Entrepreneur Law
Massachusetts School of Law
Professor Todd Cheesman
Spring 2015

Required Texts: None. All materials will be provided online.

Web Site: Students must regularly check our website for changes in the syllabus, assignments, and class schedule.

Email: Cheesman @ mslaw.edu

Course Description: This course will inform the student of relevant matters in the creation or acquisition of a business. Specific legal theory covering personal and business planning, selection of the right entity at the right time, contractual matters needing to be clarified early on, deciding when and how to rely on others to assist in the start-up or takeover, creating and understanding employment arrangements, and what to do when things go wrong will be covered.

Objectives: Provide a study of the legal implications involved in the creation or acquisition of a business entity. Examine particular issues related to entrepreneurial endeavors, including but not limited to contractual arrangements, employment agreements, entity selection and the taxation thereof, liability for the owner/operator, and business continuation/termination. The integration of said legal considerations into a business plan.

Competencies: The student who successfully completes Entrepreneur Law will have obtained: Specialized knowledge. This course contains material focusing on the law of entrepreneurship which is a compendium of many different legal theories. A general knowledge of those theories will aid the student in action plans related to business start-ups or takeovers. Critical thinking. Understanding the theory of law and understanding when and how to apply it requires analytical thought and reasoning abilities to achieve desired goals. Communication Skills. Verbalizing the intent of any businessperson is critical in today's market. Oral and written skills will be addressed.

Class Schedule: This class meets entirely online. Class begins Monday, January 20, 2015. I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, re-schedule a class, or change the order of class subject matters. Assignments will be due by noon, Saturdays. Refer to the website for assignments and due dates.

Double Enrollment: You may enroll in only one online course per semester unless you have
received written permission from the Dean. If you are enrolled in more than one online course, you must contact the Registrar ASAP.

**Assignments:** Class readings are critical. You will have five written assignments this semester so it is important to do well on each one and to submit your work in a timely fashion. Missing more than two assignments will result in a full grade reduction. Also, unexcused lateness of any assignment will be treated as your having missed the assignment.

**Technology:** This course requires extensive use of the Internet. A background in the use of computer technology and the Internet is essential. When you encounter a problem with the webpage, make every attempt to resolve the matter yourself before contacting me. Sometimes, simply hitting the refresh button or checking to make sure your “caps lock” button is off will fix your problem. I have a large number of students each semester and while I intend to make sure the site functions correctly, I only have time to help with legitimate problems, not user error. Also, do not contact Dan Harayda for assistance. He is unaffiliated with the course website.

**Help:** I do not maintain office hours on campus. However, if you ever have questions, issues or comments, you can always email me. In most cases, I will respond to your email within 24-48 hours.

**Email:** When emailing me, please do not simply hit “Reply” but rather start a new discussion thread. Also, please place the words “Entrepreneur Law” in the subject line. This will help prevent me from inadvertently deleting an email because I do not recognize the sender of the email or misfiling something you send in a folder for another class.

*When you submit homework assignments, the proper format for your document's name is: StudentName - ClassName - Week# (e.g., Jane Doe - WCC - Week 1.docx)*

*Remember to title your email with your class name and the subject of your email (e.g., WCC - Login Issue). Thank you.*

This will also ensure I do not lose or misplace your assignment and that I can locate it at all times. If you do not submit your homework in this format, it may be lost and not graded.

**Grading:** 25% - Assignments and Class Participation - Class readings are critical. You will have approximately 5 assignments this semester. Missing more than two assignments will result in a minimum full grade reduction. Similarly, a lack of participation in our discussion forum will result in grade loss. Participation involves meaningful contribution and advancement of the discussion. Also, unexcused lateness of any assignment will be treated as your having missed the assignment.

75% - The majority of your grade (75%) this semester will consist of two
short papers (a minimum of 8 pages each, 1 " margin single-spaced). These will be based on readings and other materials I assign. There are numerous options for you to write on but I will award topics on a first-come-first served basis so contact me ASAP. YOU MUST FOLLOW THE RUBRIC PROVIDED ON THE WEBSITE TO ORGANIZE AND WRITE YOUR PAPER. You will learn more once you log onto our webpage.

**Important:**

Late assignments are frowned upon and may result in loss of grade. If you know you will be unable to meet a deadline, please contact me ASAP.

When you submit homework assignments, the proper format for your document's name is: StudentName - ClassName - Week# (e.g., Jane Doe - E-Discovery - Week 1.docx)

Remember to title your email with your class name and the subject of your email (e.g., E-Discovery - Login Issue). Thank you.

**Your ability to follow instructions is key. Failure to follow instructions will result in loss of grade. Repeated failure will result in significant loss of grade.**

Please note that I will send confirmation when I receive your assignment. If you do not receive confirmation within 24 hours of sending an email please resend it.

Also, please note that I accept .doc, .docx, or .pdf format documents for weekly assignments. **For your the three short papers constituting the bulk of your grade I will accept only .doc or .docx format.** Please do not embed your assignment within the body of your email but as an attached document in one of these formats. These should serve as the guidelines for all assignments you submit throughout the semester.