BL 8112 Law, Business Ethics, and Dispute Resolution  
Summer I 2014  
Distance via Internet  
James A. Bryant

Office: 335 McCool  
Phone 662-325-1971 If I am out please leave a message on voice mail. Please speak your name and phone number slowly and clearly. Email jbryant@business.msstate.edu

BL 8112. Law, Business Ethics, and Dispute Resolution. (2) Two hours lecture. Legal and ethical issues faced by the business firm with emphasis on prevention and resolution of disputes, including mediation, negotiation and alternative dispute resolution.

Text: Handouts posted on MyCourses and assigned readings. Outline document contains the references.

Grade Scale:  90-100 A  
80-89  B  
70-79  C  
60-69  D  
00-59  F

There will be one major exam about halfway through the course and a final exam. The two will be averaged together. Prepare carefully for the first exam, because it is difficult to pull up a low grade. Test questions will be used to check whether library and/or other outside assignments have been completed. This will include the use of the internet.

The midterm and final will be composed of short discussion questions. Ten points on the final exam will be based on a student’s posts on the MyCourses discussion board. The other 90 points will be based on the answers to the short discussion questions.

The exams are to be proctored. Details about the process of taking the exams will be posted separately.

The Discussion board will be activated. The very minimum is three posts and more are desirable. The points will be based on the frequency and quality of the posts. In addition to posting students need to continuously monitor the discussion board, because things will emerge during the class. I will also post and respond with information that is need for the class.

Course objectives are met through the use of court decisions and other material to develop analytical, communication, decision making skills, as well as attitude development. The court decisions are in the full text version that the students must retrieve from the library or internet. Students will be required to read and analyze the cases to develop analytical skills. Communication skills will be enhanced by use of the
discussion board and short discussion exam questions. The cases involve decisions or lack of effective decisions made by businesses. Students are expected to use logic to understand the material and make business decisions that will avoid the problems leading to the court cases we study. Attitude development occurs when examining cases showing the consequences of unethical decisions. Illustrations include a real estate professional who lost her license over a misrepresentation in the sale of property and the consequences of firing an employee for reporting or refusing to commit a crime.

A detailed outline is posted in Course Content. It was revised in February 2014 so study it carefully. The outline contains more references than we will cover but they are provided as additional sources or as documentation for points in the outline. Optional cases have been added when a new case expands or limits the required case. A description of the change is in the detailed course outline. The information given in the outline, lectures, and required cases will be enough to meet course requirements however some students may wish to read the optional cases. I will assign specific cases from the outline and possibly some others. The first lecture segment contains detailed instructions on how to find the assigned material. **However, the interface to the data base has been changed since the lecture was taped. A separate document has detailed instructions dealing with the changes.** The material obtained from the assignments will serve the place of a text book; therefore, no text is used or required. You will be responsible for reading the cases on the list of required cases. Any cases not on the list will be assigned separately. It is possible for a case to come up during the class that is important enough to require. Read the outline carefully.

The lectures cover many but not all of the cases. Once you get used to reading cases this should not be a problem. Study the Detailed Course Outline because in addition to covering material not in cases it explains a lot of cases. Also the Detailed Course Outline covers material not available elsewhere. In order to clarify what cases are required reading, a separate list is provided in Course Content.

The lecture material is divided into 36 segments. The first segment explains how to get the cases online through the MSU Library. Please allow time for the segments to download. Sometimes they take 15 to 30 minutes on the basic DSL lines, hopefully they will be faster.

**The midterm exam may be taken from Wednesday, June 18 - Saturday, June 21, 2014**

**The final exam may be taken from Tuesday, July 1 – Saturday, July 5, 2014.**

You will need a proctor for both exams.

**CONTACT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The primary methods of communication are email jbryant@business.msstate.edu and the Discussion Board. Feel free to call my office at 662-325-1971. If I am out you may leave
a voice mail. Please speak your name a phone number slowly and clearly. In the past I have received messages that I could not understand. Generally I will answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays and sometimes on the weekend. I will attempt to be in the office from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. central daylight time on Tuesday and Thursday. I may be out of the office on Monday, June 23, 2014. Because of time zone differences we may have to set up a time for real time communication.

Be sure to check the Discussion Board regularly even after you have made your required posts. Many points will be discussed and clarified as we go through the course.

HONOR CODE

Please email me that you have read and agree to be bound by the MSU honor code.

Mississippi State University has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the process of the Honor Code. For additional information please visit: http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/1207A.html

DISABILITY STATEMENT: It is the policy of Mississippi State University to accommodate students with special needs and learning disabilities as per MSU Student Support services policy. Students seeking accommodations on the basis of a disability or special need should identify themselves to the Office of student Support Services (website: http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sss/) to verify eligibility. Additional documentation guidelines may be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Support Services directly, or via the web at http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/91130.html. Academic accommodations and services are based upon an individual’s needs. All documentation is confidential.