INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL LAW (LAW 517A-4)
Spring 2014
Professor Camero

Course Syllabus

Course Description
This course surveys the principal aspects of commercial law under the Uniform Commercial Code: (1) sale of moveable goods under Article 2; (2) negotiable instruments under Article 3; (3) check collections under Article 4; and (4) secured transactions under Article 9. Additionally, this course covers federal and state laws regarding consumer debit and credit cards.

Required Text
Douglas J. Whaley, PROBLEMS AND MATERIALS ON COMMERCIAL LAW (10th ed.).

In addition, you must have access to the Uniform Commercial Code ("UCC") and its Official Comments either in print or online via Westlaw or Lexis.

Course Format
This course is an asynchronous distance education course. All instruction and course materials are delivered online via Desire 2 Learn ("D2L"). You are responsible for any material posted to D2L or distributed via the email connected to your D2L account. To access D2L, go to https://online.siu.edu. If you need assistance accessing D2L or have technical difficulties with D2L, please call (618) 453-1024.

The benefits of this course are that it offers flexibility and autonomy to students, mimicking law practice. However, these benefits make it easy for a student to fall behind. It, therefore, is important to stay organized and keep on schedule with the readings and assignments. You should expect to spend at least the same amount of time you would on any other four-credit course.

Assigned Reading
Each week, you are assigned a reading from the textbook. If a UCC section or statute is mentioned in the assigned reading, you also must read that section to assist in the learning process and to better comprehend the material in the textbook. When reading a UCC section, you should read both the section itself and the accompanying Official Comments.

Most of the assigned reading consists of problems. You should attempt to answer these problems while reading the assigned material as they are an essential part of the learning process in this course.

Lecture
Each week you will view a lecture in which I discuss the material from the assigned reading. Additionally, I will review the answer and analysis for the problems within the assigned reading. You should read the assigned material and attempt to answer the problems contained therein prior to viewing each week’s lecture.
Writing Across the Curriculum ("WAC")
As part of WAC, which requires students to complete a writing assignment in every course, I will distribute a problem for you to complete. I will post the assignment to D2L under the “WAC” folder by January 27, 2014. It is due February 10, 2014, by 11:59 p.m. Central Time. **Failing to turn in the assignment, turning in the assignment late, failing to submit it using the Dropbox, or failing to adequately complete the assignment will result in a reduction in your final grade as determined in my sole discretion.**

I will collect the assignment via the Dropbox in the "WAC" folder on D2L. **DO NOT** e-mail it to me. In the event that a D2L outage prevents a timely Dropbox submission, DO NOT e-mail it to me. Once you receive an email from me that D2L has been restored, you must submit your assignment within four hours.

I will provide written feedback in accordance with the WAC program.

**Grading**

Final Examination 100%

The final examination is a multiple choice exam and covers all material discussed during the semester. It is a closed-book exam, thus, you may not seek help from any person or source during the exam. Receiving assistance of any kind during the examination is an Honor Code violation and will be prosecuted accordingly.

The final examination will be administered online via ExamSoft. You may take the exam at any time and any place you choose; provided, however, you must (i) be able to access ExamSoft; and (ii) take the exam between Monday, April 28, 2014, and Monday, May 5, 2014. Once you log onto ExamSoft, you must complete the exam within four continuous hours.

After you take your exam, you may not discuss it with any person, whether enrolled in the course or not. Doing so will result in automatic failure as well as prosecution under the Honor Code.

**Plagiarism**
The Honor Code requires that all students submit their own individual work. Plagiarism, or the submission of someone else’s work as your own, is unethical and is in violation of the Honor Code. **All work done by you for this class, whether graded or ungraded and whether written or oral, may not be reviewed by anyone**, not even for typographical errors, grammatical errors, or for clarity.

**Contact Information**
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Skype: ProfessorCamero
SIU Office: Room 224
SIU Assistant: Susan Williams
Office Hours
Given the format of this course, I will not hold formal office hours during the semester. However, I will be available via e-mail, telephone and Skype as needed, so feel free to contact me or schedule an appointment. That being said, I do encourage you to submit questions using the Questions Discussion Board so that your fellow students may benefit from the exchange. Also, I will be on campus at least monthly during the semester. In advance of my visits, I will announce them in the News section of D2L and on Twitter in case you would like to make an appointment to see me.

Course Schedule
The Course Schedule is broken down by weekly readings, lectures, and assignments. References to anything other the text or UCC are available on the D2L course site. You are required to perform each week's assignments, which include, but are not limited to, reading from the texts, watching a recorded lecture, or reviewing other materials posted to D2L. **Students may not distribute, post or reproduce any material posted to D2L via any medium (email, Internet, hardcopy or otherwise) for any purpose or reason.** Each week's materials will post to D2L no later than the Saturday before the respective week.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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| Week of January 13 | Course Introduction  
Introduction to Article 2; Scope of Article 2; Merchants under Article 2;  
Contract Formation under Article 2;  
Statute of Frauds; Battle of the Forms;  
Parole Evidence Rule | D2L Tutorials  
"Study Tips for a Successful Online Experience"  
Preface xxvii-xxviii  
pp. 3-5; 10-16; 25-30; 35-36; 43-54 (skip Problem 7(c)); 60-75  
Lecture |
| Week of January 20 | Contract Terms - Gap Fillers;  
Warranties; Risk of Loss | pp. 195-202; 85-87; 90-114 (skip Problems 26 & 28); 121-129; 139-146;  
152-157; 205-216 (skip Problems 54 & 55); 253-257 (skip Problem 67(a), (c), (d))  
Lecture |
| Week of January 27 | Performance; Remedies | pp.; 219-220; 223-225; 228-229; 242-251 (skip Problem 64); 273-303 (skip Problem 77); 305  
Lecture |
| Week of February 3 | Introduction to Payment Systems;  
Introduction to Negotiability; Types of Negotiable Instruments; Negotiability;  
Negotiation; Holder in Due Course – Acquiring Status | pp. 325-347; 349-376  
Lecture |
| Week of February 10 | Holder in Due Course – Acquiring Status (cont’d); Holder in Due Course – Shelter Rule;  
Holder in Due Course – Defenses | pp. 376-427  
Lecture |
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<th>Week of February 17</th>
<th>Nature of the Liability</th>
<th>pp. 431-447 (skip Problem 134); 469-494 Lecture</th>
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<td>Week of February 24</td>
<td>Checking Accounts; Bank Collection</td>
<td>pp. 495-553 (skip Problems 163 &amp; 167) Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of March 3</td>
<td>Bank Collection (cont’d); Wrongdoing and Error</td>
<td>pp. 553-581; 583-609 (skip Problem 209) Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of March 10</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 17</td>
<td>Wrongdoing and Error (cont’d)</td>
<td>pp. 609-656 (skip Problems 221 &amp; 227) Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of March 24</td>
<td>Electronic Banking – Electronic Fund Transfers and Wire Transfers</td>
<td>pp. 657-712 (skip Problem 236(d)) Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of March 31</td>
<td>Introduction to Security Transaction; Scope of Article 9; Creating a Security Interest</td>
<td>pp. 813-817; 827-869 Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of April 7</td>
<td>Creating a Security Interest (cont’d); Perfection</td>
<td>pp. 869-899; 901-927 Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of April 14</td>
<td>Perfection (cont’d); Priority</td>
<td>pp. 928-932; 945-994 (skip Problem 343) Lecture</td>
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<td>Week of April 21</td>
<td>Priority (cont’d)</td>
<td>pp. 994-1007; 1018-1038; 1071-1090 Lecture</td>
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<td>On Campus Review Session TBD (voluntary participation)</td>
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<td>Final Examination – Self-Scheduled between April 28, 2014 and May 5, 2014, using ExamSoft</td>
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