recognize that a promise is lacking in one of them and thus not enforceable in court. Understanding the law in a substantive area requires not only learning principles but also applying them to real world situations. Th exams will weight knowledge of principles and their application equally. The standard 90-80-70-60-grading scale will be applied to the highest score on each exam and to the total of highest scores for the course.

(For example) High score on exam = 90

A = 81-90
B = 72-80
C = 63-71
D = 54-62
Experience indicates the following approximate grading scale for the course based on 400 possible points:

A = 85% and above  
B = 75-84%  
C = 65-74%  
D = 55-64%  
F = less than 55%

Students will be evaluated as follows:

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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>PRINCIPLES</th>
<th>APPLICATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Above average</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>Below average</td>
<td>Above average</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
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SYLLABUS STATEMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is the intention of the institution to support full participation of all students, regardless of physical ability level. Therefore, if any student needs consideration of his/her physical abilities in order to complete the courses, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.
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<td>11-1</td>
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