

COURSE SYLLABUS - LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

Spring, 2012 - MN-461 Sec 1

6:30 – 7:45 p.m. – Mondays and Wednesdays

Telephone: Law Office: 216-831-7338; Fax: 216-504-0240; Cell phone: 216-346-6530

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: [**cjpalmeri@cjpalmeri.com**](mailto:cjpalmeri@cjpalmeri.com)

Website: [**www.cjpalmeri.com**](http://www.cjpalmeri.com)

(Please do not use my jcu.edu email address)

Office Hours: Mondays / Wednesdays- 6:00-6:30 pm and by appointment at JCU or my law offices

Law Office Location: 30100 Chagrin Blvd., Suite 120, Pepper Pike, Ohio 44124; Located on Chagrin Blvd near Lander Circle (1 mile east of I-271/Chagrin exit). Click "Directions" for a map.

"LEAD COUNSEL" ASSIGNMENTS: To encourage full and effective class participation, we will divide the class into 6 groups of 4-5 students. Two (2) groups will be assigned each week to act as "Lead Counsel" for that week. Members of Lead Counsel will be the only students called upon during that class period to answer questions concerning the assigned material. While all students are encouraged to participate, the members of the Lead Counsel group will be responsible for a thorough understanding of the material. Lead Counsel participation will be part of your final grade. (See below)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The prerequisite for this course is senior standing. The course should familiarize the student with the role of law in our society by discussing the nature, functions and purposes of law; history and development of Anglo-American law; the legal system; law as a process of settling disputes; of facilitating and protecting voluntary agreements and as a dynamic force in resolving acute social conflicts.

OBJECTIVES (*Legal/Regulatory Issues*): The purposes of the course in Legal Environment, MN-461 are: 1) To make students aware of the fact that it is the existence of the rule of law which provides part of the assurance and stability of expectations upon which not only our economy, but, in fact, our whole society is based. 2) To emphasize the need for laymen in a democracy to learn about the law and the role of law; not only because it is their civic responsibility to understand the system which they ultimately control, but, more importantly, because a legal system can operate effectively only if most people follow its precepts willingly. 3) To provide intellectual enrichment. No one can call himself or herself truly educated unless he or she understands something of our legal system. In our country, immigrants are required to learn some of the basic tenets of the law before being naturalized. Native-born citizens are under no such requirement, and quite often, have no course in law even during twenty years of schooling through the Ph.D. degree. It is hoped that this course will partly fill the void.

TEXTBOOK: *The Legal Environment of Business*, Meiners, Ringleb & Edwards, 11th Ed., South-Western Cengage Learning, 2012.

CLASSROOM METHOD / TESTS / GRADING: Classroom instruction will consist of a combination of lectures and the Socratic method. Ordinarily, there will be three (3) examinations including the FINAL. Each exam will be worth 28% of the final grade. There will also be a special written project (to be assigned) which will be worth 9% of the final grade. Class participation (Lead Counsel) will be worth 7% of the final grade. Examination questions will be based on the textbook, my lectures, any printed notes distributed in class and any assigned outside reading. **THERE ARE NO "MAKE-UP" EXAMS OR "MAKE-UP" QUIZZES IN THIS COURSE.** If you miss an exam or quiz, I must be convinced that it was missed for just cause, such as serious illness. If an examination is missed for other than just cause, a zero grade will be averaged in with your other exams, as appropriate. **THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT WORK AVAILABLE FOR THIS COURSE.** Grades are based on the quality of work in the exams and quizzes under the following system:

A = Average of 93 or higher.

A- = Average between 90 and 92 inclusive.

B+ = Average between 88 and 89 inclusive.

B = Average between 85 and 87 inclusive.

B- = Average between 82 and 84 inclusive.

C+ = Average between 80 and 81 inclusive.

C = Average between 77 and 79 inclusive.

C- = Average between 74 and 76 inclusive.

D+ = Average between 72 and 73 inclusive.

D = Average between 70 and 71 inclusive.

F = Average of 69 or less, for which there will be no credit hours or quality points.

UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES: The student is expected to be familiar with and abide by the rules and regulations contained in the appropriate John Carroll University Bulletin, the current Community Standards Manual, and such other policies that have been or may be from time to time promulgated by the University, the Boler School of Business, and/or this professor, including but not limited to, matters regarding academic honesty and class attendance.

With respect to academic dishonesty (cheating), the minimum penalty for such conduct in this class will be an F (zero points) for the related test or assignment. However, depending on the circumstances, more severe penalties may be imposed. The *John Carroll University Community Standards Manual* states:

All work submitted for evaluation in a course, including tests, term papers, and computer programs, must represent only the work of the student unless indicated otherwise. Material taken from the work of others must be acknowledged properly. (p. 14)

It is recommended that you read the additional information regarding academic dishonesty and penalties in the manual. With respect to class attendance, please refer to the *Undergraduate Bulletin* for details on the University's policy on attendance regulations and excused absences.

DISABILITIES: Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations as needed. If you believe you need such accommodations, please see me or the University's Coordinator for Students with disabilities (AD7; 216-397-4967) as soon as possible. Accommodations will not be granted retroactively.

COURSE SCHEDULE – MONDAY / WEDNESDAY

Class #1

1st Week January 18

Ch. 1 The Modern Environment of Business - Pages 2-23

Class #2 and #3

2nd Week January 23 and 25

Ch. 2 The Court Systems - Pages 26-50

Appendix A - Legal Research and the Internet - Pages 690-692

Appendix B - Case Analysis and Legal Research - Pages 693-699

Ch. 3 The Trial and Resolving Disputes - Pages 54-83

Class #4 and #5

3rd Week January 30 and February 1

Ch. 4 The Constitution - Focus on Application to Business - Pages 86-114

Class #6 and #7

4th Week February 6 and 8

Ch. 6 Elements of Torts [Negligence and Intentional Torts] - Pages 150-175

Class #8 and #9

5th Week February 13 and 15

Ch. 7 Business Torts and Product Liability - Pages 178-205

Class #10 and #11

6th Week February 20 and 22

FIRST EXAMINATION THIS WEEK

Ch. 13 Business Organizations - Pages 366-389

Class #12 and #13

7th Week February 27 and 29

Ch. 14 Agency and the Employment Relationship - Pages 400-427

No Class

8th Week March 5 and 7 - NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK

Class #14 and #15

9th Week March 12 and 14

Ch. 16 Employment and Labor Regulations - Pages 457-480

Ch. 17 Employment Discrimination - Pages 497-527

Class #16 and #17

10th Week March 19 and 21

Ch. 20 Antitrust Law - Pages 599-622

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Class #18 and #19

11th Week March 26 and 28

Ch. 12 Negotiable Instruments, Credit and Bankruptcy - Pages 331-361

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Class #20

12th Week April 2 and (April 4 - No Class – Friday classes meet then EASTER BREAK)

SECOND EXAMINATION THIS WEEK

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Class #21 and #22

13th Week April 10 (Monday classes meet) and April 11

Collateral Transactions and Foreclosures (Class Lectures and Notes)

Ch. 8 Real and Personal Property - Pages 208-234

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Class #23 and #24

14th Week April 16 and 18

Real Estate Sales and Conveyances (Class Lectures and Notes)

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Class #25 and #26

15th Week April 23 and 25

Real Estate Interests / Landlord -Tenant (Class Lectures and Notes)

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Class #27 and #28

16th Week April 30 and May 2 (Last Class)

PAPERS DUE: Monday April 30, 2012

Probate Estates and Basic Estate Planning (Class Lectures and Notes)

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FINAL EXAMINATION: May __, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.