Course Title:
Topics in Legal Studies: The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business

Course Number:
LS 5970-103

Course Description:
This course introduces the student to the legal and ethical environment of business. Topics include the law of civil procedure, criminal law, tort law, and contract law. The course also examines the relationship between law and ethics, using case studies to illustrate both legal and ethical dimensions of business decisions. Discussions of political economy and legal philosophy add depth to the course.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: April 13-19, 2015
Location: Hurlburt Field, Florida. Class will be held in Bldg. 90220, 221 Lukasik Ave.
Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: March 15, 2015

This military installation is not open to the general public. In order to take courses at this installation, students must have a current military or Department of Defense identification card which allows them to access the installation.

Site Director:
Javier Ruiz. Assistant: Suzanne Stearns. Phone: 850-581-3000; Fax: 850-581-3004; E-mail: aphurlburt@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Daniel T. Ostas, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 217-D Adams Hall
Price College of Business
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK  73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-5619
Fax Number: (405) 325-1957
E-mail Address: dostas@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at www.oklahoma.bkstr.com is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

3. All reading materials for successful completion of the term paper can be accessed through the Lexis/Nexis database supplied on-line through the University of Oklahoma Library system: http://libraries.ou.edu/. Select “Resources”; “Databases & E-Reference Materials” and then browse by letter.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

Course Objectives:
The goal of the course is to enable the student to recognize and to address legal and ethical issues as they arise in business practice. The student acquires sensitivity to when legal counsel may be required and develops a vocabulary that facilitates communication with that legal counsel.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Suggestions for Preparation:
It is imperative that you read the assigned material before the course begins. In addition to the textbook chapters listed on this syllabus, I have posted two readings on D2L that also are to be read prior to the first day of class. I will distribute my lecture notes on the first day of class. These notes are coordinated with the Mallor text and should facilitate your ability to draw information from class discussions/lectures. I will follow these notes in class, expanding, explaining, and giving examples as we go. Each chapter in the Mallor text has about six actual case decisions. We will discuss many of these cases in class. On our first meeting, I will assign to each student a responsibility to lead class discussions on given cases. I will explain what this means when we meet. For now, read the assigned chapters in advance so as to better draw information from our class discussions/lectures.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mallor Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Nature of Law (“Fundamental Tensions in Law”) (Legal Philosophy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Resolution of Disputes (Procedural Law) (Alternative Dispute Resolution)</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Criminal Law (Emphasizing White Collar Crime)</td>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Intentional Torts</td>
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<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Negligence &amp; Strict Liability (Including Product Liability)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Introduction to Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Business Ethics (Including Corporate Social Responsibility)</td>
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Term Paper:
The term paper provides an opportunity to analyze a legal and ethical dispute in depth, applying concepts and reasoning techniques developed in Legal Studies 5970.

Assignment: Written Case Analysis (8-12 pages typed). Select a case to analyze from a list provided by the professor. Read the opinions of each court that decided the case, including trial court, appellate court
and Supreme Court (if applicable). Read at least three scholarly reviews of the case or of the case topic. Analyze the case, footnoting both the court opinions and the scholarly reviews employing the analytical skills we develop in LS 5970. Create a sophisticated legal argument explaining who should have won the case and why. **Due Date: 21 days after the last day of class – May 10, 2015.**

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Your grade will be determined by your performance on a comprehensive final on the last day of class, together with the term paper described above. The final exam is worth 100 points. The term paper is 50 points. I will consider the quality of class participation for “borderline” students.

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc… in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Daniel T. Ostas, Ph.D.

Education
- 1990 Ph.D. Indiana University, Business Economics
- 1988 M.B.A. Indiana University, School of Business
- 1980 J.D. Indiana University, School of Law
- 1977 B.S. Purdue University

Current Positions
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2001
- Professor of Legal Studies and Harlow Chair in Business Ethics, Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Law & Economics
- Comparative Law
- Corporate Social Responsibility

Representative Publications and Presentations
Editorial Services: Professor Ostas is a former Editor-in-Chief of the American Business Law Journal. He has also served on the editorial board of the Journal of Economic Issues and continues to serve as an “ad-hoc” reviewer for several other scholarly publications. He currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of the Southern Law Journal.

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Won more than 15 teaching awards including the “Howard Hackler Award for Outstanding Teaching” given by the MBA Student Association, Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, Spring 2009; and the “Bruce Magoon Master Teacher Award” granted by the Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, Spring 2002
- Won more than a dozen scholarly research awards, including the “Ralph C. Hoeber Award” (six times) and the “Holmes-Cardozo Award,” (twice) each for “Outstanding Research

Major Professional Affiliations
- Member of the Indiana Bar
- Practicing Attorney 1980—1985