The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus  

Course Title:  
Topics in Legal Studies  

Course Number:  
LS 5970-101  

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: September 23-25 & 30-October 2, 2011  
- Location: OCCE, Norman, Oklahoma. Registration located in the Thurman White Forum Building of OCCE, 1704 Asp Avenue.  
- Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 25, 2011

Site Director:  
Cathy Yeaman. Assistant: Jan Plavchak. Phone: 405-325-3333; Fax: 405-325-9148; email: apnorman@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 Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](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/](http://libraries.ou.edu/). Select “Resources”; “Databases & E-Reference Materials” and then browse by letter.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore 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 the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**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*. Each of the assigned chapters in the Mallor text has about six actual case decisions. I posted a "case list" on D2L that identifies the cases that we will focus on in class. You should focus on these cases in your reading as well. In addition, there are two readings posted on D2L. Read each prior to the start of class. You will also find lecture notes available on D2L. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mallor Reading</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Nature of Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(&quot;Fundamental Tensions in Law&quot;)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Legal Philosophy)</td>
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<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Resolution of Disputes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Procedural Law)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Alternative Dispute Resolution)</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(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</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Including Product Liability)</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Introduction to Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Business Ethics</td>
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<td>(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.

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. 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 Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your 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.

Copyright

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

- Has 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
- Has 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