Al Akhawayn University
School of Business Administration

Course Syllabus
Legal Environment of Business-GBU 3302
Spring 2012

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Course Description:

This course introduces students to the legal environment of business in the U.S and in Morocco. The aim is to help them develop a good understanding of the purpose and functions of the various existing laws and the role of the courts to enforce and interpret these laws.

Course Objectives:

On successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the important functions of law in the American and Moroccan societies.
2. Determine what is legally right, legally wrong and what sanctions will be imposed.
3. Identify the rights, obligations and privileges of citizens.
4. Enable individuals to start and manage their business with confidence and a certain degree of predictability.
5. Describe the legal environment deemed the principle part of the world of business. Influencing contracts, leases, creditor-debtor relations, employment relationships, real property transactions, business organizations and the conducts of competitors.
6. Enter virtually any field of business.

Instructional Approaches:

The instructional approaches to teach this course will be lecturing, discussing court cases. Students are encouraged to participate in the learning process, they are also asked to analyse cases, give written and oral presentations as groups, and participate in moot

court (the class debates a case like in the court with the student groups playing the role of the judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, plaintiffs, and the defendants...etc.)
A possible visit to Fes Commercial Court by all the class will be arranged.

Course requirements

Students should be more active and dynamic participants in their learning process. Besides attending classes, doing the homeworks on time, reading all the required materials and prepare continuously for the subject at hand in advance of the class session, taking exams on time and actively participate in all class discussions, the students should prepare significant amount of independent work that plays an important part in determining the students grades (ex: research papers, oral presentations and case analysis)

Course policies

Attendance is mandatory because university regulations require that no student may miss more than 3 unexcused classes as a condition for completing the course. Excused absences must be reported to the professor no later than the student's return to class. Cheating and Plagiarism are serious instances of academic dishonesty that will result in receiving a failing grade or being suspended from AUI.
Talking while class is in session except as part of class discussion, question and answer is prohibited and the students will be ejected from class and will be marked absent. Makeup exams will not be given. If no verifiable and valid excuse is presented, the student will receive a zero for the exam.
Being late for class, once the lecture has started, will be at the student's risk and will subject him to being marked absent. Tolerance in this matter is close to zero. Departures from class, not excused in advance, will also subject to being marked absent.
Cellular phones should be kept off at all times while class is in session.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Grading in this course is competitive and the students will be evaluated for both performance and knowledge of the course which will be assessed through exams, class participation, research papars and unannounced case analysis.
In this way the students will be required to routinely invest in the course rather than simply cram for the exams.
Unless otherwise announced, there will be 3 assignments and 2 exams and the professor will communicate their dates to the students.
- The average of all assignments, cases analysis and class participation..., etc count for : 20 %
- First exam: 40 %
- Second exam: 40 %

Course reading materials:

1. The Legal Environment of Business. Text and cases, by Frank b. Cross, Roger Leroy Miller.
2. Selected Moroccan legal and Business Issues.
3. Professor's Notes.

Course Calendar (subject to changes):

1. Introduction to Common Law, its history and the Moroccan Legal System that includes the Civil Law System and the Islamic Law as applied in Morocco.
2. Constitution Law.
3. Legal terminology.
4. Civil Law and Criminal Law with some torts as branches of law in the U.S and in Morocco.
5. Case studies and analysis.
6. The 1st Assignment with oral presentation.
7. Court system in Morocco and in the U.S: -The Court system in Morocco includes the Lower Courts, Courts of Appeals, the period for Appeal in civil cases and criminal cases, and the Supreme Court of Morocco.
8. Real Estate Law and Real Estate Registration Laws in Morocco (La Conservation Foncière).
9. Alternative Dispute Resolution.
10. Case studies and analysis.
11. Nature and classification of contracts.
12. Case studies and analysis.
13. The 1st examination.
14. Elements of contracts in the U.S and in Morocco: Mutual Agreements, Consideration, Capacity, Legality, and other Defenses to the contract.
15. Case studies and analysis.
16. The check as a Commercial paper.
17. The 2nd Assignment With oral presentation.
18. Statute of Frauds, promissory Estoppel.
19. Case studies and analysis.
20. The rights and the duties of non parties to the contract: Third Party Beneficiary-Assignment of Rights-Delegations of Duties.
21. Case studies and analysis.
22. The 2nd examination.
23. Moroccan Commercial Code and the Moroccan commercial Courts.
24. The 3rd assignment with oral presentation.
25. The new Moroccan Labor Code.
26. Torts and Strict Liability.
27. Corporations.
28. Moroccan Taxing System.
29. International Agreements-U.S Moroccan free Trade Agreement.
30. The 3rd examination.

The professor will communicate any changes to the syllabus.