

Tri-Cities High School
Legal Environment of Businesses
Fall/Spring 2014/2015
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Course Description:

Legal Environment of Businesses (formerly Business Law) is designed to develop a basic knowledge of the legal system and how business law impacts commerce domestically and internationally. Areas of study include sources of the law and structure of the court system; ethics and the law; procedural law and substantive law; contract law, law of sales and consumer law; agency law and employment law; personal property and real property; commercial paper, insurance, secured transactions and bankruptcy; wills and trusts; impact of technology; and environmental law and energy regulation.

Standards:

This course will consist of 10 standards.

Text:

Law for Business and Personal Use, South-Western, copyright 2006 (**Replacement cost: \$75) – Reference Only**

Law for Business and Personal Use, South-Western; copyright 2012 (**Replacement cost: \$79)**

Law for Business and Personal Use (student workbook), South-Western, copyright 2006
There will also be outside materials and readings which will be relative to the course.

Methods:

Group activities (cooperative learning), note taking, group and individual presentations, video presentations, PowerPoint presentations, mock trials, current event assignments using newsworthy business law articles from the business section of the AJC, mini projects, use of internet, test and quizzes, and class discussions.

Materials:

1. Three-ringed binder for notebook*
2. Pen/pencil and paper
3. Highlighter for notes (optional, but will help)
4. Report cover for project

*All Tri Cities students are required to have an **Academic Portfolio** for each of their classes. Academic Portfolios must be standard academic size and contain both a three-ring binder and pockets. Dividers should also be in place.

Grading Percentages:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Classroom/Homework | 20% |
| Notebook Check | 15% |
| Participation/Work Ethic | 5% |
| Tests | 20% |
| Projects | 15% |
| Current Events | 10% |

Grading Scale:

| |
|-----------|
| A=90-100% |
| B=80-89% |
| C=70-79% |
| F=0-69% |

Final Exam 15%

Note: Quizzes will be given, but will serve as **extra credit**. It will be like “money in the bank.” The points will be added to test grades. Quizzes will not be made up due to absences.

Class work:

Class work is assigned on a regular basis. There should be no sharing of answers at any time except during group activities (cooperative learning). Sharing answers will result in grade adjustments which may result in a zero.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned and is expected to be completed upon arrival to class. As with class work, there should not be any sharing of answers. Again, sharing answers (if not part of a group activity) will result in grade adjustments which may result in a zero.

Participation / Work Ethics:

Students must actively participate in class by raising hands and answering questions; taking part in class discussions; taking part in group activities (cooperative learning); turning in assignments on time; taking required notes from chalkboard; and taking required notes from video, when required.

The following areas will detract from participation / work ethics:

- Tardies to class
- Not on task (inefficient use of time)
- Excessively talking
- Disturbing other students
- Horseplaying
- Eating and/or drinking in class
- Cheating on assignments

Tests:

Tests will be announced in advance. **During the administration of a test, there should not be any form of communication between/among students – verbal or nonverbal.**

Absence the day prior to the test, or the day of review, does not excuse the student from taking the test.

Projects:

Projects will be announced in advance. Guidelines to the project will be given. Projects should be worked on individually unless otherwise stated. If the student is absent the day the project is due, he/she is responsible for turning in the project the first day back to class. There will be a deduction of ten (10) points for each day the project is late.

Cheating:

Cheating (using materials such as “cheat sheets” or notes unless authorized) on any assignment will result in a zero. Zeros as results of cheating can not be replaced. All parties involved will be penalized. Please note that **plagiarism** also constitutes cheating.

Make-up and Recovery:

Students should start making up missed assignments (except quizzes) due to absences, no later than the second day upon their return. Also, students who do not pass assignments

with a grade of 70 or better, may complete a recovery assignment (tied directly to the school's recovery procedure) concerning the same content for a maximum grade of 760. Students must request recovery before the 8th week of the semester. Make up recovery will be completed before or after school by appointment. **However, some recovery are done during class.**

Tutorials:

Tutorials are prior to the start of school from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. by appointment.

This course prepares you for the following Business Related careers:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Legal Secretary | Commercial Lawyer |
| Paralegal and Legal Assistant | Bankruptcy Lawyer |
| Law Clerk | Labor and Employment Lawyer |
| Mediation/Arbitration Lawyer | Consumer Protection Lawyer |
| Sports Agent | Contract Lawyer |
| Estate Lawyer | Small Business Attorney |
| Insurance Lawyer | Business Litigation Lawyer |
| Tax Lawyer | Compliance Lawyer |
| Investment Lawyer | Divorce Lawyer |
| Injury and Accident Lawyer | Disability Lawyer |

Listed are some of the websites that will be used throughout the course:

www.lawguru.com

This site gives information on workers compensation, personal injury, trademark and copyright registrations. It also gives information on areas of law such as administration, adoption, appeals and writ, adoption, family, labor, wills, trust, etc. In addition, it gives information on legal forms/documentations such as deeds, power of attorney, bill of sale, lease and rentals, etc.

www.lawcheck.com

This site provides information on checks, credit card, debt consolidation, credit counseling, and credit report. It also provides links to injury, accident, disability, and tax lawyers.

<http://boards.courtTV.com>

This site gives information on updated cases.

<http://www.streetlaw.org>

This site provides information on different types of cases. It also gives information on careers in law. Finally, it also provides a supersite link to best law-related sites.

<http://ezinarticles.com/?Bad-Checks&id=408608>

This site gives description of bad checks, and the tips to avoid writing bad checks.

<http://www.ckfraud.org/penalties.html>

This site provides information concerning penalties for writing bad checks.

http://www.alllaw.com/forms/wills_wills_and_trusts/

This site provides information on how to complete a living will and a living trust online. It also gives information on power of attorney. In addition to the wills and trust, this site also gives information on legal topics such as estate planning.

Classroom Policies/Procedures and Behavior Expectations:

1. Take responsibility for creating a positive atmosphere
2. Please, no grooming in class.
3. Please do not eat or drink in class (bottled water is OK).
4. Please clean up after yourself.
5. Please show respect when others are addressing the class (your teacher as well as your peers). Raise your hand to be recognized. Only one speaker will be recognized at a time.
6. Please use appropriate languages at all times. **Profanity** will not be tolerated.
7. Please complete your assignments.
8. Please respect others space, as you would want them to respect yours.
9. No passes to the water fountain
10. No talking when the PA system is on
11. Please use safe and responsible conduct at all times

Behavior Consequences:

- 1st infraction verbal warning
2nd infraction call parents
3rd infraction office referral plus parents' notification

Tardiness

Students are expected to be in their seats before the tardy bell rings. The Tri-Cities High school policy will be followed.

Seating Chart

Every student will be assigned a seat in class. This process increases time management. Assigned seats may change by the teacher if the need arises. Exceptions will be made for special needs. Any student who consistently departs from his/her assigned will be reprimanded.

Welcome:

Welcome to Legal Environment of Businesses (formerly Business Law)! It is my intent to treat each student equally and with respect. I will expect each student to respect me as his/her teacher, as well as respect his/her peers. Please remember there are no "dumb" questions; therefore, please do not hesitate to ask questions concerning things you do not understand. We are all here to learn from each other, so everyone's involvement is needed. We will have a great semester, and remember that everyone should have fun while they learn.

Dear Parents and students:

On behalf of Tri-Cities High School, I would like to welcome you. I want you to learn about law associated with business as well as individuals. I want to relate what we cover throughout the year to businesses in our community, as well as other businesses nationally. and internationally.

We live in a world where laws continually change. We live in cities as well as suburbs, and the attitude towards any law affects us differently. We will be able to discuss how businesses law in the U.S. correlates to people's ethical behavior, their employment rights, their rights to enter into contractual agreements, etc.

It is my job as a business law teacher to stimulate the students' thinking, so that they can relate the early business law systems, to those of the world we now live in. It is my job to bridge the gap in the students' thinking about how early people throughout the world value business laws to how we value them today. I will give the students the opportunity to survey business laws as they relate to property, insurance, wills, trusts, the environment, as well as other areas such as energy conservation/regulation. I will also give the students a chance to research a famous historical lawyer. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated with this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and/or concerns. Please sign below stating that you have read this syllabus, and that you agree to comply with the contents.

Mr. McKenzie
Business Education Teacher

Parent

Student