# SYLLABUS – LS 5802-996 BUSINESS ETHICS/LAW (online)

Fall 2018: Thursdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (zoom sessions)

Professor Daniel T. Ostas; Adams Hall 217d, Norman, OK 73019

Phone: 325-5619 (office) 292-1146 (home) [dostas@ou.edu](mailto:dostas@ou.edu)

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment (McGraw-Hill: Custom Version) (17th ed. 2018), by Langvardt, et al. ISBN: 978-130-725-281. The custom version (about $80 new) is 7 chapters selected from a longer book. An e-book of the custom version is available from McGraw-Hill (about $42). Here’s the direct link:  [https://create.mheducation.com/shop/#/catalog/details/?isbn=9781307272567](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__create.mheducation.com_shop_-23_catalog_details_-3Fisbn-3D9781307272567&d=DwMFAg&c=qKdtBuuu6dQK9MsRUVJ2DPXW6oayO8fu4TfEHS8sGNk&r=AjqUMmm5OkWoRFSD3f7STQ&m=5gb-v_WFj0bOoFbj9vJb2jcgPdnALXB4Mil91cPSf7Y&s=bHFDyj0bOb6LpgPMw6C3bHhOZmBXbhMSiQE3A_2noGA&e=)

If you prefer, you can purchase the longer book (both 16th and 17th editions work) rather than the custom book. Lead author on the 16th ed. was Jane Mallor, but the two editions are essentially the same. There are also some required readings posted on CANVAS.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces the student to the legal and ethical environment of business. The first part of the course provides necessary background on traditional business law topics such as civil procedure, criminal law, and tort law. This material will be presented in a traditional “rule-and-exception-to-rule” format supplemented with live-session case discussions. The students will master basic legal vocabulary and develop a capacity for identifying and assessing legal issues that arise in business practice.

The second half of the course emphasizes the social, political, and ethical forces that shape law. Live-session discussions will focus both on what the law is and on what the law should be. Topics of corporate social responsibility, business ethics, and legal philosophy will be emphasized to enhance student capacity for critical analysis.

**COURSE GRADE:**

Midterm: Ch 1-2, 5-7 (Sept 13; Zoom Classroom: 7:00 -- 8:30 pm) 100 pts

Final Exam: Ch 5-7, 4, 9 (Oct 11: Zoom Classroom: 7:00 – 8:30 pm) 100 pts

Pre-Session Quizzes: Weeks 1-3 & 5-7 (6 x 5 pts each) 30 pts

Pre-Session Assignments: Weeks 1-3 & 5 & 7 (5 x 8 pts each) 40 pts

Pre-Session Questions / Zoom Sessions Wks 1-3 & 5-7 (6 x 5 pts each) 30 pts

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

TOTAL 300 pts

**GRADING SCALE:**

255 points or more (85%) = A

210 points or more (70%) = B

165 points or more (55%) = C

120 points or more (40%) = D

**EXAMS:**

Each exam has ten short answer essay questions. Some questions will test mastery of the basic legal rules, concepts, and the vocabulary of the course. Other questions will present hypothetical fact patterns where the student will demonstrate an ability to *identify* legal and ethical issues and to *apply* the concepts of the course to those issues. Although the final exam is partially cumulative, it will emphasize material presented in the second half of the course (Ch. 4, 9). A sample exam is posted on CANVAS to give you a sense of the types of questions asked.

The exams are CLOSED BOOK. You must put all course materials and learning aids away before taking the exams. You may not get any help in taking the exams. The exams are accessible during our live sessions on WEEKS 4 and 8. You must be visible on ZOOM while taking the exam. Each exam starts at 7 pm, and you must submit your answers by 8:30 pm. The instructor will be available in an online-chat room to answer any questions you have while taking the exams.

**PRE-SESSION QUIZZES:**

Prior to each live session of Weeks 1-3 & 5-7, you must answer a five-question multiple-choice quiz. Each question is worth 1 point. You will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz, and it must be submitted by noon of the day for the live discussion for that week. The quizzes cover the assigned readings and the online lectures for that week. You may use your course materials (OPEN BOOK) during the quizzes; however, you may NOT USE NON-COURSE MATERIALS (such as a general google search) to answer the questions. Each quiz is available online one week in advance of its due date. The first quiz must be completed by noon on August 23.

**PRE-SESSION ASSIGNMENTS (CASE BRIEFS):**

Prior to the live session of Weeks 1-3, 5, 7, you must turn in a 200-300 word written assignment. Each assignment is worth 8 points and is due by noon of the day for the live discussion for that week. Your assignment for Weeks 1-3 and for Week 7 is to submit a “case brief” for one of the cases that we will discuss during our live session. Your assigned cases are listed at the end of this syllabus. Both our text and the video lecture for Week 1 explain how to brief a case. You will be asked to lead or actively engage in the discussion on your case during our live session. The first case brief must be completed and submitted online by noon on August 23.

**PRE-SESSION QUESTIONS / ZOOM ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:**

Prior to each live session, you must turn in two thoughtful questions that you would like to discuss. The questions may ask for clarification or expansion of that week’s material. Any sincere question covering business ethics/law will be respected. You are also expected to attend and participate during each live session. I will assign a grade for questions, attendance, & participation (up to 30 points for the course). The first set of two “pre-session questions” must be submitted by noon on August 23.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

**Date Class Topic (Reading)**

8-23 Nature of Law Langvardt Chapter 1

8-30 Resolution of Private Disputes / Criminal Law Langvardt Ch 2 & 5

9-6 Tort Law Langvardt Ch 6 & 7

**9-13 MIDTERM EXAM – IN CLASS** (90 minutes) **(Chapters 1-2, 5-7)**

9-20 Business Ethics Langvardt Ch 4 &

*Parable of the Sadhu*

(on CANVAS)

9-27 Corporate Social Responsibility *Cooperate, Comply, or Evade?*

(on CANVAS)

10-4 Law & Ethics of Contracting Langvardt Chapter 9

**10-11** **FINAL EXAM – IN CLASS** (90 minutes) **(Chapters 5-7, 4, 9)**

**CASE DISCUSSIONS:**

We will discuss the following cases during our live sessions. Read these cases carefully. Page numbers are from 17th ed. of Langvardt (the smaller number on the custom edition).

Ch. 1: Price (p 5) (16th – 17th ed.) James (p 25) (16th – 17th ed.)

Ch. 2: Hertz (p 44) (15th -17th ed.) AT&T (p 59) (15th -17th ed.)

Ch. 5: Sekhar (p 154) (16th -17th ed.) Anderson (p 183) (16th – 17th ed.)

Ch. 6: Mathias (p 201) (13th -17th ed.) Durham (p 207) (15th -17th ed.)

Ch. 7: Currie (p 252) (14th -17th ed.) Stahlecker (p 269) (13th -17th ed.)

Ch. 9: Symons (p 355) (16th – 17th ed.)

**CASE BRIEFS**: Briefs are assigned from the above list alphabetically by your surname. Each student must submit 1 case brief for Weeks 1, 2, 3, & 7. Due 12:00 noon, Thursdays

Week 1 Week 2 Week 3 Week 7

Adcock – Bicknell Price Hertz Mathias Symons

Coughlan-Dragg Price AT&T Mathias Symons

Gomez – Hayes Price AT&T Durham Symons

Kuegler – Mcnaughton James Sekhar Currie Symons

Miller – Sullivan James Anderson Currie Symons

Thompson – Winters James Anderson Stahlecker Symons