

Course Syllabus

Fall 2017
Don Weidner

Liability Among Associated Business Entities is a seminar that is designed to enable students to research and write about a topic of interest, and in the process satisfy the upper-level writing requirement. The essence of the upper-level writing requirement is that the student must submit a draft of a seminar paper to the professor and then re-write it to respond to the professor's suggestions for improvement. Satisfactory completion of the requirement also earns the student three, graded, credit-hours. Because of the small size of the class, the class profile option rather than the grade curve sets the parameters of the grade distribution.

I must approve of the topic you select for your paper. I plan to be extremely flexible and work with you to select quickly a topic that suits your needs. For example, you may simply want to pick a topic that enables you to learn more about a particular subject. That sort of selection should be relatively easy. More care will be required if you are looking for a currently noteworthy topic that has publication potential. It is important that you select a topic as soon in the semester as possible. Some of you may already have topics in mind. In order to help you in topic selection, I will offer some possibilities at our first class meeting and discuss others at the next two meetings.

I plan on meeting every Thursday in Room 326 at the allotted time: 1:10-3:05 pm. At the first few classes, we shall discuss selected materials that should provide an overview of the area and provide ideas for those still in the topic selection process. I will make available a list of readings for these early classes. During the last eight classes, students will make presentations of their papers. It is understood that students presenting early in the semester will have had less time to prepare.

Deadlines

By the close of business on September 21, each student must have submitted a paper topic for my approval. By September 22nd, I will assign a topic to students who have not yet selected a topic I have approved. Each student must submit a rough draft for my review by Monday, November 13th. I will return your drafts with my comments as soon as possible, generally within one week. Your final re-writes must be submitted no later than Monday, December 11th.

Office Hours and Communications.

I will hold open the half-hour immediately following each class as “office hours” for students in each section. Students should also feel free to email questions to me at dweidner@law.fsu.edu. Students also should feel free to contact my Assistant, Derinda Kirkland, dkirklan@law.fsu.edu, for appointments with me.

Students with disabilities should see the last section of this Syllabus: “Americans with Disabilities Act.”

Thank you. Don Weidner

REQUIRED UNIVERSITY SYLLABUS LANGUAGE FOLLOWS

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to Nancy Benavides, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, indicating the need for accommodations and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact Dean Benavides. You may also contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building

Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>