MBA 566 - Business Law
SYLLABUS

Professor: Mark R. Palermo, Esq.
Office: HH 314E
Telephone: 631.632.7177

Course Description:
This course provides an understanding of the nature of law and its role in business and surveys some of the regulatory issues faced by businesses. The law of business contracts will be examined in depth. Other topics include property rights, bailments, and agency concepts, business organizations, securities law and regulation, and laws and regulations impacting technology development. The course requires case analysis, problem solving, development of critical thinking skills, and oral and written communication.

Text: Business Law 4E by James F. Morgan, BVT Publishing

Learning Objectives:
Oral and written communications: Prepare and deliver a coherent and persuasive presentation about ten minutes long and a written report about five pages long.

Critical thinking, problem solving and decision making: Analyze a complex business issue and identify realistic solutions, communicating the findings in a written case with appropriate supporting material (e.g. demonstrate the ability to analyze data, use charts and figures and understand financial statements).

Ethics and corporate social responsibility: Analyze an issue from legal, ethical, and socially responsible perspectives and recommend appropriate actions for a practical business situation, described in a written case.

Structure: This course will be a lecture based presentation with discussion expected from all participants. Topics are arranged in terms of weeks. Each topic set will have assigned chapters for reading as scheduled below. In addition there will be cases assigned for students to work on and submit with the assignments being posted on Blackboard. Assignments will include some topical research, written case work, and quizzes.

Reading assignments for the Semester are as follows:

| Week 1 | a. Law – Purpose and Sources |
|        | b. Law for Entrepreneurs |
|        | c. Criminal Law and Business |
|        | Chapter: 1, 7 & 8 |

| Week 2 | a. Intentional Torts |
|        | b. Negligence and Strict Liability |
|        | Chapter: 9 & 10 |

| Week 3 | a. Property – Personal, Intellectual, and Wills |
|        | b. Property – Real Property, Mortgages, Leases |
|        | Chapter: 11 & 12 |

| Week 4 | a. Contracts – Introduction and Remedies |
|        | b. Offer and Acceptance |
|        | c. Consideration |
|        | d. Capacity and Assent |
|        | Chapter: 13 - 16 |

| Week 5 | a. Contracts and Public Policy |
Week 6
a. UCC Sales Contracts – Formation & Performance
b. Breach and Remedies
c. Warranties

Week 7
a. Agency
b. Agency and Torts

Week 8
a. Employment and Labor Law
b. Discrimination

Week 9
a. Forms of Business Organizations
b. Partnerships
c. Corporations

Week 10
a. Corporate Management and Finance
b. Limited Liability Companies

Week 11
a. Regulation of Securities
b. Antitrust Law

Week 12
a. Secured Transactions
b. Creditor Rights and Responsibilities
c. Bankruptcy

Week 13
a. Negotiable Instruments

Week 14
Guest Lecture

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disabled Student Services Office (DSS), ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128 (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students requiring emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their Professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following Web Site. HTTP://www.ehs.sunysb.edu/fire/disabilities/asp

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty includes any act that is designed to obtain fraudulently, either for oneself or for someone else, academic credit, grades, or other recognition that is not properly earned or that adversely affects another’s grade. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cheating on exams or assignments by the use of books, electronic devices, notes or other aids when these are not permitted, or by copying from another student.
- Collusion: two or more students helping one another on an exam or assignment when it is not permitted.
- Ringers: taking an exam for someone else, or permitting someone else to take one’s exam.
- Submitting the same paper in more than one course without permission of the instructors.
- Plagiarizing: copying someone else’s writing or paraphrasing it too closely, even if it constitutes only some of your written assignment.
Violations of the Academic Dishonesty policies result in failing grades either on a per assignment basis or, at the discretion of the instructor, the entire course.

Grading:
The grading rubric will be posted to Blackboard after the first week of class. Grades will consist of quizzes, assignments, class participation and exams, all to be described in detail on Blackboard.
Grading scheme for MBA 566, Business Law.

Quizzes - to be assigned throughout the semester 40%
Final paper 40%
Miscellaneous Assignments (Discussion threads, etc.) 20%

Final Paper:

This will be an individual assignment. **If you are an accounting track student** there will be several areas for you to review. In general, I will give you areas to choose from that you will see again on the CPA exam. These include topics such as RICO, Money Laundering, Accountant liability, etc. I will post a full set of options, and you may suggest a topic for me to review if you have an area of particular interest to you. You may also choose to do a survey of the topics I post so that you will write a brief summary of each of the areas posted. You must discuss the following:

1. What laws apply to this topic, statutory and common?
2. Provide examples of enforcement through actual case(s) analysis. What are the elements of violating the laws?
3. Discuss the common law/legislative history of the laws - in other words, why were these laws made and what activities are they meant to discourage?
4. What interests, if any, are balanced in these laws?
5. As an accountant, what will you need to be careful of as your activities may related to these laws?

**If you are not and accounting track student** you must find a legal case that was in a court and that was a case where one party was a business or business person accused of doing something wrong in their capacity as a business person. Examples include environmental cases, such as BP oil spill, criminal cases such as the recent insider trading cases or older cases such as the Enron executives or the Enron Accounting Firm, privacy law violations (Google, etc.), patent infringement (Apple v. Samsung etc.) and so on. You must decide on a case and discuss the following:

1. Who are the parties?
2. What laws are involved - statutes and/or common law? What are the elements of violating the law involved? You need not be concerned with PROCEDURAL law other than to understand and describe the next item.
3. What court did the case get to and what is the procedural history - like the Cheek case - what court did it end up in and how did it get there?
4. What was the result?
5. What, if any, rights are being balanced by the laws/case at hand?
6. How does this case inform you about your future activities as a person involved in business?

Paper requirements:

Paper should be 4 pages typed (before exhibits and citation), 12 point font, single spaced. You must cite all of your sources, I prefer bibliography format. The due date for the paper is due April 30, NO EXCEPTIONS!