

SMITH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS – UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SPRING 2005 – SYLLABUS

BMGT 380 -- BUSINESS LAW I

0701	MW	9:30 am-10:45 am	VMH 1412
0501	MW	11:00 am-12:15 pm	VMH 1412
0401	TuTh	12:30 pm-1:45 pm	VMH 1412
0301	TuTh	2:00 pm-3:15 pm	VMH 1412

PROFESSOR: Walter C. Hutchens

OFFICE: VMH 3424

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 P.M. (and by appointment)

PHONE: 301-405-4235

E-MAIL: whutchens@rhsmith.umd.edu

READINGS: 1. **MILLER, JENTZ & CROSS, WEST’S BUSINESS LAW: A CASE STUDY APPROACH (“TEXT”)**

2. **Handouts distributed in class**

COURSE CONTENT:

BMGT 380 is an introduction to the relationship between law and business. It will acquaint you with substantive legal doctrines, legal reasoning and the structure and dynamics of the U.S. legal system. Course topics include the following:

LEGAL SYSTEM BASICS

Sources of Law, Classifications of Law, Philosophical Approaches
The Court System
Civil Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

PRIVATE LAW

Torts (Intentional Torts, Negligence, Strict Liability & Product Liability)
Property (Personal and Real)
Contracts

PUBLIC LAW / BUSINESS REGULATION

Constitutional Law
Regulation of Business
Administrative Agencies
Intellectual Property
Antitrust

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Mid-Term I	30%
Mid-Term II	30%
Final Exam	30%
<u>Class Participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

MID-TERMS:

- Each of the three exams is non-cumulative. Each counts the same percentage of the final grade.
- Make-up exams are given only under exceptional circumstances and with advance approval.

FINAL EXAM: There will be a non-cumulative final exam, scheduled as follows:

Normal Class Time	Exam Date	Exam Time
MW 9:30 am	Saturday, May 14	8:00-10:00 am
MW 11:00 am	Wednesday, May 18	8:00-10:00 am
TuTh 12:30 pm	Friday, May 20	1:30-3:30pm
TuTh 2:00 pm	Thursday, May 19	10:30 am-12:30 pm

EXAM FORMAT/ CONTENT:

- Exams will likely consist of objective questions, such as multiple-choice and true/false, and may also include matching and/or fill-in-the-blank.
- You are responsible for all material presented or discussed in class and for all assigned material in the Text and other readings.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

- Since active participation enhances understanding of the material and the quality of the classroom experience, **it is essential that all students participate in class discussion.** Class participation grades will be assigned based on the instructor's opinion regarding the quantity & quality of each student's participation. Attendance alone does not constitute sufficient class participation.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS:

- **Preparation for every class is a basic course requirement.** In order to participate effectively, students must carefully study the assigned reading before each class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

- The University's *Code of Academic Integrity* is designed to ensure that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. All students are expected to adhere to this Code. The Smith School does not tolerate academic dishonesty. All acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this code. Please visit the following website for more information on the University's Code of Academic Integrity:

<http://www.jpo.umd.edu/>

- On each exam or assignment you will be asked to write out and sign the following pledge. "*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.*"

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Any student with special needs should bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of class.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS
Monday-Wednesday Sections

- The schedule of assignments is tentative and likely to be modified during the semester.
- Since we will sometimes vary the schedule of assignments in class, always:
 - *review the reading that was assigned for the previous class, and*
 - *stay at least one full chapter ahead of the material covered in the last class.*

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
Wed.	1/26	Course Overview	None
Mon.	1/31	Introduction to Law & Legal Reasoning	Text, Chap. 1 & App. A (the U.S. Constitution)
Wed.	2/2	Dispute Resolution	Text, Chap. 2
Mon.	2/7	Court Procedures	Text, Chap. 3
Wed.	2/9	Intentional Torts	Text, Chap. 5
Mon.	2/14	Negligence	Text, Chap. 5
Wed.	2/16	Strict & Product Liability	Text, Chap. 6
Mon.	2/21	TBA	
Wed.	2/23	<i>Mid Term I (tentative)</i>	
Mon.	2/28	Property—Real & Personal	Text, Chap. 21, pp. 419-425, 433-440; Text, Chap. 22
Wed.	3/2	Property--Intellectual	Text, Chap. 7
Mon.	3/7	Contracts Introduction	Text, Chap. 9
Wed.	3/9	Agreement	Text, Chap. 10
Mon.	3/14	Consideration	Text, Chap. 11
Wed.	3/16	Capacity	Text, Chap. 12
<i>Spring Break!</i>			
Mon.	3/28	Assent	Text, Chap. 13
Wed.	3/30	Statute of Frauds	Text, Chap. 14
Mon.	4/4	TBA	
Wed.	4/6	<i>Mid Term II (tentative)</i>	
Mon.	4/11	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Wed.	4/13	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Mon.	4/18	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Wed.	4/20	Administrative Law	Text, Chap. 19
Mon.	4/25	Administrative Law	Text, Chap. 19
Wed.	4/27	Antitrust	Text, Chap. 20
Mon.	5/2	Antitrust	Text, Chap. 20
Wed.	5/4	Ethics	Text, Chap. 18
Mon.	5/9	TBA	
Wed.	5/11	TBA	
<i>FINAL EXAM (See page 2 above for each Section's exam time and date)</i>			

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS
Tuesday Thursday Sections

- The schedule of assignments is tentative and likely to be modified during the semester.
- Since we will sometimes vary the schedule of assignments in class, always:
 - *review the reading that was assigned for the previous class, and*
 - *stay at least one full chapter ahead of the material covered in the last class.*

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
Thurs.	1/27	Course Overview	None
Tues.	2/1	Introduction to Law & Legal Reasoning	Text, Chap. 1 & App. A (the U.S. Constitution)
Thurs.	2/3	Dispute Resolution	Text, Chap. 2
Tues.	2/8	Court Procedures	Text, Chap. 3
Thurs.	2/10	Intentional Torts	Text, Chap. 5
Tues.	2/15	Negligence	Text, Chap. 5
Thurs.	2/17	Strict & Product Liability	Text, Chap. 6
Tues.	2/22	TBA	
Thurs.	2/24	<i>Mid Term I (tentative)</i>	
Tues.	3/1	Property—Real & Personal	Text, Chap. 21, pp. 419-425, 433-440; Text, Chap. 22
Thurs.	3/3	Property--Intellectual	Text, Chap. 7
Tues.	3/8	Contracts Introduction	Text, Chap. 9
Thurs.	3/10	Agreement	Text, Chap. 10
Tues.	3/15	Consideration	Text, Chap. 11
Thurs.	3/17	Capacity	Text, Chap. 12
<i>Spring Break!</i>			
Tues.	3/29	Assent	Text, Chap. 13
Thurs.	3/31	Statute of Frauds	Text, Chap. 14
Tues.	4/5	TBA	
Thurs.	4/7	<i>Mid Term II (tentative)</i>	
Tues.	4/12	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Thurs.	4/14	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Tues.	4/19	Constitutional Law	Text, Chap. 4 & App. A
Thurs.	4/21	Administrative Law	Text, Chap. 19
Tues.	4/26	Administrative Law	Text, Chap. 19
Thurs.	4/28	Antitrust	Text, Chap. 20
Tues.	5/3	Antitrust	Text, Chap. 20
Thurs.	5/5	Ethics	Text, Chap. 18
Tues.	5/10	TBA	
Thurs.	5/12	TBA	
<i>FINAL EXAM (See page 2 above for each Section's exam time and date)</i>			