BRYAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Class Name: Comparative Business Law  Professor: Nicholas J. Chabra, JD
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TEXT:


Assignment Schedule:

August 15, 2006  
Readings for first class:  Pp. 1-35  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• American Legal System Concepts  
• Concepts of Comparative Law  
• Why It is Important to the American Worker  
Handout

August 22, 2006  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• Ethics In International law  
• Strategies For International Business  
• Current Global Legal Issues  
Next Weeks Readings:  Pp. 37-105  
Handout

August 29, 2006  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• International Dispute Resolution  
Readings:  Pp. 141-212

September 5, 2006  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• Trade Regulations  
Readings:  Pp. 214-249  
Midterm due

September 12, 2006  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• International Contract Law  
• Review Midterm  
Readings:  Pp. 251-288; 400-477  
Hand Out Final

September 19, 2006  
Lecture and Discussion:  
• International Sales Law  
• Employment Law Issues in International Business  
• Laws of International Property Rights

September 26, 2006  
20 Minute Presentations and Reports Due  
Final Due
GRADUATE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Comparative business law is designed as a course covering the basic laws of international trade, licensing and investment from a managerial perspective. Students will be introduced to the risks of international business and examine how the risks differ from domestic business risks. Particular attention will be paid to the increasing risks and legal complexities associated with greater penetration by firms into foreign markets.

The course will examine the role of public and private organizations in setting standards and guidelines for international business. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the legal, cultural and ethical problems associated with economic integration, particularly within the European Community and in North America.

Further the course will examine the basics of buying and selling goods in foreign countries. The case study approach will be used to enable the student to become aware of potential commercial risks and legal problems. Included in the discussion will be problems involving documentary sale, international commercial and contract law, non-performance, and dispute resolution.

The course will also examine the division of authority between the U. S. Congress and the President with regard to the regulation of foreign trade. Topics will include most favorable trade status, Presidential emergency powers, and political events that effect business interests.

Other topics that will be examined are comparative analysis of host country employment laws, transnational environmental law development, regulation of competition and a comparative analysis of international antitrust policies.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To convey to the student an understanding of the importance of international business in a global economy.
2. To assist the student in understanding the potential risks inherent in entering foreign markets, and to provide a foundation for the management of risk in an international transaction.
3. To assist the student in understanding the ethical problems facing managers in foreign environments, and particularly with the social responsibility of managers operating in both developed and developing countries.
4. To expose the student to the cultural and political environment of international business so as to understand how these factors affect the international business transaction, the decision-making process and the conduct of the firm abroad.
5. To closely examine the legal problems associated with the three basic forms of international business -- trade, the licensing of intellectual property and foreign direct investment -- within the context of managerial decision-making.
6. To explain fundamental principles of public international law as they relate to the regulation of trade and foreign investment and the management of the international business transaction.
7. To explain the special legal and economic problems in doing business in developing countries, nonmarket countries, and the rapidly changing republics of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.
8. To offer a comparative approach to the study of business law and of legal systems so as to understand how legal problems are treated in different societal and cultural environments.
9. To assist the student in understanding the basic economic and political arguments regarding
protectionism/free trade/open investment issues by focusing on existing international agreements and national laws designed to promote trade and investment.
10. To develop in the student an awareness of the special legal problems facing multinational corporations that are trading, licensing and investing in foreign countries.

COURSE RULES:

1. This will be an enjoyable experience
2. Civility will be enforced
3. To satisfactorily complete this course you will interact - undemonstrated skills will go ungraded
4. Attendance and timeliness is required

GRADING PHILOSOPHY:

A grade of “A” or “A+” represents excellent or outstanding work. A grade of “A-” or “B+” reflects very good work. A “B” represents work that meets basic graduate level expectations. A grade of “B-” or “C+” reflects work that is somewhat below expectations. “C” or “C-” reflects work that is clearly below graduate level expectations. Your grade is a function of your technical, people, and concept skills. This includes your research and communication skills, as well as your analytical and problem-solving skills.

COURSE SYLLABUS:

The Syllabus is attached. Please note e-mail address. Open communication is encouraged.

NOTICE:

All class work, be it written or oral, is subject to the applicable rules and regulations of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. If you are unclear as to what these rules and regulations are, it is your responsibility to seek clarification. Only the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity will be acceptable. As this syllabus is intended as a base document to facilitate your learning, and is by no means the last word, all comments and suggestions for its improvement are encouraged and will be given due consideration.