

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**College of Business and Management****ABF/BLAW/285 Section: L18****LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS****Fall 2008****Professor Joseph F. Lenius****Class location/times:**

El Centro Campus, 3119 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60641, Room 107
 Monday 6:10 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.

Office Location: CLS 0028 (NEIU Campus)

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. by appointment and flexible times by appointment at the NEIU Campus, and also flexible times by appointment on Monday at the El Centro Campus

Telephone: 847-577-6941**E-mail:** LENIUS_NEIU@yahoo.com**Prerequisites:** Enrollment in BLAW 285 requires completion of at least 30 credit hours.**Textbooks and Course Materials:**

Required: The Legal Environment of Business, Meiners, Ringleb, Edwards, West Publishing Co., 10th Edition, 2008, ISBN-10 0324654367, ISBN-13 978-0324654363.

Optional: Study Guide (same authors, publisher and edition)

Learning Outcomes/Objectives and Assessment: Business Law 285 is designed to provide students a broad and integrated view of various legal principles and issues in the business environment as well as everyday life. Course relevance will include current legal events and topics integrated with the text. Lectures will also involve the history, structure and fundamentals of the legal system, including important changes that have occurred over time. Students will brief cases contained in the textbook, and discuss these in class along with problems presented in the textbook and other current legal issues. The performance of this class will be assessed through exams.

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion.

Evaluation:	Out-of-Class Assignments/Briefs/				
	Participation/Attendance:	10 %	A	=	≥ 90 %
	<u>Exam I, II and Final Exam:</u>	<u>90 %</u>	B	=	≥ 80 %
		.	C	=	≥ 70 %
	Total:	100 %	D	=	≥ 60 %
			F	=	< 60 %

The instructor reserves the right to curve the grading and to award extra credit for class participation. Extra credit will be awarded for problems and questions assigned to and completed by students.

The grade of incomplete (I) will be assigned only in cases of documented medical incapacitation or other unavoidable circumstances that are reported to and accepted by the instructor before the Final Examination.

The grade of Registered/Never Withdrew (R) will NOT be assigned. Students who wish to withdraw but do not complete the appropriate withdrawal procedures established by the University prior to the deadline for withdrawal will be assigned a failing grade (F).

Course Policies:

1) Drop Deadline: According to the Fall 2008 schedule of classes, the last day to drop a class (without financial credit/refund) is November 7, 2008 by midnight. Nevertheless, students who miss two classes in the first two weeks of the term may be dropped from the roster at the instructor's discretion.

2) Oral and Written Communication: Students will be asked to discuss during class the briefs and/or problems assigned. Class participation is expected. Examinations may also contain essay questions where clarity of thought, organization and grammar will be required.

3) Homework/Briefs/Extra Credit: **Homework case briefs are mandatory.** All cases must be briefed, and handed in to the instructor by the next class meeting following our class completion of the applicable chapter in which the cases are contained. **The briefs from each chapter shall be attached (stapled or paper-clipped) together, and shall clearly indicate the chapter number, the name of each case, and the student's name.** Failure to follow these instructions may result in the student's written work not being accepted by the instructor, or credit not being awarded to the student. The suggested format for briefing is provided in this syllabus. Extra credit will be awarded for participation in the One Book per Semester program for the College of Business and Management. This will involve reading the Fall 2008 book selection, writing a paper suggested or inspired by the book, and attending the Super Sessions for discussion and exchange of views about the book. The Fall 2008 selection is The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, by Malcolm Gladwell, 2002, Bay Back Books, ISBN-10 0316346624, ISBN-13 978-0316346627 (paperback edition; other editions available).

4) Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is required. The student is responsible for the course materials covered during the class session missed. Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and examinations. If a student has more than three unexcused absences, the instructor may lower the student's grade, require additional work and/or impose other sanctions as appropriate.

5) Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected of every student, and dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Giving or receiving aid during a test or exam will automatically result in a failing grade for the course, and is a cause for dismissal from the University.

6) Test Materials: Test materials and homework may be retained or returned to the student at the instructor's discretion. Final Exam papers will be made available to the students by appointment up to the first two weeks of the term immediately following the term in which the course is given. Concerns regarding grades should be resolved during that time period. After that period, the instructor is not required to retain the student's course materials.

7) Outside Reading: Reading at least one quality news journal daily is recommended.

8) Basic Tools: Paper, pen/pencil and text are required for each class meeting, and a No. 2 pencil for all exams.

9) Extra Help: If my scheduled office hours do not work with your schedule, you are welcome to schedule a mutually convenient alternate time. (Whenever possible, it is also requested that you advise me as far in advance as is practical regarding office meetings, in order to prevent simultaneous scheduling of meetings and to ensure that no urgent matters will affect my availability.). I will do whatever is possible to make time

for meeting individually to discuss the cases and other related matters. If you cannot meet with me at the school, always feel free to contact me via telephone or by E-mail. I will meet your investment in this course and maintain an open door office policy.

10) The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus.

Course Calendar/Sequence:

Subject to revision, we are scheduled to cover the listed chapters in the textbook as follows:

Chapter 1	August 25
Chapter 2	August 25, September 8
Chapter 3	September 8
Chapter 4	September 15
Chapter 5	September 22
Chapter 6	September 29
Exam I	October 6
Chapter 7	October 6
Chapter 8	October 13
Chapter 9	October 20
Chapter 10	October 27
Chapter 14	November 3
Exam II	November 10
Chapter 15	November 10, 17
Chapter 16	November 24
Chapter 20	December 1
Final Exam	December 8

Note there is NO CLASS scheduled for Monday, September 1, 2008 (Labor Day), and the University will be closed November 27 – 30 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday break.

FINAL EXAM: The Final Exam for the course will be given on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6:10 p.m. – 8:50 p.m. in Room 107 at the El Centro Campus. The exam format will be Multiple Choice, plus possible True/False, Short Answer, and Short Essay questions. The Final Exam will be cumulative in regard to the chapters covered during the term, but will be heavily weighted in favor of the chapters covered following the preceding exam.

CASE BRIEF FORMAT

NAME OF CASE:

COURT:

DATE (Year):

1. **SUMMARY OF FACTS** (be brief, but include IMPORTANT matters) and procedural history:

Where an appeal, who is appealing and what was the decision of the lower court(s)?

2. **Legal issue or question:**

3. **Court decision / rule of law:**

4. **Who won the case and why:**

(Include public policy, political and pragmatic reasoning: what is **behind** the written decision?)