Instructor: John M. Jones, Adjunct Professor
Office Location: Fine Arts Building B-110
Office E-Mail: JJones23@gmu.edu
Home E-Mail: johnmjones44@gmail.com
Office Hours: Immediately before or immediately after class or by mutually acceptable arrangement

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: This course surveys the legal environment of business, emphasizing legal concepts and legal reasoning to prepare students to recognize legal problems and formulate appropriate responses. Topics include business ethics, torts, crimes, contracts and other topics. Lectures, discussions and case analysis will be used during the classes.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Sophomore standing (a minimum of 45 credit hours recommended for registration).

SOM LEARNING GOALS:
(1) Our graduates will be knowledgeable about the legal environment of business.
(2) Our graduates will understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
(1) Identify and explain fundamental legal concepts from a variety of subject areas of the legal environment of business.
(2) Demonstrate the ability to apply fundamental legal concepts through legal reasoning to resolve business related disputes.
(3) Identify ethical issues and understand the importance of ethical behavior in business.
(4) Demonstrate the ability to apply ethical analysis and reasoning to resolve business related ethical dilemmas.
(5) Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of the law on business and the role of business in shaping the legal and regulatory environment.

COURSE MATERIALS: The materials for this course include the following textbook:
**BLACKBOARD:** This is a tool that facilitates communication and requires minimal technical expertise on the part of student users. Students may access Blackboard at [http://mymason.gmu.edu](http://mymason.gmu.edu) and clicking on the courses tab. If you experience technical problems with or have difficulty logging on to Blackboard contact the ITU Support Center at 703-993-8870 or [support@gmu.edu](mailto:support@gmu.edu); if you continue to experience problems try e-mailing [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu) for assistance. The Blackboard e-mail system and grade book will be used in this course and a copy of this syllabus will be posted on Blackboard in case you misplace your copy.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** (1) Regular Class attendance; (2) Preparation of assignments prior to class; (3) Participation in discussion/critical analysis of assignments and lectures; (4) Completion of assignments; (5) Professional in-class behavior which respects the rights and opinions of classmates and the professor.

Students should read every assignment, including cases, ethical issues, landmarks and other text “features”, regardless of whether the material is discussed in class. Changes in requirements, including omissions of materials will be announced in class and posted on the class website. If you miss class or an in-class announcement, check the website. It is your responsibility to keep informed.

**COURTESY:** Please act professionally at all times. The following types of behavior are distracting to me and your classmates: arriving late, leaving early, leaving temporarily, sleeping, chatting during class, cell phones ringing, or any cell phone usage including text messaging, and e-mails. Students may NOT use computers while in class, unless they have an approval from the Office of Disability Services. Please allow enough time to arrive before class begins. If you have a problem with an exam date or other due date, let me know as soon as you know so that we can try to resolve the problem. Afterwards it is too late. If you have any unavoidable problems during the semester affecting your performance in this course, please let me know.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** In order to develop analytical and oral skills, each student will be called upon in class during the semester to discuss cases and/or end of chapter problems. Significant participation in discussions of course material during class sessions will be considered as additional credit towards the final grade.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** SOM is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Such students should promptly contact the university’s Disability Resource Center (993-2474) and provide the Center with appropriate documentation to support their requests for reasonable accommodations. Your professor must be notified of your request for accommodations for exams at least one week prior to the dates the accommodations are requested.

**HONOR CODE STATEMENT:** Students are required to familiarize themselves with the George Mason Honor Code. And follow it at all times. According to the University Honor Code “Student members of the George Mason University Community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” The Honor Code is in effect for all graded assignments for this course. If you have a question as to whether or not an action you are contemplating is prohibited by the Code, please speak to me before deciding to proceed. Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation and all internet research projects will be subjected to a plagiarism review. Sources used must be cited and any language that is copied must be both quoted and cited. Honor Code violations may result in a grade of HC.

**ADVANCED NOTIFICATION ABOUT CANCELLED CLASS:** I expect to meet each class session as indicated in the syllabus. However, if it is necessary for me to miss a session, without providing a substitute teacher, I will try to post notice to the Blackboard and send out a class e-mail message. If a class is missed, the
material to be covered will be covered the next meeting (including exams). In the event that the GMU closes because of weather on the exam day, the exam will be given the next class meeting.

**ENROLLMENT CAVEATS:** You will not receive credit for this course unless you are listed on the official grade sheet. It is your responsibility to verify that you are properly enrolled. Please note the following critical dates:

- The last day to drop a course with no tuition penalty or to add a course is **Tuesday, February 8th**.
- The last day to drop a course without a Dean’s permission is **Friday, February 25th**.
- The last day of the selective withdrawal period is **Friday, April 1st**.

Students may visit the schedule of classes at [http://registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu) for more information.

**METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION – Examinations**

Five exams are scheduled during this course. Exams two, three, four and five will be partly comprehensive to allow students to apply the concepts covered in earlier chapters. Two kinds of questions will be on the exams. (1) **Reflective** – Have you read the assigned materials and mastered the meanings of the terms and concepts; and, (2) **Analytic** – Can you apply the concepts to a particular set of facts.

**GRADING SCALE:** Letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Course Average</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA Pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97 - 100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93 – 96+%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 92%+</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 - 89%+</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83 - 86 %+</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 - 82%+</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 - 79%+</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 77% +</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65- 69% +</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 65%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SOM COURSE REPEAT POLICY:** This course requires a minimum grade of C to satisfy SOM degree requirements, and students will not be permitted to make more than three attempts to achieve a C or higher in this course. Effective with the Fall semester of 2010, registration in this course will be prohibited after three attempts that resulted in a grade lower than C. If you have questions about this policy, please see an academic advisor in ENT 008.

**UNIVERSITY EMERGENCIES:** Students may sign up to receive emergency information related to university safety and security by visiting the website [https://alert.gmu.edu](https://alert.gmu.edu). In addition, an emergency poster exists in each classroom explaining what to do in the event of crises and information about emergency procedures is available at [http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert](http://www.gmu.edu/service/cert)

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** Planned Dates of Topic Coverage; Dates of Exams; Assignment Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23rd</td>
<td>Course Introduction and Overview</td>
<td>Review Course Materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Business and its Legal Environment

January 30th  
Ethics and Business Decision Making  
Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Chapter Two

Chapter Three

February 6th  
 Constitutional Authority to Regulate Business Review

Chapter Four

February 13th  
Exam #1 – All materials related to Chs. 1 – 4

February 20th  
Torts and Cyber Torts  
Criminal Law and Cyber Crime

Chapter Five

Chapters Six

February 27th  
International Law in a Global Economy  
Intellectual Property and Internet Law

Chapter Seven

Chapter Eight

March 5th  
Exam #2 – All materials related to Chs. 5 - 8

March 12th through March 18 – Spring Break

March 26th  
Contract Formation  
Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies

Chapter Nine

Chapter Ten

April 2nd  
 Sales, Leases and e-Contracts  
Strict Liability and Product Liability

Chapter Eleven

Chapter Twelve

April 9th  
Exam # 3 – All materials related to Chs. 9 - 12

April 16th  
Creditor-Debtor Relations and Bankruptcy  
Small Business Organizations

Chapter Thirteen

Chapter Fourteen

April 23rd  
Corporations  
Agency

Chapter Fifteen

Chapter Sixteen

April 30th  
Exam #4 – All materials related to Chs. 13 – 16

May 7th  
Employment, Immigration and Labor Law  
Employment Discrimination

Chapter Seventeen

Chapter Eighteen

May 14th  
Final Exam # 5 - All materials related to Chs. 17 - 18