

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 2106
THE ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS
HOMEPAGE is <http://www.valdosta.edu/~sostapsk/>
e-mail: sostapsk@valdosta.edu

Spring Semester 2009
Section D
Room: Pound 307
TU/TH: 12:30 - 1:45

Prof. A. Ostapski
Thaxton 317
249-2622, 245-2233
Office Hours:
TU/TH: 9:45 - 11:45
TU/TH: 1:45 - 2:30
TU: 6:00 - 6:30
or by appointment.

In civilized life, Law floats in a sea of Ethics. Each is indispensable to civilization. Without Law, we should be at the mercy of the least scrupulous; without Ethics, Law could not exist. Without ethical consciousness in most people, lawlessness would be rampant. Yet without Law, civilization could not exist, for there are always people who in the conflict of human interest, ignore their responsibility to their fellow man....

Therefore, Society would come to grief without Ethics, which is unenforceable in the courts, and cannot be made a part of the Law.... Not only does Law in civilized society presuppose ethical commitment; it presupposes the existence of a broad area of human conduct controlled only by ethical norms and not subject to Law at all.

There is thus a Law beyond the Law, as binding on those of us who cherish our institutions as the Law itself, although there is no human power to enforce it.

Earl Warren, Jewish Theological Seminary, Nov. 11, 1962

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this course is to develop in the business student an understanding of the ethical, social, political, legal, and regulatory issues in the business environment. Topics focus on the conflicting rights and duties of individuals, organizations, and other factions in a domestic and global society that lead to the development of ethical awareness, social responsibility and the formation of law. Many business people are uncertain in handling moral issues that arise in business. To address this deficiency, another goal is to acquaint the student with ethical principles pertinent to business situations and problems, along with certain legal principles that must be considered in such decision-making.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: (1) Responsibility of Business in Society. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the multiple roles of business in society. VSU General Education Outcomes 1; LCOBA Objective 1 (Tests 1, 2, 3 and 4). (2) Corporate Compliance. Students will demonstrate knowledge of corporate compliance issues and actors. LCOBA Objective 1 (Optional Presentation and Tests 3 and 4). (3) Awareness of Ethical Problems: Students will demonstrate an ability to recognize an ethical problem. VSU General Education Outcomes 8;

LCOBA Objective 3 (Test 1 and Optional Presentation). (4) Knowledge of the Legal and Ethical Environment in Business. Students will be introduced to the subject matter listed in the COURSE CONTENT section below. VSU General Education Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8; LCOBA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. (Tests 1, 2, 3, and 4).

COURSE CONTENT: The topics consist of certain legal subjects such as labor law, discrimination rules, consumer protection legislation, torts, negligence, strict liability, environmental law, the international legal environment, alternative dispute resolution, and an overview of the U.S. Constitution in relation to business activity. Ethical subjects will include methodology, ethical codes, the social and moral audits, worker-employer rights, whistle-blowing, discrimination in employment, truth in marketing, environmental issues, and multinationals and the new morality.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: There will be at least four formal opportunities for evaluation during the semester. All evaluations will be counted toward the final grade; no grade will be dropped. Essay, hypothetical and objective type questions may be used. An oral classroom presentation (individual or team approach) on an approved topic may be substituted for the second formal evaluation. Students must complete all assigned evaluations to receive a final grade. **The final exam for this course is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2009 from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.** Throughout the term, students, by playing the Puzzle Game, will be given extra credit opportunities which may increase their final grade.

POLICY CONCERNING MAKE-UP TESTS: Make-up tests will be given only for very good reasons such as documented student illness or death in the family. A student is expected to give notice to the instructor **PRIOR** to the time of the test if he or she must be absent on test day. Make-up tests will be given on Monday, May 4, 2009.

ATTENDANCE/ PREPARATION/ CHEATING/ TEXTING POLICIES: Class attendance, when required, and preparedness are essential to the learning process. Students are expected to be present each class period except when special circumstances make attendance difficult, as in the case of illness. Students must provide a note of explanation for each missed class. I reserve the right to lower the course grade to the next lower grade if an explanatory note for an absence is not provided or if absences exceed 3 meetings. More than six absences may result in an automatic F. For more information on this matter, see pages 84-85 of the 2008-2009 VSU Undergraduate Catalog. The study of ethics is an integral part of BUSA 2106. Any student cheating on a graded assignment or extra credit opportunity will earn a failing grade for the course. Phone texting or other cell phone activity during class is not permitted. Violators will be asked to leave the room.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V/VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY).

TEXTS:

Reed, Shedd, Morehead & Pagnattaro, The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 14th ed., McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2008.

Ostapski, Give or Take: The Ethics Road Trip, Teachers Own Publishing, 2009.

Ostapski, The Legal & Regulatory Environment of Business - The Puzzle Game, Student's Puzzlebook, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2004.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR BUSA 2106

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| January 13, 15 | Introduction, <u>Parable of the Sadhu</u> , The Law and Business, Ethics and Business, Sources of Law Reed, Ch. 1 Richardson, Article 26 |
| January 20, 22, 27 | Courts, Litigation Reed, Ch. 3, 4 |
| January 29, February 3 | Ethics & Self-Regulation, Sources of Values for Business Ethics, Codes of Ethics Reed, Ch. 2 |
| February 5, 10, 12 | The Constitution and Business Reed, Ch. 6 |
| February 17, 19, 24 | Employment & Labor Laws, Workers' Rights, Whistle-blowing Reed, Ch. 15 |
| February 26 March 3, 5, 10, 12 | Discrimination in Employment Reed, Ch. 16 |
| March 24, 26, 31 | Consumer Protection, Debtor Protection, Truth and Advertising Handouts |
| April 2, 7, 9 | Torts in the Business Environment, Negligence, Strict Liability, Workers' Compensation Acts Reed, Ch. 8 |
| April 14, 16 | Environmental Laws and Pollution Control Reed, Ch. 17 |
| April 21, 23 | International Law and Business, Sources of International Law, Multinationals and Morality Reed, Ch. 18 |
| April 28 | Alternative Dispute Resolution Reed, Ch. 5 |
| April 30 | Final Review |
| May 6 | Final Experience |