

**SYLLABUS**  
**Introduction to Law**  
**6J:047**  
**Fall 2009**  
**Professor Kirsten Frey**

I. Contact Information:

Professor:  
**Kirsten H. Frey**  
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Teaching Assistants: **Mosah Fernandez-Goodman,**  
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Please check the website for relevant course information and deadlines. The website is:  
[ICON.uiowa.edu](http://ICON.uiowa.edu)

II. Objectives of the Course

- A. To introduce fundamental concepts about what law is and the purposes it should serve.
- B. To examine several areas of law in historical perspective, philosophy and current status.
- C. To discuss fundamental legal concepts and principles.

III. Office Hours

My designated office hours will be on Thursdays from 3-5 p.m. at my office at 920 S. Dubuque Street in Iowa City. I will also be happy to schedule an appointment with you if the regularly scheduled office hours are inconvenient for you. My office phone number is 351-8181. The fax number there is 351-0605. If I am unavailable, you may leave a message with my secretary, Gary, or on my voice mail. My e-mail address is [Kirstfrey@mchsi.com](mailto:Kirstfrey@mchsi.com). In an emergency, you may contact me at home at 339-0045 or my cell phone at 430-4006. In short, there are several ways to get in touch with me and I would encourage you to call with questions or comments.

I would also strongly encourage you to contact one of the teaching assistants should you have any questions. There are three TA's for the course: Mosah Fernandez-Goodman, Jennifer Hennessy, and \_\_\_\_\_. All three are excellent sources of information and should be able to answer any substantive question you have. Their office is located at W217 PBAB and their office phone number is 335-0989. You may also contact them by e-mail and they will respond as quickly as possible. Please note that when you contact them you should make sure to let them know you are enrolled in my class (Section 1). Their office hours are as follows:

Mosah: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kara: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Class Format

Unfortunately, in light of the size of the class, this course will be presented largely in a lecture format. Nonetheless, I intend to introduce as much discussion as possible into the course and everyone's participating in that discussion is encouraged.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If you have a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or any other class requirements, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please see me after class or during my office hours.**

V. Course Requirements

A. **Reading.** The assigned text is Essentials of the Legal Environment by Roger LeRoy Miller, Frank B. Cross and Gaylord A. Jentz. The book is available from Iowa Book and Supply and Beat the Bookstore. Additional required readings may be distributed in class and supplemental readings may be placed on reserve in the library or assigned from the WEB. References will be suggested as appropriate or as interest dictates.

The slides (lecture outline) for this class are available on the website. You may print the slides to facilitate taking notes in the large lecture if you chose to do so, although many students find it more effective not to have the slides.

Law dictionaries are not required and there is a glossary in the back of the text. If you feel such a book would be helpful, I would suggest you purchase a paperback copy of Black's Law Dictionary or the law dictionary published by West Publishing and edited by Oran.

B. **Exams.** There will be two midterms and one final exam in this course. The midterms are worth 100 points apiece and the final is worth 200 points. The exams will be made up of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams are cumulative. Both midterms will be given during class time.

**Midterm 1: September 23, 2009**  
**Midterm 2: October 28, 2009**  
**Final: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 9:45 am**

If you are ill or have an emergency, please try to notify me as soon as possible. If possible, please notify me before the exam that you will not be present.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or any other class requirement, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Similarly if you have any emergency medical information about which I should know, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please let me know. Please see me after class hours or during my scheduled office hours or schedule an

appointment. I would also remind you that the Office of Student Disability Services is available to assist you, in Burge Hall (335-1462) for diagnosis and accommodation assistance.

C. **Papers.** Each student is required to write two papers during the course of the semester. A copy of each paper must be submitted electronically to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) and a **hard copy given to the instructor prior to the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due.** We will be running a plagiarism check on-line so you should go to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) and create a user profile. The identification number for this class is \_\_\_\_\_. The password is \_\_\_\_\_. The instructions for uploading your paper should be clear. However, if you have any additional questions or need any additional help, you should go to the UI turnitin support web site at:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/plagiarism/turnitin/>

**You should keep a copy of the receipt that shows you uploaded your paper. This is the only evidence we have that you turned it in on time if there is an issue. If you don't get a receipt you should assume your paper did not upload. Try again or contact us immediately.** Please note that your paper may only be uploaded once and Kirsten must approve all late papers before they are accepted. **There will be a 5-point deduction for each day the paper is late.**

As you will see throughout the semester, being able to express yourself in writing clearly is very important. It is also very important to be able to write a strong, forceful argument. Therefore, you should contact the Frank Business Communications Center in S146 PBB for assistance with your writing. To make an appointment, you should register and use the ONLINE appointment system. For instructions, please see the directions at: <http://www.rich37.com/uiowa>.

1. The first paper assignment is to write a short paper discussing a personal experience in which you felt justice was achieved or not achieved. Please examine why the result was just or not, whether the result or circumstance was fair or not, and if not, what a just or fair result would have been. (Get additional language from Nancy)

**The paper should be 2 – 3 pages and must be turned in at the beginning of class on or before September 14, 2009. There are 50 points possible on the paper, 90 for substance and content (legal analysis, effectiveness of your argument etc.) and 10 for presentation (spelling, grammar, punctuation, complete sentences etc.).**

2. The second paper assignment is to write a short essay answer analyzing a current legal issue. One of the goals of this class is to give you a better understanding of legal issues and how those issues affect society on a day-to-day basis. In fact, legal issues permeate our pop and business culture. This paper assignment asks you to explore some of those issues and their impact and to take a position on those issues. The second paper assignment is to write one essay answer in response to **one** of the following three (3) questions:

Option #1:

Option #2:

Option #3:

**The paper should be 2–3 pages long and must be turned in at the beginning of class on or before November 11, 2009. There are 50 points possible on the paper, 90 for substance and content (legal analysis, effectiveness of your argument etc.) and 10 for presentation (spelling, grammar, punctuation, complete sentences etc.).**

Please note that the paper assignments are as important to your overall course grade as a midterm exam. Therefore, if you have any other questions about the paper, please contact me. **YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT. EACH PAPER MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK AND THEREFORE, WORKING ON THE PAPER AS A GROUP OR IN COLLABORATION WITH A CLASSMATE WOULD CONSTITUTE CHEATING.**

**D. Course Project:** During the course of the semester, you must also do a course project. You have a choice as to which project you would like to do: Community Service, Law Photos, or Law in the News.

1. **Community Service:** The purpose of this project is to give students an opportunity to enjoy the rewards that come from helping other people. Because this class includes discussion of societal priorities and ethics, this community service opportunity provides students with a chance to explore some of these considerations. Furthermore, getting involved in the community enhances your educational process and strengthens the bonds between the University and the community.

Community service work means doing something for someone else, in this case a non-profit organization such as working as a volunteer in the hospital, the local schools (e.g., Willowwind, Regina, the Iowa City Community School District, etc.), the Ronald McDonald House, Big Brothers/Big Sisters or Habitat for Humanity. The 10,000 Hours project has an extensive list of opportunities for community service. Addressing leaflets, babysitting for a friend, taking notes for a sick classmate, picketing or working on a political campaign are noble endeavors, but not suitable community service for this project. The work you do for this project **cannot** be work you have done, or are already doing or planning to do for another organization. For example, if you are already involved with a fraternity or sorority community service project, that will not qualify for this project. It also must be for a community-based non-profit organization. **If you have any doubt about whether the particular event or type of service you are going to do qualifies as community service, you should clear it with Kirsten or a teaching assistant BEFORE you do the work.**

To obtain full credit for this project, you need to do at least ten (10) hours of community service. You might choose to work one hour per week or do a whole day of service. In Iowa City, there are many opportunities for community service, though you are welcome to do your work in other communities if that works better for you. Once you have completed the hours, you will need to have the supervisor of the activity sign the report form, which is available on ICON and write a reflection paper (2-3) pages; typed and double-spaced that specifically addresses the following points and questions:

- Identify the nonprofit organization that you worked for, include its mission statements, the specific dates, times of day and total hours of your community service, a description of the type of work you performed and the name and email/telephone number of a contact person at the non profit organization that would allow me to verify your community service;
- What do you feel you gained from the community service work?
- What, if anything, might have made your community service a more valuable experience?
- How can community service help managers make better business decision when they return to their regular “day” jobs?
- Should companies require their employees to engage in community service work? Why or why not?
- Also, please note that if you hand in a final community service report for work not actually done, we will lower your course grade by one full letter grade.

**The community service learning project may be turned in at any point but is due no later than November 30, 2009.**

**2. Law Photo Project.** There are many ways that we talk about what constitutes law or what law means in our lives. Most of the time we use words to describe law either in texts, or news coverage, court opinions and articles. It is also possible to describe what law is by creating visual images of law.

To complete the project, you must take up to five (5) photographs of people, places, things, events, etc. that symbolize some aspect of law. Each photograph must be accompanied by 1 or 2 paragraphs describing what the photo represents and why. For example, you could take a picture of the Johnson County Courthouse and then write a paragraph or two about why the courthouse represents law to you. However, **I want to encourage you to include a photo of a more theoretical aspect of law**, e.g., a photo representing justice, fairness or equity, equality, rights. Please note that I may use the photos in class to illustrate a point or share exemplary work.

**This project should be submitted directly to Kirsten, by handing in a C.D. with the photos in electronic form, a hard copy of the photographs and a hard copy the paragraphs that go with each photo.** Please put your name on the CD or the folder (use appropriate marker). You can bring it to class or my office hours or make an appointment. **The photos must be turned in to Kirsten at any point during the semester but no later than November 30, 2009.**

**3. Law in the News:** One of the goals of this class is to give you a better understanding of legal issues and how those issues affect society on a day-to-day basis. In fact, legal issues permeate our pop and business culture. This project asks you to explore some of those issues. You should find an article, story or discussion in the media that discusses legal issues or that involves the application of legal principles we have discussed in class. The source must have been published after the first day of the course but it can come from a magazine, newspaper, the WEB, or any other media source. Once you have found your

source, you should prepare a short Power-Point slide presentation, including any notes that are appropriate in the comment section, illustrating how course principles are involved. You should turn in a copy of your media source, and a hard copy AND an electronic copy of your slides. I do reserve the right to share slide presentations with the class. **You may turn in your Law In the News Project at any point in the semester but no later than November 30, 2009.**

## VI. Grades

Grades will be based on your total points for the semester. A total of 550 points are available and the course is graded using the College of Business Grading Curve for core courses. Therefore, there will be:

20%	A's
40%	B's
30%	C's
10%	D's

Please note that the above scale is only an approximation and I reserve the right to deviate from the curve as necessary to reflect significant above-average or below-average test performance, students who fail to complete all of the assignments and the like. The course does use + and - grades. The final decision about what it is anticipated constitutes an "A-" will not be made until the end of the semester.

Although we do not anticipate grading errors in ICON, there have been rare occasions where students have had to prove that they have done an assignment after the completion of final grading. In order to protect yourself, please keep an electronic file of your work until you receive your final grades for the class.

## VII. Academic Conduct

It is my sincere hope that no student in this class does work which is not his or her own. However, given recent studies and media coverage, it seems not everyone agrees with this policy. Therefore, it seems prudent to clarify in advance the policy on academic misconduct. As you know, I am a practicing attorney in this community and I recognize that my reputation is central to my effectiveness as a professional. While I enjoy teaching the class and you will find I am somewhat informal about a lot of things, I do take my responsibilities very seriously. I expect you to do the same.

As a result, you will find that I am strict about the timeliness of your projects. A lot of work went into setting the schedule between coordinating the class with the other sections of Intro to Law, the other core courses, the teaching assistant's schedules, and my work schedule. Therefore, it is critical that you make note of your deadlines and govern yourself accordingly. Late work is unacceptable. Just as I certainly can not tell the court I need to continue a trial because the scheduled date isn't convenient for me, you can not expect everyone else to rearrange their schedules to accommodate you. Please make a note of the applicable deadlines now.

Furthermore, if I determine that a student has cheated on an exam or has submitted a writing assignment contrary to the standards of the Academic Code of Conduct, the student will receive a score of "0" for the project or exam. Please note that this means students should not write papers

in a group or with the assistance of others. It also means that you must follow appropriate citation format to avoid plagiarism.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the appropriate Deans (e.g., the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in the College of Business or Liberal Arts) and the student may be placed on disciplinary probation for the remainder of his or her undergraduate work at the University of Iowa.

The decision of the Professor may of course be appealed to the relevant Dean for Undergraduate studies, the Collegiate Dean, the Dean of Students, and so on. This course is given by the College of Business. This means that class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College of Business. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of the Dean of the College of Business. Details of the University policy of cross enrollments may be found at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc>

#### VIII .Sexual Harassment Policy

The Tippie College of Business and the University of Iowa are committed to providing students with an environment free from sexual harassment. If you feel you are being or have been harassed or you are not sure what constitutes sexual harassment, the University encourages you to visit the University website (<http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/index.php>) and to seek assistance from department chairs, the Dean's Office, the University Ombuds Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

The following indicates the order in which the readings will be discussed. This represents my best guess about the pace at which we will move in class. However, the pace will vary. The best way to keep track of the assignments is to attend class regularly!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Aug 24	Introduction to Course; Business and It's Legal Environment (Ch. 1)
Aug 26	The Court System
Aug 31	The Court System (Ch 2)
Sept 2	The Court System
Sept 9	Finish the Court System and begin Constitutional Law (Ch. 4)
Sept 14	Constitutional Law (Ch. 4): <b>PAPER #1 DUE</b>
Sept 16	Constitutional Law
Sept 21	Constitutional Law
Sept 23	<b>MIDTERM 1</b>
Sept 28	<b>Guest Speaker:</b>
Sept 30	Administrative Law (Ch 5)
Oct 5	Criminal Law (Ch. 7)
Oct 7	Criminal Law
Oct 12	Torts (Ch 6, pages 150-189)
Oct 14	Torts
Oct 19	Torts
Oct 21	Torts
Oct 26	Product Liability
Oct 28	<b>MIDTERM 2</b>
Nov 2	Mock Trial
Nov 4	Discuss Mock Trial and begin Employment Law (Ch 15&16)
Nov 9	Employment Law
Nov 11	Employment Law: <b>PAPER #2 DUE</b>
Nov 16	Contracts (Chapters 11, 12 & 13)
Nov 18	Contracts
Nov 30	Contracts: <b>COURSE PROJECTS DUE</b>
Dec 2	Contracts
Dec 7	Business Entities (Chapter 10)
Dec 9	ADR (Chapter 2) and review for exam

