UMKC School of Law  Spring 2014

COURSE NUMBER & COURSE NAME: Law 8707B: Advanced Legal Writing: Business Contract Drafting
PROFESSOR: Danielle A. Merrick

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE(S): Contracts I and II; Business Organizations
DESIRABLE PREREQUISITE(S):

METHOD OF GRADING AND APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE: Graded writing assignments; class participation

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Business Contract Drafting is taught through narration and drafting exercises, both graded and ungraded. The exercises emphasize the nexus between the business deal and the contract. To draft a contract well, a drafter must know the rules of good writing—and more. Among other things, a drafter must:

- Understand the business deal;
- Know how to use the contract concepts to reflect the parties’ deal accurately; and
- Be able to draft and recognize nuances in language that change the deal.

In addition, a good drafter knows how to add value to a deal by recognizing business issues and offering solutions.

COURSE OUTCOMES: This course will teach the student the principles of contemporary commercial drafting and introduce the student to documents typically used in a variety of transactions. The skills the student will gain will be applicable to any transactional practice and will even be useful to litigators. On finishing the course, the student will know

- the business purpose of each of the contract concepts;
- how to translate the business deal into contract concepts;
- how to draft each of a contract’s parts;
- how to draft with clarity and without ambiguity;
- how to add value to a deal;
- how to work through the drafting process; and
- how to review and comment on a contract.


RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES: Just about every lawyer will need to draft a contract sometime in his/her career. It is a skill that is necessary for success.

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR MISSOURI BAR EXAM PREPARATION: The course reinforces good writing skills.