COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the main forms of business association used in Canada. The course focuses on general principles of law relating to sole proprietorship, partnerships, co-operatives and corporations, and how these forms of business association are organized, governed, operated and financed. It is assumed that most students have little or no background knowledge of business and business terminology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course has two sets of objectives: practical and critical/analytical. On the first of these, students will acquire an understanding of how the main forms of business association used in Canada (sole proprietorship, partnership, cooperative and corporation) are established, the legislative provisions and case law applicable to each, the legal rules governing the internal functioning of these business associations and the relationships between the business association and third parties. The second goal is to provide an occasion for students to consider contemporary analyses and critiques of law's participation in economic ordering in the context of current capitalist conditions.

METHODOLOGY

The teaching methods will be a combination of group work and lectures. Class attendance is important, as part of the class-time will involve collaborative problem-based learning. Students will be assigned to partnerships, cooperatives and corporations, where they will work collaboratively on a number of problems, sometimes posting responses to the “moodle” site.

I have a ‘no laptops in the classroom’ policy, encouraging instead the fulsome use of a wide variety of writing implements. The “no laptop” policy is occasionally relaxed to facilitate certain in-class group-based assignments requiring access to the Internet. Students will be given adequate advance notice of such occasions, and expect that one or two laptops per group will be sufficient for such occasions.

EXPECTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Final Exam = 55%
Class Participation = 15%
Writing Assignment = 30% (10 page paper)

March 2018