

**Cyberlaw**  
**CJ 3020**  
**Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 10:15 am**  
**McDonald 102**

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 – 10:45 am  
Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Each student is expected to read and understand everything outlined in this syllabus. Think of it as my part of a contract that sets out the rules and stipulations of this class. Your enrollment and participation in this class is your signature on this contract, meaning you are in agreement with the terms of this deal. If you have any questions or concerns about what you read, feel free to discuss them with me.

#### Course Overview

This class is an introduction to the various legal issues created by the growing number and types of business transactions occurring on the internet. More specifically, this course will address the issues of jurisdiction, trademarks, copyrights, patents, trade secrets, online contracting, taxation, online transactions, privacy, obscenity, defamation, and security. If you are interested in e-commerce, practicing cyberlaw, or the development of law, this class will provide intriguing topics for you to study.

Required Text and Reading (Book is available at the Bookstore)

**Ferrera, Gerald R., Stephen D. Lichtenstein, Largo E. K. Reder, Robert C. Bird, and William T. Schiano. (2004). *Cyberlaw: Text and Cases*. Second Edition. South-Western, Cengage Learning.**

Reading for this class is NOT optional. You will be held accountable for the reading that is assigned. My advice is: DO THE READING.

You will be required to keep up with the reading. This means having read the chapter corresponding to that day's class *before* coming to class. In addition to helping you get more out of class discussions, this will also help you avoid having to read large chunks of the book all at once. In the end, this will help you retain more of the information and will enhance your learning ability.

## Class Policies

*“Punctuality is the politeness of kings.” – Louis XVIII*

Be on time to class. If you arrive late, please be courteous to others by entering as quietly as possible.

Also, please do not pack-up until we have finished our discussion for the day. I promise we will never go over our allotted time. Because of this, please do not start gathering your things and banging around in the classroom until we are finished up for the day. If for some reason you do need to leave early, please sit close to the door, in a spot where you do not need to cut in front of anyone, and when the time comes, leave as quietly as you can. Thank you all in advance for being sensitive to this request.

*“I could never think well of a man’s intellectual or moral character, if he was habitually unfaithful to his appointments.” – Nathaniel Emmons*

Attendance is required in order to pass this class, no exceptions. As discussed below, you will take exams and write papers in order to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter, but these facets of the course are not the only integral components to a passing grade. Attendance, in order to participate in the class discussions, is vital to a passing grade. I understand that situations outside of your control (untimely illnesses, family deaths, or other crises) arise and may take you away from the classroom for a period of time. I hope they don’t, but if circumstances like these affect your life during the semester, it is **your responsibility** to contact me as soon as possible (this means within a day or two of your return/recovery) to discuss the work and class periods that have been missed. If more than a work week has passed without you contacting me, you will be unable to make up the work you missed and the absence will be counted as unexcused.

If you are going to miss a substantial amount of time, the option we will discuss will be taking an incomplete for the semester, as a passing grade will not be an alternative if you have missed a significant amount of class time regardless of the circumstances. Being absent from class will significantly damage your performance in this class.

Also, please turn off and put away all noise makers when entering the classroom. Cell phones should be silenced or turned off and put away for the duration of the class period. This also includes iPods or other mp3 players. If I notice you are consistently making phone calls, sending text messages, or playing on your mp3 player during class time, I reserve the right to deduct up to 10% off your **final grade**. (If you are expecting an important call or text during the time we have class and need to have your phone on, please talk to me about it *before* class so I don’t act a fool.) Remember to please be respectful of your classmates; it may bother them even if it doesn’t bother you.

Remember, a diversity of ideas is a blessing. During class discussions, please remember to speak to others with respect. Simply because someone else thinks differently than you

do does not make them bad, deficient, or unintelligent. We need to cultivate an environment in which everyone feels safe expressing their ideas. Please do not do anything that would harm our work towards this goal.

One of the secondary goals of this course is to make each one of us a better person for having taken and participated in this class. I hope we may all demonstrate honesty, integrity, accountability, hard work, and patience with one another. And in so doing, I hope we will push each other closer to excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.

## Grades and assignments

Let me issue a brief caution about grades (I do this so we can get this out of the way and can bypass this conversation in the future). During every semester, there are students who come to me and say, “I am not doing well in this class and I really need to pass, what can I do?” My answer will be a simple, “Nothing.” There is no extra credit or make-up work for unexcused absences in this class. If this class is important to you, then I expect you to approach your studies with the fervor needed to obtain the results you desire from the *beginning* of the semester. Do not come to me looking for help if you decide part way through the semester that you need to exert more effort. Start working hard today as you will only go as far as your effort takes you.

On this same note, please do not come talk to me or send me emails at the end of the semester asking for me to bump up your final grade because you are just short of the grade you need to keep your scholarship, stay in this major, or stay enrolled in the university. Much like in sports, it is not a single play that determines the outcome of the game. By this I mean it is not your performance in one class that determines whether or not you can keep your scholarship or stay in this major, but the accumulation of the results from multiple classes. It is an untenable and unfair position to put me in, so please understand now that, “You earn what you earn.”

The following list shows the assignments you will be required to do during the semester. This list provides very brief descriptions of the assignments. We will discuss each assignment and exam in greater detail during class. Feel free to ask for more thorough descriptions for each paper, if necessary. The due dates can be found on the class schedule. Remember, no late assignments will be accepted. The descriptions of the exams and the expectations for class participation are listed below:

**I. Class Presentation** – Each student will choose a topic related to cyberlaw and will prepare a twenty to thirty minute presentation on their chosen subject matter. These presentations will be given on the “Class presentation” days found on the class schedule. The presentations should provide a comprehensive description of the topic, the topic’s relevance to cyberlaw, the ethics surrounding the topic, and suggestions for how to better deal with the subject matter.

You are free to choose the issue you would like to present on, however, be sure to not merely give opinion void of any cyberlaw basis. Some examples of an appropriate topic are: child pornography, file sharing, identity theft, cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking, online sexual predators, online scamming, online sexual solicitation, the use of the internet by terrorist groups, online privacy, etc.

**II. Ethics Paper** – This paper should be a five page, double-spaced essay that addresses an ethical consideration covered in the book. These ethical considerations can be found at the end of each respective chapter. You will need to provide your legally-based opinion that offers a proposed resolution to your chosen ethical dilemma.

**III. Exams 1 and 2** – Each of these exams will consist of 25 multiple choice questions that assess your knowledge of the key terms and concepts from the chapters we have covered in class.

**IV. Final Exam** – The final exam will be a short answer essay test that will provide you with descriptions of two cases. You will be asked to provide a proper legal and ethical analysis of these two cases.

**V. Class Participation** – Productive commentary is required. The grading of productive commentary is tough to do objectively, so let me at least say this: do not let yourself go more than one class discussion without making a comment. This class will primarily revolve around class discussions, so it is important you participate in them.

#### Point Breakdown

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Class Presentation  | 50 Points         |
| Ethics Paper        | 50 points         |
| Exam #1             | 25 points         |
| Exam #2             | 25 points         |
| Final Exam          | 50 points         |
| Class Participation | <u>50 points</u>  |
| Point Total         | <i>250 points</i> |

#### Grade Breakdown

|    |         |    |              |
|----|---------|----|--------------|
| A  | 100-94% | C  | 76-74%       |
| A- | 94-90%  | C- | 73-70%       |
| B+ | 89-87%  | D+ | 69-67%       |
| B  | 86-84%  | D  | 66-64%       |
| B- | 83-80%  | D- | 63-60%       |
| C+ | 79-77%  | F  | 59% or below |

#### Other policies and issues

Although I will try very hard to stick to the attached schedule, changes may be made. Notice of such changes will be made during class (or on the blackboard course website if I have to miss class unexpectedly). Students are responsible for getting this information.

Because this and other pertinent information will make its way onto blackboard, make sure you place blackboard into your daily internet rotation. Just place it in there between checking your email account and stalking your friends on facebook.

At the risk of sounding like your parent, I recommend you make a friend in this class. I say this in case you unfortunately have to miss class. The notes we use in class will not be posted on blackboard and I will not make copies of my notes for any student. So, make a friend and problem solved.

### **Dixie State College's Cheating Policy**

Students are expected to perform their academic work with high standards of personal integrity. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated at Dixie State College, including but not limited to: plagiarism on written assignments, submitting another person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes. This may result in the instructor giving a failing grade on the specific assignment where dishonesty occurred, failing the student in the entire course, immediately dismissing and removing the student from the course, or referring the student to Student Affairs (a committee which may reprimand, place on probation, suspend and/or expel the student).

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a physical or mental impairment and would like to request accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in Room 201 of the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine your eligibility for services based on complete professional documentation. If you are deemed eligible, the Disability Resource Center will further evaluate the effectiveness of your accommodation requests and will authorize reasonable accommodations that are appropriate for your disability.

If you would like to know more information about policies, resources, and services that will help you succeed please visit: <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/faculty/?page=syllabus>.

**Class Schedule for  
Cyberlaw  
CJ 3020, Spring 2011**

Week 1

Tuesday, 1/11 – Syllabus Review and Class Introduction

Thursday, 1/13 – Chapter 1

Week 2

Tuesday, 1/18 – Chapter 2

Thursday, 1/20 – Chapter 2, Class Presentations

Week 3

Tuesday, 1/25 – Chapter 3

Thursday, 1/27 – Chapter 3, Class Presentations

Week 4

Tuesday, 2/1 – Chapter 4

Thursday, 2/3 – Chapter 4, Class Presentations

Week 5

Tuesday, 2/8 – Review Session

Thursday, 2/10 – **Exam #1**

Week 6

Tuesday, 2/15 – Chapter 5

Thursday, 2/17 – Chapter 5, Class Presentations

Week 7

Tuesday, 2/22 – **No Class**, *Research Day for Ethics Paper* (Individual meetings will be scheduled to discuss start of your ethics paper.)

Thursday, 2/24 – Chapter 6

Week 8

Tuesday, 3/1 – Chapter 7

Thursday, 3/3 – Chapter 7, Class Presentations

Week 9

Tuesday, 3/8 – Chapter 8

Thursday, 3/10 – Chapter 8, Class Presentations

Week 10 (Spring Break)

Tuesday, 3/15 – **No Class**

Thursday, 3/17 – **No Class**

Week 11

Tuesday, 3/22 – Review Session

Thursday, 3/24 – **Exam #2**

Week 12

Tuesday, 3/29 – Chapter 9

Thursday, 3/31 – Chapter 9, Class Presentations

Week 13

Tuesday, 4/5 – Chapter 10

Thursday, 4/7 – Chapter 10, Class Presentations

Week 14

Tuesday, 4/12 – Chapter 11

Thursday, 4/14 – Chapter 11, Class Presentations

Week 15

Tuesday, 4/19 – Chapter 12

Thursday, 4/21 – Chapter 12, Class Presentations

Week 16

Tuesday, 4/26 – Chapter 13

Thursday, 4/28 – Review Session, *Ethics Paper Due*

Week 17 (Finals Week)

Tuesday, 5/3 – **Final Exam** from 8:00-10:00 am (*No exams handed out past 8:30 am*)