REEDLEY COLLEGE

**BA 18 BUSINESS AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT # 56640**

Spring 2021              Online

**INSTRUCTOR**:  **Nick K. Gera**, *JD, MBA, MSc.*       TELEPHONE: 210-934-8787

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**OFFICE HOURS**:

Office Hours:  Sundays 12:00pm – 4:00pm (estimated); please schedule prior to meet. Zoom Code is 277-962-5817

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**:  Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment. 17th ed. With Connect. Barnes, Prenkert, Langvardt, McCrory, Perry. McGraw-Hill  Custom ISBN: 9781260522136

You must purchase the Connect Code from McGraw Hill or the Reedley College Bookstore.  I believe McGraw Hill offers a 2 week free trial for the access so you have a chance to see if this class works for you. All of the homework is contained within the Connect platform.

**BASIC SKILLS ADVISORIES** : Eligibility for English 125 and 126

(A, CSU, UC)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: This business law course will cover the following topical areas: sources of law, ethics in law, criminal law, tort law, contract law, agency, business structures, and international law with the major emphasis on contracts.  This course requires case study discussions and written briefs.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**:  Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: identify the proper court in a legal controversy, demonstrate understanding of legal terminology and theory through class discussion of specific cases, prepare a brief based on fact patters given, evaluate a contract for loopholes, and compare alternative methods of dispute resolution.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**:  In the process of completing this course, students will: match legal terms to definitions, distinguish between civil and criminal law, recall specific torts and elements, recall specific crimes and elements, discuss types of contracts, requirements, and exceptions, and determine proper jurisdiction of court.

**ATTENDANCE**:  Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period.  Regular attendance is expected. Business Law is a cumulative discipline.  This means if you do not attend class  you will likely not understand the material presented .  You are responsible for all material presented which you miss.  Moreover, the attached schedule is tentative and events beyond my control may require me to modify it.  **It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with schedule changes**. These changes will be announced in class.  There will be NO MAKE-UP TESTS, ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, ETC. unless there has been A MAJOR CATASTROPHY OR YOU ARE PART OF A SCHOOL FUNCTION and only if the instructor is notified IN ADVANCE.

Class activities and participation are mandatory.  A student with more than THREE ABSENCES may be dropped from the course.  If you are habitually tardy or leave class early, your participation grade will be affected.

**EXAMS**:  There will be a total of 18 short quizzes. They will be due weekly on the McGraw Hill Connect website. Please refer to the files section on how to register. These quizzes are not difficult if you read and pay attention.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:**  There may be several short reports (1-3 pages).  Please see details under Written Assignments.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, AND CLASS PRESENTATION/ANALYSIS**:  There will be a minimum of 15 homework assignments, quizzes, and/or group projects.  SOME OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE UNANNOUNCED.

**GRADING ILLUSTRATION**:  The total number of points you accumulate over the semester will determine your grade.  For example:

4 Papers                                                            = 400 points

18  Chapter Quizzes, (20 points per)    = 360 points

Class contribution on discussion boards       = 240 points\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                                        1,000 TOTAL POSSIBLE

A = 90% or better of possible points

B = 80% or better of possible points

C= 70% or better of possible points

D= 60% or better of possible points

F= Less than 60% of possible points

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS-TBA**:  The general objectives of the writing assignments are to encourage you to think and communicate clearly in writing and to express business law thoughts clearly, coherently, concisely and sensibly.  You will be required to apply concepts that you have learned in class to real world situations.

 For your papers to be graded, THEY MUST BE TYPED AND HANDED IN ON TIME.  Well-written papers include focus, logic, organization, and ideas that are well developed and supported.  They are grammatically correct with proper punctuation and spelling.  Poorly written assignments will be marked “unacceptable” and will be returned to you without credit.

Emphasis is on your thought process and your ability to convey these thoughts clearly. Well-written papers are most often achieved only after a great deal of editing and revision. Grades will reflect the quality of both the content and the presentation of your writing.  Choose appropriate topics that interest you.  Contact me well in advance of the deadline if you are not sure of the appropriateness of your topic.

All written assignments must include the following information on a COVER SHEET:

Name of Instructor, Course Name and Code, Title of Paper, Student Name, Student Number, and Due Date.

Please cite your references using APA

**DROP POLICY**:  If you decide to drop this course, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR** **FILLING OUT ALL OF THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK**.  For more details on dropping a class, please refer to the admissions and records office, the Reedley College catalogue or the Reedley College Class Schedule.

**CONDUCT**:  PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.  IF YOU ARE SUSPECTED OF PLAGIARIZING OR CHEATING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT, EXAM, ETC.  IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

**CLASS DISRUPTIONS**:  No food or drink in the classroom.  If you have pagers, cell phones, etc. please turn them off unless there is a verifiable reason that necessitates otherwise.  A ringing cell phone or pager will negatively affect your participation points and may initiate a pop quiz or additional assignment for the entire class.

**APPAREL**:  If you are wearing any sunglasses, please take them off unless they are necessary for medical reasons.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**:  If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation, or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**PART 1: Foundations of American Law & Ethics**

**Weeks 1-4:**   Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4&5

**PART 2: Torts:**

**Weeks 5-7:** Chapters 6, 7, 8

**PART 3: Contracts**

                      Weeks 8-17  Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

**PART 4: Business Organizations (i.e. LLC, Corporations, LLP, LP, and non profits)**

                       You will be writing four papers. They will be due throughout the semester

**THIS SYLLABUS AND THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COURSE ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS THE INSTRUCTOR DEEMS NECESSARY.**