

ERISA Law Course Syllabus
University of Houston Law Center
Summer 2012

June 7

Topics: Introduction/ background / structure of ERISA
Readings: *Pension and Employee Benefit Law* (5th ed.) by Langbein et al. ("Text")
pages 1-17, 95-104
Topic: Pension plan types: defined benefit vs. defined contribution
Readings: Text, pp.44-64

June 14

Topic: Pension plan rules: vesting, accrual, forfeiture, alienation, anti-cutback
Readings: Text, pp. 146-175, 181-193

June 21

Topic: Welfare benefit plans: definitions and variety
Readings: Text, pp. 127-145
Topic: Plan amendments
Readings: Text, pp.194-218

June 28

Topic: Spousal and third party interests
Readings: Text, pp. 281-312, 320-343

July 5

Topic: Fiduciary status and duties
Readings: Text, pp. 541-622

July 12

Topic: Plan administration and benefit denials
Readings: Text, pp. 692-747

July 19

Topic: ERISA enforcement and remedies
Readings: Text, 749-817

July 26

Topic: Preemption
Readings: Text, pp. 818-905
Topic: Review for final exam

August 8

Final Exam

These assignments are subject to change during the semester.

S. W.

Smith

3/18/11