Course Syllabus
ACCT 3130 – Legal, Social, and Political Environment of Business
Honors Section
Spring Semester, 2018
3.0 Credit Hours
(Last updated: 1/10/2018)

Instructor Information:
Name: Irvin Tankersley, J.D. Honors Section (301)
Phone: 901.678.4635 Location: FCB 265
E-mail: itnkrsly@memphis.edu Meeting Times: 8:00-9:25am TR
Office: FCBE #212 Meeting Dates: Jan 16th-May 1st, 2018
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:15am-12:30pm or by appointment

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Honors Section (301)
Location: FCB 265
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Course Overview:
This course is essentially a “public law” course. It deals primarily with statutes and regulations, and the judicial interpretation and application thereof, that govern business conduct. It is designed to acquaint the future business professional with some of the more important legal concepts that are likely to be encountered during one’s career, to the end that legal pitfalls may be avoided.

Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:
Students must have junior standing (60 earned credit hours) and have met specific course prerequisites with a minimum grade of “C” to be eligible for all 3000 and 4000 level business courses. In addition to these requirements, students seeking a degree in the Fogelman College of Business and Economics must have (1) completed all required lower division business courses with a minimum grade of “C” in each; (2) a minimum grade point average of 2.25 (2.5 for Accounting majors) in all required lower division business courses and (3) 60 hours of course work including Math 1830 and 9 hours of English. The lower division business core courses are ACCT 2010, ACCT 2020, ECON 2110, ECON 2120, SCMS 2710, MIS 2749, and MIS 3210. If you have not met these requirements, it is your responsibility to correct this. If you fail to do so, you may be administratively dropped. A prerequisite and upper-division check will be made once the first class roll has been issued.

Required Texts (and Related Materials):
There is no text required for this course. Readings will be handed out throughout the semester. Course exams are based entirely on lecture content and handouts.
Course Objectives:
This course is not designed to turn you into a lawyer. However, business operates in an environment that is much affected by legal considerations. The course is designed to provide a basic familiarity with a number of important federal and state statutes, agency regulations, and common-law principles that are important in the business world, so that as a business professional you will know when to seek legal advice and how to communicate effectively with legal professionals.

Fogelman College: Learning Outcomes for Your Degree

Goal 1: Graduates will demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of financial and managerial accounting concepts.
- **Objective 1:** Demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in financial reporting.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in managerial accounting.

Goal 2: Graduates will demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of systems and auditing concepts.
- **Objective 1:** Understand and process the major accounting-related information inputs and outputs needed by various organizations while using appropriate documentation.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in attesting to the fairness of financial representations and the adequacy of internal controls.

Goal 3: Graduates will demonstrate a satisfactory understanding of U.S. tax laws and regulations related to financial reporting.
- **Objective 1:** Demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in applying U.S. Tax Law for compliance and planning purposes.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate an acceptable level of competence in applying U.S. financial regulations related to investments and banking law (e.g., SEC compliance).

Goal 4: Graduates will be proficient users of business presentation and analysis technology.
- **Objective 1:** Identify the major accounting system inputs and process flows of information in an accounting system.
- **Objective 2:** Use internet-based technologies to locate relevant and accurate information needed to solve accounting problems in organizations.
- **Objective 3:** Use computer software tools to organize data for analysis to solve accounting problems in organizations.

Goal 5: Graduates will be knowledgeable about the global business environment.
- **Objective 1:** Demonstrate an awareness of the economic, social, and cultural environments within which international businesses operate.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate awareness of political and technological environments within which international businesses operate.
- **Objective 3:** Demonstrate awareness of the legal, institutional, and financial types of international transactions that are components of global business operations.

Goal 6: Graduates will be knowledgeable about ethical factors in the business environment.
- **Objective 1:** Identify a dilemma relating to a potentially unethical behavior.
- **Objective 2:** Formulate stakeholders that are affected by a potentially unethical behavior.
- **Objective 3:** Analyze alternatives and identify consequences that result from unethical behavior.
Course Methodology
The typical class will consist of a lecture on the assigned topic. Questions, comments, and discussion are encouraged.

Grading and Evaluation Criteria:
Exams: There will be three exams, each consisting of 33 multiple choice questions. The exam questions come entirely from the lectures and handouts.

Number of points possible:
- Exams (3 * 33 points each) ............................................. 99
- Gift point ........................................................................... 1
- Total Points Possible .................................................... 100

Make-up Exams: I will give a makeup exam if a student has a legitimate reason for missing an exam. Makeup exams will consist of essay questions and will be given at my convenience. A makeup exam is an exam given at any time other than when scheduled on the syllabus, either before or after.

Final Course Grades:
Your final letter grade is based on your overall average. Your overall average is calculated as the sum of all the points you earned on graded assignments divided by the total number of points possible. The letter grade is based on the following schedule:

- 90% or above ................................................................. A
- 80% or above but below 90% ......................................... B
- 70% or above but below 80% ......................................... C
- 60% or above but below 70% ......................................... D
- Below 60% ........................................................................ F

Note: I DO NOT USE A +/- GRADING SYSTEM!!!!!

Extra Credit:
There are two ways to obtain extra credit:
(1) I will award you three points for meeting with me for a maximum of thirty minutes, so that we might get to know each other better, discuss your career plans, etc. E-mail me several times at which you can meet. I will try to accommodate you. November 7th at 5PM is the deadline to meet with me for extra credit.

(2) THE CIVILITY BONUS: Think of this as a class project. Either everyone in the class gets the extra credit or no one does. I will award everyone in the class three points if the class, over the course of the semester, is POLITE. What do I mean by that? I mean that I want you to show up for class regularly and on time. I mean that I want you to stay put once class begins, not wander in and out of class like vagabonds. I mean that I want to see you paying attention or at least “faking it”. Indulge me. Help an old man imagine that you think that what I have to say is important, at least until the grades are recorded. It means that I don’t want to see you fiddling with a cell phone, lap top, BlackBerry, pager, or any similar device while I’m lecturing. Take a hit before class. Take a hit after class. Just give me class time cold sober, focused, unimpaired, and undistracted. I mean that I don’t want to see you reading newspapers, romance novels, or any other material not related to the course while I’m lecturing; it’s a classroom, not a coffee shop. I mean that I don’t want to see you sleeping while I’m lecturing; it’s a classroom, not a flophouse. In short, I mean that I do want to see you acting in a civilized, respectful manner. Got it? Remember, either everyone gets the points or no one does. You may not need the points, but some of your classmates might. Consider them.

Guest Speakers:
Several lawyers and judges will speak to the class. These people are successful professionals. Please make every effort to attend class and to be on time when they make their presentations. It is embarrassing to me and reflects poorly on the university if attendance is sparse or students arrive late. The remarks of the speakers are subject to being tested.

Final Exam Schedule [REQUIRED]
The final exam for this class will be scheduled according to the Registrar’s academic calendar website (opens in new window).

Course Policies:
E-MAIL:
All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.

Attendance:
No part of your grade is based upon attendance. However, it is important to attend class regularly, for the exam questions come from the material in the handouts and from what I say in class about that material. It will be difficult to do well on the exams if you do not attend class regularly.
**Academic Integrity:**

*Academic Integrity and Student Conduct:* Expectations for academic integrity and student conduct are described in detail on the website of the Office of Student Judicial and Ethical Affairs ([http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs.php](http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs.php))

Please take a look, in particular, at the sections about “Academic Dishonesty,” “Student Code of Conduct and Responsibilities,” and “Disruptive Behaviors.” I will expect students to be aware of these guidelines and to conduct themselves accordingly.

**Student Services**

Please access the [FCBE Student Services (opens in new window)](http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs.php) page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance

**Schedule of Lectures, Exams, and other significant occurrences:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Introduction to the law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Introduction to the law continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Introduction to the law concluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Business Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>February  1</td>
<td>Introduction to the American legal system</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Introduction to the American legal system continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Introduction to the American legal system concluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Honorable Janice M. Holder, Tennessee Supreme Court (retired)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Exam # 1 (lectures and handouts to date, remarks of Justice Holder)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Constitutional Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Constitutional Law continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Constitutional Law concluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March      1</td>
<td>Robert Hutton, Attorney at Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK - CLASS DOES NOT MEET</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK - CLASS DOES NOT MEET</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dan Newsom, Assistant United States Attorney (retired)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM COURSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nathan Bicks, Attorney at Law</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Criminal Law concluded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3  Employment Law</td>
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<td>5  Employment Law continued</td>
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<td>10 Employment Law continued</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 Employment Law continued</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17 Employment Law concluded</td>
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<td>19 Christopher Roy, Attorney, National Labor Relations Board</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>24 Dan Norwood, Attorney at Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1  (8-10 AM) FINAL EXAM (lectures and handouts subsequent to exam # 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>remarks of Mr. Roy and Mr. Norwood)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to alter the schedule of lectures and exams, including exam dates, topics covered on exams, the number of questions on exams, and the relative weights assigned to exams, as circumstances dictate. All changes will be announced in class. Students missing class are responsible for obtaining this information.