MIKE CURB COLLEGE OF ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC BUSINESS COURSE SYLLABUS

Course # / Title: MBU4630 - Legal Issues in the Entertainment Industry
Course Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: FALL 2009
Instructor: J. Rush Hicks
Instructor Contacts: Massey Rm. 223; 460-6473 (office); rush.hicks@belmont.edu
Instructor Office Hours: Posted on the Door
Class Location: Massey College of Business, Room 103
Meeting Time(s): Wednesday 6:30PM – 9:15PM
Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9, 2009 @ 7PM

Course Description: Prerequisites: MBU 1110, MBU 3520. This course provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of advanced legal issues in the music and entertainment industries. Some of the topics covered include the role of entertainment attorneys, recording contracts, producer and production company contracts, contracts with minors, movie & television industry structure and contracts, right of publicity, merchandising and endorsement agreements, right of privacy, freedom of speech, defamation, indecency, obscenity, and payola.

Course Outcomes: At the end of this course students shall be able to:

- Identify and analyze legal issues common to the entertainment industry;
- Apply legal concepts and business practices to factual and hypothetical entertainment situations and disputes;
- Identify and explain the main provisions of different types of entertainment industry contracts;
- Compute basic royalty calculations common to the music industry;
- Compare and contrast some of the main legal issues (compensation, credit, etc.) relevant to different areas of the industry (e.g., music, film and television), and;
- Evaluate, critique and defend approaches to regulation and censorship of entertainment content.

Performance Tasks: During this course, the student will:

- Discuss information covered in class and in assigned reading materials;
- Analyze situations and apply knowledge from the class to answer questions on exams and assignments;
- Summarize, analyze and evaluate information covered in class and assigned readings;
- Collaborate with other class members in the negotiation of a hypothetical record contract.

Assessment Tools: During this course, outcomes mastery will be evaluated by:

- Exam questions covering terminology, concepts, and application of concepts (requiring you to apply what you have learned rather than merely repeating it) based on class lecture/discussion and assigned readings.
- A written summary analyzing and evaluating a court decision.
- A collaborative negotiation of the main deal points for a recording contract, including a written and oral (in-class) summary.
- A comprehensive written final exam covering terminology, concepts, and application of concepts based on class lecture/discussion and assigned readings.

Testing & Assignments: There will be 3 exams (not including the final exam) given throughout the semester. In accordance with CEMB policy, make-up exams are not allowed. The final exam is mandatory. The final exam will be comprehensive and will take place on the date specified.

UNIVERSITY POLICY DOES NOT ALLOW THE INSTRUCTOR TO CHANGE FINAL EXAM DATES UNLESS APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE PROVOST. You may bring a calculator (but not a computer) for any exams including royalty calculations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Purpose/Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Exams (3 @ 25% each)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Exams will consist of some or all of the following types of questions: multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer, short essay. Questions will assess the student’s basic comprehension and application of information covered in class and assigned reading material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>A comprehensive exam, which will consist of some or all of the following types of questions: multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer, short essay. Questions will measure knowledge of the topic and ability to analyze and apply knowledge gained from class sessions and assigned readings.</td>
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Course & Classroom Policies:

Attendance & Participation: Class attendance follows university policy as stated in the current Undergraduate Bulletin. Class participation is expected; attendance and absence will be noted. As provided by the Undergraduate Bulletin: “When the number of absences for any reason exceeds four times the number of scheduled class meetings per week, a student will be involuntarily dropped from the course with a grade of WF.” If you are not present at the beginning of class when attendance is taken, you will be counted as absent. You do not need to inform me of the reason for absences and it is solely your responsibility to keep up with your absences. Absences can only be excused in writing by the Provost (professors do not have authority to excuse absences). Please do not ask me how many absences you have during the semester since I do not total absences until after the last class session.

Grade Evaluation: As per CEMB policy, the grade assignment scale for this course is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent (GPA)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 (4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 (3.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 (3.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 (2.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 (2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
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Final grades below 70% will not apply to the major.

Honor Code: It is each student’s responsibility to abide by the University’s Honor Code. “In affirmation of the Belmont University Statement of Values, I pledge that I will not give or receive aid during examinations; I will not give or receive false or impermissible aid in course work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other type of work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of my grade; I will not engage in any form of academic fraud. Furthermore, I will uphold my responsibility to see to it that others abide by the spirit and letter of this Honor Pledge.”

Electronic Device Policy: The use of electronic devices, including computers, cell phones, Ipods, etc is prohibited.

Accommodation of Disabilities: In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Belmont University will provide reasonable accommodation of all medically documented disabilities. If you have a disability and would like the university to provide reasonable accommodations of the disability during this course, please notify the Office of the Dean of Students located in Beaman Student Life Center (ph. 460-6407) as soon as possible.

Class Schedule: The following is a tentative schedule, which may be modified somewhat during the course of the semester.

Week 1    Overview of U.S. Legal System      www.copyrightguru.com/unitedstateslegalsystem.html
          http://library.findlaw.com/1999/Jan/1/241487.html
Week 2    The Film Industry                Ch. 1
Week 3    The Television Industry          Ch. 2
TEST 1
Week 4    The Music Industry               Ch. 3
Weeks 5 & 6 Representing Entertainers      Ch. 6; www.starpolish.com/advice/article.asp?id=17
                                           www.starpolish.com/advice/article.asp?id=19
Week 7    Contract Law Overview            http://library.findlaw.com/1999/Jan/1/241463.html
          Contracts with Minors                  www.berryentertainmentlaw.com/articles/contract_minors.pdf
                                           www.copyrightguru.com/in_minors_act.html
Week 8    Credit & Compensation            Ch. 7
Week 9    Entertainment Contracts          Ch. 8
TEST 2
Week 11   Recording Contracts              www.soundonsound.com/sos/apr07/articles/contracts.htm
                                           http://starpolish.com/advice/article.asp?id=113
Week 12   Recording Contracts              http://starpolish.com/advice/article.asp?id=113
Week 13   How To Read Record Royalty Statements
TEST 3
Week 14   Celebrity Status                 Ch. 9
          Trademarks & Merchandising             Ch. 5 (p. 173-181)
Week 15   Payola and Business Entities      www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/PayolaRules.html
                                           www.slate.com/id/2123483/
12/09/09  Final Exam @ 7 pm