This course will examine the functional and conceptual analysis of legal principles relevant to commercial business transactions. Topics covered will include a comparison and contrasting of the Roman and Common Law systems; the historical and constitutional foundations of American business law; ethical considerations associated with business decision making; the role of courts in the American system of jurisprudence; torts, contracts; intellectual property; mortgages and foreclosures; real estate and landlord tenant law and international law and the global economy. This course will examine various aspects of ethical aspects of business law and the specific laws associated with there “hip-hop” music genre.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course objectives for this course are as follows:

To provide students with an understanding of the historical and constitutional foundations of U.S. law;

To provide students with a foundational understanding of the distinction between criminal and civil law including torts and intellectual property;

To provide students with an understanding of business ethics and the role of ethical business decision making;

To provide students with an understanding of torts and intellectual property law;
To provide students with an understanding of real estate law with an emphasis on eminent domain, landlord tenant relationships and mortgages and foreclosures;

To provide students with a comprehensive understanding of contracts law; and finally

To provide students with an understanding of global business issues including global ethics and international trade policies.

REQUIRED TEXT:

NOTE: Consider book purchasing options including:
  - Purchase a used textbook;
  - Rent a textbook; or
  - Purchase ONLY e-chapters we will use

ADDITIONAL TEXTS:


Bridgewater, Cummings and Tibbs (2015), **Hip Hop and the Law**
Carolina Academic Press

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

“professormarktharris.com” It is your responsibility to monitor this site on a weekly basis throughout the semester.

ucmerced prelaw facebook page is an additional course resource

Various articles and videos assigned throughout the semester
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. This course will be conducted by means of lecture, group discussion, student team projects, and case studies. This course is dependent on the full participation of each student; therefore, class attendance is highly recommended. Additionally, arriving late to class, or leaving class before dismissal, will affect your grade! Attendance will only be taken at one time during a class session. If you are not counted as being in attendance at that time, you will be marked absent and lose the entire attendance points for the semester.

2. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. The Socratic method will be used extensively; therefore, students should be prepared to lead the daily in-class analysis of a variety of cases selected from the readings.

3. Students are expected to turn all “smart phones to “vibrate” or “silent” during class. However, students are expected to bring a wi-fi enabled device to each class session and to utilize their device in a manner than is non-disruptive and respectful of the decorum of the classroom.

4. Students will be given up to two mid-term examinations during the semester which are to be completed in the classroom during a regular class session. The mid-term(s) may be either in-class, open book and open notes or “take-home.”. There will be no opportunity to make-up a missed mid-term examination.

5. Students will be expected to complete a final examination that will either be in-class, open book and open notes or on a “take-home” basis. The final exam will occur during “finals week” during the time period allotted to our class and will take place at the time, in the manner, outlined by the “final’s schedule information provided by the UC Registrar’s office unless otherwise indicated. There will be no opportunity to make-up the final examination.
6. There may be periodic unannounced quizzes that will be completed in class. There will be no opportunity to make up a missed quiz.

7. Extra credit will ONLY be awarded during the week it was assigned. There will be NO opportunity to have late submitted extra credit factored into a student’s grade calculation at the end of the semester. In order to receive credit, you must submit your extra credit via Dropbox on the UCM CROPS page on a timely basis. Use it or lose it!

8. There will be a variety of in-class assignments that will be completed by the student in one or more group exercises.

GRADING:

The final grade in the course will be determined on the following basis:

- Quiz(zes)* 10 points maximum
- Group Presentation 10 points maximum
- Mid-Term Exam(s) 25 points EACH
- Final Examination 50 Points
- Extra Credit TBD

* Quiz(zes) MAY be assigned on an “optional” basis

GRADING SCALE:

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<thead>
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<th>Score</th>
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<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Welcome and Introduction
Ten Start-Up Tips from Hip-Hop Lyrics

Law &amp; Hip-Hop

Syllabus Overview and Course Expectations
U.S. Constitution
   Bill of Rights
   Articles I; II and III

Reading Assignments: Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857)
Business Law Today Appendix “B” and U.S. Constitution, Amendments 1-10; Articles I; II and III

Discussion Topic: Should “Immoral” Laws Be Followed?

Week 2

Subject Matter(s) Covered: The U. S. Constitution
Sources of U.S. Governmental Power and Authority

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today, Appendix B

Discussion Topic: Who Are “We…” The People?
Week 3

Subject Matter(s) Covered: State’s Rights

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today, Appendix B

Discussion Topic: Kim Davis and Saint Thomas More: “Persecution Due To Deep Held Beliefs?”

http://englishhistory.net/tudor/citizens/sir-thomas-more/

Week 4

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Legal Ethics/Situational Ethics

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Chapter 2
Markulla Center For Applied Ethics
http://www.scu.edu/ethics/

IN-CLASS SITUATIONAL ETHICS GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Week 5

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Legal Ethics/Situational Ethics

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Chapter 2
Markulla Center For Applied Ethics
http://www.scu.edu/ethics/

Week 6

IN-CLASS SITUATIONAL ETHICS GROUP PRESENTATIONS
Week 7

MID-TERM EXAMINATION #1

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Intentional Torts

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Chapter 4

FILM: HOT COFFEE
View On Your Own!

Week 8

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Negligence
Introduction To “IRAC(DD)”

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Appendix “A” and Chapter 5

LECTURE: Is Palsgraf Still Relevant?

Week 9

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Intellectual Property and Internet Law

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Chapter 7

LECTURE: Intellectual Property and Social Media

Week 10

Subject Matter(s) Covered: MID-TERM EXAMINATION # 2
Contracts

Reading Assignment: Business Law Today Chapter 8

LECTURE: Contract Formation
**Week 11**

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Contracts

Reading Assignment: *Business Law Today* Chapter 9

**LECTURE:** Contract Capacity, Legality, Enforceability

**Week 12**

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Contracts

Reading Assignment: *Business Law Today* Chapter 14

**LECTURE**

Third Party Rights and Responsibilities

**Week 13**

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Banking In The Digital Age

Reading Assignment: *Business Law Today* Chapter 16

**LECTURE:**

New Money---From Bitcoin To I-Wallets

**Week 14**

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Home Mortgages and Foreclosures

Reading Assignment: *Review For Final Examination*

**LECTURE:**

Should You Rent Or Buy Your Home?

**Week 15**

Subject Matter(s) Covered: Hip Hop and The Law

Reading Assignment: *Hip Hop and the Law* pp. 265-341

Video: Meet “Drizzy”
http://www.biography.com/people/drake-596834

LECTURE: “I’d Like For Y’all To Meet The Love Of My Life, Her Name’s The Game”——Drake

FINAL EXAMINATION PREPARATION

FINAL EXAMINATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!