

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

ABUS 379-Social, Ethical & Legal Aspects of Business

Spring 2009, Section 001, Online

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Mon & Weds 12:00-2:30 p.m., 4:00-4:30 p.m.
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Calls or e-mails are welcome at anytime

School of Business Administration Mission Statement

The School of Business Administration focuses on creating a caring learning environment in its accredited undergraduate program. The program prepares students to meet the dynamic global, technological and ethical challenges of business and society.

Course Description

Study of how the social, legal, economic, political, technological and ecological dimensions of the external environment affect business. Specific topics include values and ethics in business, business and government relations, corporate social performance, stakeholder responsibility, and business law.

Prerequisite: Junior Standing. *Credit Hours:* 3

School of Business Administration Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, we want our students to be able to:

1. Evaluate the effect of social, legal, economic, political, technological and natural environments on business.
2. Determine the influence of stakeholders on business.
3. Analyze the difference between stockholders and stakeholders.
4. Examine the areas of public affairs and issues management.
5. Determine the role of values and norms in business.
6. Evaluate the role of ethics in business in the United States and determine how management deals with ethical problems.
7. Examine the importance of ethics in international business.
8. Analyze the differences that exist in ethical standards in different societies.
9. Evaluate the effect of business on the environment and the reaction of business to environmental regulation.

Dr. Fekula's Additional Objectives

Upon completion of this course students should:

- (a) Have a general understanding of the impact of the social, economic, political, technological and ecological dimensions of the external environment on business, and (b) Understand the ethical

implications associated with the operation of a business in society. More specifically, students should be able to:

1. Be ethical.
2. Establish an ethical framework relevant to their professional role in business.
3. Determine the values and ethics appropriate for particular businesses.
4. Engage in ethical reasoning.
5. Understand the role and implications of an organization's values.
6. Understand and differentiate property, profit, and labor in business organizations.
7. Know the role of the corporation in society.
8. Understand corporate social responsibility and citizenship.
9. Know the issues relevant to business in global society.
10. Identify, assess, and understand government and political relationships and their implications for business.
11. Identify, assess, and understand natural environment issues for business.
12. Identify, assess, and understand the role and implications of technology and technological change as a force impacting business.
13. Identify all relevant stakeholders and their relative importance to successfully operating a business.
14. Conduct effective case analyses by applying business, ethics, and society concepts and frameworks.

Required Texts and Materials

Business and Society: Stakeholders, Ethics, Public Policy, 12th Edition. By Anne T. Lawrence & James Weber. McGraw-Hill, 2008. ISBN: 0-07-353017-4

Business Law: Barron's Business Review Books, 4th Edition. By Robert W. Emerson. Barron's Educational Series Incorporated, 2004. ISBN: 0-7641-1984-2

Case: ***The Republic.*** Hartwick Humanities in Management Institute Case #3-072.

Professor's Background

Dr. Michael J. "Mick" Fekula is an Assistant Professor of Management at the University of South Carolina Aiken. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Penn State University, an MBA from the University of Wyoming, and a B.S. in Management from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. His current teaching and research interests include strategic management, leadership ethics, entrepreneurship, organization theory, and character education. During his military career he taught management at the U.S. Air Force Academy and served as a Missile Operations Officer at F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Instructional Philosophy and Methodology

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself (Chinese Proverb). The effectiveness of your learning experience relies upon consistently preparing for each class by accomplishing the assigned reading and tasks. Preparation ensures that you can interact with the professor and fellow students by both answering and asking questions in order to better understand the course material. Readings, quizzes, cases, PowerPoint presentations, and discussion questions will be used to engage students in the online lessons. The professor expects all students to actively participate in class activities. All activities contribute to helping you complete your exams and assignments.

Course Schedule

#	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	T 1/13	Online Course Orientation, Personal Introductions, Syllabus Philosophy of Learning Ch 1: Corporations & Stakeholders	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
2	Th 1/15	Ch 2: Managing Public Issues	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
3	T 1/20	Ch 5: Ethics & Ethical Reasoning	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
4	Th 1/22	Ch 6: Organizational Ethics & the Law	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
5	T 1/27	Ethical Leadership: <i>The Republic</i> by Plato	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
6	Th 1/29	Ethical Leadership: <i>The Republic</i> by Plato (continued)	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site Submit Position Paper by Sunday February 1st.
7	T 2/3	BUSINESS LAW - Contracts Ch 4: Nature, Classification, Formation Ch 5: Reality of the Contract	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
8	Th 2/5	BUSINESS LAW - Contracts Ch 6: Capacity of Parties & Legality of Subject Matter Ch 7: Statute of Frauds; Parole Evidence Rule; Privity	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
9	T 2/10	BUSINESS LAW - Contracts Ch 8: Discharge; Damages & Remedies Ch 9: Special Problems - Sales Contracts	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
10	Th 2/12	BUSINESS LAW–Commercial Relations Negotiable Instruments Ch 10: Definitions, Concepts, Negotiations Ch 11: Holder in due Course, Defenses, Liability & Discharge	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
11	T 2/17	BUSINESS LAW–Commercial Relations Ch 12: Bank Procedures/Customers Ch 13: Creditors/Debtors/Bankruptcy BUSINESS LAW–Special Topics Ch 19: Crimes & Torts	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site Submit Business Forms Review Paper by Sunday February 22nd.
12	Th 2/19	Ch 3: Corporate Social Responsibility	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
13	T 2/24	Ch 4: Global Corporate Citizenship	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site

14	Th 2/26	Ch 7: The Challenges of Globalization	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
15	T 3/3	Mid-Term Exam: Accomplish not later than midnight March 3rd.	Study the above chapters and Blackboard postings & materials for the exam
16	Th 3/5	Ch 8: Business-Government Relations	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
		March 8-15 Spring Break: no class	
17	T 3/17	Ch 9: Influencing the Political Environment	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
18	Th 3/19	Ch 10: Antitrust, Mergers and Competition Policy	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
19	T 3/24	Ch 11: Ecology and Sustainable Development in Global Business	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
20	Th 3/26	Ch 12: Managing Environmental Issues	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
21	T 3/31	Ch 13: Technology	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
22	Th 4/2	Ch 14: Managing Technological Challenges	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
23	T 4/7	Ch 15: Stockholder Rights and Corporate Governance	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
24	Th 4/9	Ch 16: Consumer Protection	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
25	T 4/14	Ch 17: The Community & The Corporation	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
26	Th 4/16	Ch 18: Employees & The Corporation	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
27	T 4/21	Ch 19: Managing a Diverse Workforce	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site
28	Th 4/23	Ch 20: Business & the Media	Tasks as posted to Blackboard course site Post Case Presentation by Friday April 24th.

	Th 4/30	Final Exam Accomplish not later than midnight April 30	Study the above chapters; class materials, cases, and Blackboard postings
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Evaluation: Assignment Weights, Grading & Criteria

<u>Assignments and Grading</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Position Paper	5%	A	93-100
Case Presentation	5%	B+	88-92.99999
Business Law Questions	5%	B	83-87.99999
Business Forms Review Paper	5%	C+	78-82.99999
Discussion Questions	12%	C	70-77.99999
Replies to Discussion Questions	3%	D+	68-69.99999
Quizzes	25%	D	60-67.99999
Midterm Exam	20%	F	Below 60
Final Exam	20%		

Position Paper: Write and submit a position paper on *The Republic* that integrates concepts from Chapters 5 & 6 and also states your personal ethical position. Papers should be at least 3-5 pages of text in APA format and include at least 3 references (i.e., the *Republic* case and Chapters 5 & 6).

Case Presentation: Produce a case analysis in the form of a PowerPoint presentation and post it to the designated Discussion Forum. Due dates and criteria will be provided.

Business Law Questions: This is a group assignment. Each group will review their assigned *Business Law* chapters and the associated PowerPoint slides in order to produce 10 or more objective-type test questions to assist everyone in reviewing for the exams. The questions should be multiple choice (with at least 4 answers) and true/false, with no more than half being true/false. The questions should reflect the most important topics of that chapter.

Business Forms Review Paper: Write and submit a 3-4 page “basic review” of Chapters 14-18 in the Business Law book. No analysis is required; this is just a review of the concepts.

Discussion Questions and Replies: Post answers and replies to discussion questions in the Blackboard Discussion Forum areas, as required by the lesson assignments. Answers and replies must be written well, use complete sentences and paragraphs, and be substantive.

Quizzes: Accomplish lesson quizzes, as required by the lesson assignments.

Midterm and Final Exams: Exams will be given to assess your understanding of the course concepts and cases as they are covered in class and pertain to the course objectives. A variety of question forms will be used including, but not limited to true/false, multiple choice, fill-ins, matching, short answer essay and application exercises. The final exam is comprehensive.

Policies and Statements

Submission of Assignments: All electronic files for assignments must be submitted in a MS-Word or PPT compatible format. Ensure that your files are saved to these formats prior to sending them. If you are uncertain of your format, text files can be saved as **.rtf** so that they can be read by MS-Word. Papers, cases and other presentation materials must be submitted electronically through the Blackboard system. PowerPoint presentations must be posted to the designated Blackboard Discussion Forum area for all students to access.

Feedback & Scores: Feedback and scores will be posted to Blackboard for review.

Late Work, Make-ups & Re-takes. Assignments submitted late receive a score on a 100-point scale and then 10 points are deducted from that score. Work submitted or requests for make-ups later than one week after the due date receive no credit. ***No work is accepted after April 23rd, 2009.*** Coordinate all late submissions and make-ups with the professor. There is no opportunity for re-takes or extra credit.

Incompletes. A grade of “I” can be given only as the result of unavoidable circumstances occurring at the end of a semester which preclude the student from submitting work on the last day of class or from taking a final exam. In addition, a grade of “I” can be requested by the student only when the student, professor, and school Dean have signed an *Incomplete Grade Contract* prior to the submission of grades. Avoid incompletes. Grades must be submitted to the VIP system as soon as the course ends. Missing assignments will result in an unchangeable grade according to the points earned with the completed assignments and could result in an unchangeable grade of “F.”

“Attendance” Policy. Students are expected to prepare for, attend (i.e., logon on for) and participate in each scheduled online session. Excessive absences or late postings to Discussion Board assignments will decrease your total course *Discussion Questions and Replies* grade by 10 points on the 100-point scale. In order to obtain credit in a course, a student must attend a minimum of 80% of the class sessions. Students are expected to logon to the Blackboard system for this class on the date of every class lesson; however, effective performance in the course will usually require more frequent logons. The statistics tracking system in Blackboard will be used to verify the dates and times of student logons. At the discretion of the professor, assigning a course grade of “F” for excess absences is possible. In the event of unavoidable circumstances, the student can petition the professor for an *excused* absence, but must do so within one week of the absence. See the USCA 2008-2009 Programs Bulletin for examples of excused absences.

Disability Statement: If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

Academic Honesty. As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academic integrity. All students have a responsibility to adhere to the *USCA Academic Code of Conduct* for all graded assignments. Students who do not adhere to the *USCA Academic Code of Conduct* will receive a zero on any test, paper or assignment in which the code is violated. A violation may also result in a grade of “F” for the course. *It is the responsibility of every student at USCA to be familiar with the “code”* as published in the 2008-2009 USCA Student Handbook. **Students in this online course do not have permission to receive assistance from any other person (enrolled or not enrolled) in their effort to complete the assigned coursework and exams (Group assignments excepted). Only enrolled students are permitted to logon and access the Blackboard site and resources for this course.**