SYLLABUS
SKIDMORE COLLEGE
Spring 2006

COURSE NUMBER: MB 334

COURSE TITLE: Business Law II

INSTRUCTOR: Christine C. Kopec Office: 211 PMH
Phone: 580-5116; home: 677-3876 (before 9 PM)
Office hours: 10:00-12:00 PM Wednesday
11:30PM -12:30PM Thursday
by appointment at any convenient time

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: A study of the laws of real property, sales, wills and
estates, trusts, security instruments, mortgaging and leaseholds, personal property and
bailments.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

* The primary purpose of this course is to present topics in business law
beyond those covered in Business Law I. Students should again expect to become
familiar with specific legal terminology as it is used in the topics listed above and
should expect to gain an understanding of these legal concepts as they relate to the
business community.

* We will attempt to develop an understanding of the legal principles
governing business in the relevant areas, and of their underlying philosophy, with an
emphasis on: the Uniform Commercial Code; real and personal property and its
protection and disposal; and an interesting array of highly regulated areas like
environmental, intellectual property, consumer, antitrust and international law. Such
understanding will provide a basis for discussing and evaluating the appropriateness of
these legal principles from a public policy and ethical perspective.

SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students who actively engage in learning in this class will:

1. Enhance the basic knowledge of legal terminology and concepts they
acquired in Business Law I.

2. Gain competency in reading legal decisions and analyzing legal
arguments.

3. Increase their fluency in communications relating to legal topics, particularly in written work.

**TEACHING METHODS:** Lecture, discussion, case and written analysis.

**REQUIRED TEXT**


Periodic handouts of interest

**GRADING AND EVALUATION METHODS:**

* One quiz and a midterm exam will be given as indicated in the syllabus; **No makeup exams or quizzes will be given** without a doctor's note or the prior consent of the instructor, which may be given in my discretion. The quiz will generally be in an objective format; it will be **worth fifteen (15%) per cent of the final grade.** There will be a midterm in early March which will be **worth twenty-five (25%) percent of the final grade.**

* The last assessment in this class will be a legal research project. You will select a topic from the regulatory areas in the text, research it, write a substantial paper and make a class presentation. A detailed assignment sheet will be provided to you early in the semester. The project must be worked on throughout the semester; there are several deadlines which must be met. **This project will constitute 25% of your final grade.**

* A paper will constitute **fifteen (15%) percent** of the final grade. The paper will be in the form of a legal memorandum; you will read and brief a case and then discuss your opinion of the legal decision. The case you select should be one which you plan to use for your research paper. We will discuss this further in class.

* A written brief of a case selected from the text, but located via computer research and read in its entirety, will contribute **ten (10%) percent** to the final grade. This case should be the first case you use in your research project.

* Class participation will constitute **five (5%) percent** of the
grade. Participation is defined as presence (meaning that attendance is mandatory), preparation (meaning prior reading of the text material is required as is advance review of all assigned problems), discussion and involvement in class conversation and projects. A significant portion of this part of the grade will come from oral briefing of cases in class.

* Two cuts will be allowed; absenteeism in excess of that allowance may result in a reduction in this portion of the grade.

* A succinct summary of the cases you will be relying on in your research paper will be worth five (5%) per cent of the final grade.

* Grading will be determined as follows:

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<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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Tuesday 1/24  Class overview; Introduction To Sales

_Pittsley v. Houser_
_Construction Associates_ c. 19

Thursday 1/26  Introduction to Sales c. 19

Case Briefing: *Gregory v. Scandinavian Ethic*

_Ethics: What constitutes unconscionability_

Tuesday 1/31  Performance; Transfer c. 20,21

_Moulton Cavity & Mold, Inc._
_Furlong v. Alpha Chi Omega Sorority_
_Robinson v. Durham_

Thursday 2/2  Products Liability c. 22

_In Re L.B. Trucking, Inc._
_Dunne v. Wal-Mart_
_Greene v. Boddie -Noell Enterprises,_

_Final project assignment- including brief assignment - handed out_

Tuesday 2/7  Research librarian meeting

Thursday 2/9  Remedies c. 23

_Bigelow-Sanford, Inc_

Tuesday 2/14  Review of Sales and QUIZ

Thursday 2/16  Intro to Employment Law c.42

_Preliminary Research Topic Due_

Tuesday 2/21  How to Establish & run a business Employment Law, con’t. c. 42

_Sexual harassment_

Thursday 2/23  Business Ownership: Law and Ethics Taxes, duties to employees, OSHA, permits, zoning, etc.

_BRIEF DUE_

Tuesday 2/28  Negotiable Instruments Form & Content/ Transfer c. 24,25

_Cooperative Centrale_

Thursday 3/2  Holder in Due Course c. 26

_Liability of Parties_ c. 27
Turman V. Ward’s Home Improvement
Davis v. Watson Brothers

FINAL RESEARCH TOPIC DUE

Tuesday 3/7 Bank Deposits & Transfers c. 28

Thursday 3/9 MIDTERM EXAM CHAPTERS 19-28 AND 42

***** SPRING BREAK MARCH 11 - MARCH 19**********

Tuesday 3/21 Introduction to property & insurance c. 49
Bailments
Benjamin v. Lindner Aviation
Ethics: who is responsible for rental property?

Thursday 3/23 Interests in Real Property c. 50
Home Rental Corp. v. Curtis
Borton v. Forest Hills Country Club

Tuesday 3/28 Transfer & Control of Real Property c. 51
City of Renton v. Playtime Theaters
Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc.

Research thesis and preliminary case list DUE
PAPER DUE

Thursday 3/30 Trusts and Wills c. 52
In re Estate of Welch

Tuesday 4/4 Secured Transactions & Bankruptcy c. 38, 39
Ethics: When is disclosure warranted
Impact of bankruptcy on stakeholders
(Enron, Worldcom)

Thursday 4/6 International Law c. 47
Hypothetical Company
Foreign corrupt practices act
CASE SUMMARIES DUE
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| Tuesday 4/11 | Intellectual Property | *Ed Nowogroski Insurance, Inc. v. Rucker*  
*NY Times Co., Inc* |
| Thursday 4/13 | Environmental Law | *Arkansas v. Oklahoma*  
*Ethics: dumping products overseas* |
| Tuesday 4/18 | Cyberlaw       | *Zeran v. America Online*  
*A7m records Inc, v Napster* |
| Thursday 4/20 | Research projects |                                                                      |
| Tuesday 4/25 | Ethics in light on Enron: Insider Trading | *United States v. O’Hagen*  
*p.850* |
| Thursday 4/27 | Oral Presentations | *Evaluations* |
| Tuesday 5/2  | Oral Presentations |                                                                      |
| May 3       | Academic Festival |                                                                      |
| May 3-7     | Study Days      |                                                                      |