

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
Spring 2024

**COURSE NUMBER:** BLAW 3301.060  
**COURSE TITLE:** BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
**INSTRUCTOR:** TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law  
**CLASS MEETING:** Online; Exams will be available per the syllabus  
**OFFICE & PHONE #:** COB 350.15; 566-7217 (office)  
**E-mail:** [tcowart@uttyler.edu](mailto:tcowart@uttyler.edu)

*Welcome to Business Law & Social Responsibility online! This is a fun course, but it is more difficult online. I want you to be prepared for the workload required to complete it. This course requires a lot of necessary reading and weekly graded assignments plus (proctored) exams. If you were taking this course in person, you'd be in class 2.5 hours per week, plus spend time to prepare and complete assignments. The online version is no different in terms of your involvement! This is a very active online course, so you should plan on spending **6-8 hours per week** on activities related to this course for reading, watching lectures, and completing weekly assignments. If you do not have that amount of time to devote to this course, please consider taking it at another time.*

*As a student in an online course, you are expected to have access to the internet at all times! Make sure you address any issues with computer problems immediately, as they are not an excuse for any delays in meeting deadlines and expectations for the course. This includes access to ProctorU during exams.*

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

1) **The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases, 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. By Cross/Miller. Cengage Learning, 2021. This course will require MindTap from Cengage. You can purchase the access to MindTap and ebook only (ISBN-13: 9780357129791) in the bookstore or for \$114 at the Cengage website: MindTap for Cross/Miller's The Legal Environment of Business: Text and Cases, 1 term Instant Access ISBN: 9780357129791. Visit [cengage.com/start-strong](http://cengage.com/start-strong) for step-by-step registration instructions and information videos. Just select *MindTap/Canvas*.**

**To Register: To access your course materials, sign into Canvas and navigate to this course. Click Modules then Ebook & MindTap-Business Law & Social Responsibility. From there, create your Cengage account or sign in to an existing one and follow the instructions to complete the registration process.**

2) **Other required materials: Webcam and ProctorU proctoring account**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to the legal environment of business, legal reasoning, and historical perspective. The influence on economic activity by regulatory agencies in their pursuit of public policy goals is stressed. This course also includes an introduction to business and professional ethics.

**UT Tyler Honor Code: Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.**

Academic Dishonesty is a serious offense. Plagiarism and cheating of any sort will not be tolerated, and **all incidents will be reported to the Student Affairs Office with a recommendation for a F for the semester**. I take this very seriously.

**Course Information:** [www.uttyler.edu](http://www.uttyler.edu) - ALL GRADES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC. WILL BE POSTED ON CANVAS. Check Canvas for Assignments, Due Dates, class updates and changes in the course schedule. Additional notifications will be sent to your Patriot email address. **You are expected to check Canvas and your Patriot email for notifications about this class.**

**TOPICS COVERED:**

General Legal Principles	12 hrs.
Ethics	2.5 hrs.
Business Organizations	16 hrs.
Administrative Agencies	<u>7 hrs.</u>

**Total** **37.5 hrs**

**Student Evaluation:**

Your course grade will be based on Exams and your Attendance/Participation as follows:

1. Five Exams (80 points each)	400
2. Quizzes (12 @ 10 pts each)	120
3. Legal Project	20
4. Participation/Discussion Bd.	40
Total Points Possible	580

Grades will be determined based on your total number of points earned, as follows:

A = 519-580 points
B = 461-518 points
C = 403-460 points
D = 345-402 points

**1. Exams (400 pts.):** Five semester exams will be given, each worth 80 points. Each exam will contain approximately 30 objective/multiple-choice questions and 2 essay questions. These questions will require you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of substantive law and terminology, as well as the ability to apply the law to or analyze specific fact situations. None of the exams will be comprehensive.

**I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE EXAMS DURING THE SCHEDULED TIME. IF YOU MISS AN EXAM, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP.**

**Exams will be available from Sunday morning until Monday evening on the days designated in the syllabus. You will complete the entire exam on Canvas, and it will be timed. There will also be multiple versions of the exam. Some of the exams are proctored, and you may not use any materials for those exams-just your brain. For other exams, you may use your notes that you have prepared from the chapter readings. Use of any generative AI tools (ChatGPT, Bing AI, or Bard) are not allowed to complete this or any other assignment. Those tools, while useful to gain some basic legal information, do not know the very particular legal elements we will cover in this class and will not generate correct answers! Use of AI will be considered plagiarism. Use of AI, Google or other search engines, or discussing exam questions with other students is cheating and may result in failing the course and/or other scholastic dishonesty disciplinary actions. YOUR EXAM WILL NOT BE GRADED IF I SUSPECT CHEATING, AND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS. If cheating is verified, I will recommend an F for the semester.**

**You will be required to use ProctorU to access and complete two of the exams. Beyond the cost of initial equipment needed (e.g. a camera for your computer), there will not be any additional cost for proctoring. You will need to create a ProctorU account and install the ProctorU extension before attempting any assessment. Webcams are available at Walmart or Amazon for \$10-15. During proctored exams, you are not permitted to leave the computer (bathroom breaks, etc.), you must take the exam in a quiet room, and you must have good lighting and sound. ProctorU staff reviews and flags exam activity for suspicion of cheating, and lighting and sound issues will cause a cheating flag.**

To create a ProctorU account, follow the ProctorU tool within Canvas. Please make sure you are using the current version of Chrome or Firefox and download the ProctorU extension available at <http://bit.ly/proctoruchrome> or <https://www.proctoru.com/firefox>.

In order to use ProctorU, you will need the following:

- High-speed Internet connection
- Webcam (internal or external)
- Windows, Mac, or Chrome Operating System
- Up-to-date Chrome or Firefox browser and ProctorU extension installed
- Valid photo ID
- Quiet environment to take your assessment

You can visit the Test Taker Resource Page for additional information at <https://bit.ly/ProctorMe>

**2. Quizzes (120 pts.):** This course includes weekly quizzes to ensure you fully understood the assigned readings. There will be 12 quiz assignments given during the semester. The assignments will be posted and completed on the Mind Tap platform and should be submitted before the date specified in the assignment posting. The Assignments are open book/open note and will require you to find and use information discussed in the text. Completing these and other worksheets will help you prepare for the exams! Each quiz is worth 10 points. Notice of the Assignments and due date will be posted on Mind Tap and posted on Canvas. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**3. Legal Project (20 pts):** Project options will be provided to allow you to further research and investigate a particular aspect of a legal concept we cover in class. Sign-ups will be provided in Canvas with specific instructions for each project. Students must sign up and complete the project before the due date at the end of the semester. This is a fun, scavenger-hunt type project. You will need to search and complete the requirements for the one you choose.

**4. Participation/Discussion Board (40 pts.):** Because this is an online class, our interactions and community-building practices are even more important than in a face-to-face course. I expect all students to participate actively in class discussion, respond to others' posts, and complete tasks on time. The class will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned to a business law topic. Students will monitor and post to their assigned board topic as well as one other board. To gain full credit, you must make at least **two substantive original posts (10 pts. Ea.)** and at least **three substantive responses (5 pts. Ea.)-one to your topic and two to other topics.** You must also post to our **class introduction board (5 pts.)**. Posts should be respectful, reference course content and resources, and relevant to the topic. Postings which are irrelevant, disrespectful, or which violate any provision of the terms of use of UT Tyler will result in point deductions. Original posts should be 200-300 words in length, contain an outside reference about the topic (citation and link), and apply the posted material to a concept from class. Responses should specifically reference the post material, add substantively to the post, and be 75-100 words in length. *Use of any generative AI tools (ChatGPT, Bing AI, or Bard) are not allowed to complete this or any other assignment. Those tools, while useful to gain some basic legal information, do not know the very particular legal elements we will cover in this class and will not generate correct answers! Use of AI will be considered plagiarism (see above for violation penalties).*

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To apply ethical theories to business situations.
2. To differentiate between legal theories.
3. To outline basic legal procedures.
4. To identify constitutional issues in the law.
5. To apply theories of tort law to fact scenarios.
6. To compare and contrast types of intellectual property protection.
7. To understand principles of criminal law.
8. To compare the legal requirements of various business forms.
9. To apply principles of agency law.
11. To describe requirements of various administrative agency laws, including labor, employment, consumer and antitrust.

**I want you to be successful in this course! I've taught this course online for many years, so here are my best tips. You can successfully navigate this course by doing the following each week:**

**1-Read (at least skim) the chapters at the beginning of the week. This is very important!**

**2-Listen to my lectures and take notes on the power point slides or the outlines I provide in Canvas.**

**(Remember that I write the essays questions...and I base them on the lectures and outlines).**

**3-Complete both the graded and practice worksheets in Mindtap. This will help you know whether you've mastered the material or need to review.**

**4-Study for the exams by learning the outline material.**

**Reading Assignments and Course Schedule:**

Listed below are the reading assignments and course schedule for this semester. Changes will be posted to Canvas as needed.

<b>Week-Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Exam</b>
1	Introduction	Read Syllabus & Watch Intro video	<b>Introduction DB/ FlipGrid; Syllabus quiz</b>	
2	Law & Legal Reasoning	Read Chp. 1	<b>Quiz 1-due Sun.</b>	
3	Constitutional Law	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution	<b>Quiz 2-due Sun.</b>	
4	Court Systems & Procedures	Chp. 4- Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution; Chp. 5- Court Procedures	<b>Quiz 3-due Sun.</b>	<b>Exam 1 (1-2;4-5)</b>
5	Business Ethics & Intellectual Property	Chp. 3- Ethics in Business Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	<b>Quiz 4-due Sun.; DB Post due</b>	
6	Tort law	Chp. 6- Tort Law	<b>Quiz 5-due Sun.</b>	<b>Exam 2 (3, 6, 8)</b>
7	Contract Formation	Chp. 12- Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts	<b>Quiz 6-due Sun.; DB Response due</b>	
8	Contract Breach & Remedies	Chp. 13- Contract Performance, Breach & Remedies	<b>Quiz 7-due Sun.</b>	
9	Spring Break!!			
10	Agency	Chp. 19- Agency Relationships	<b>Quiz 8-due Sun.</b>	<b>Exam 3 (12, 13, 19)</b>
11	Small & Limited Liability Businesses	Chp. 16- Small Businesses & Franchises Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms	<b>Quiz 9-due Sun.; DB Post due</b>	
12	Corporations	Chp. 18- Corporations	<b>Quiz 10-due Sun</b>	<b>Exam 4 (16-18)</b>
13	Employment Law	Chp. 20- Employment Law & Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	<b>Quiz 11-due Sun.; DB Response due</b>	
14	Antitrust Law	Chp. 27- Antitrust Law	<b>Quiz 12-due Sun.</b>	
15	Consumer Law	Chp. 24- Consumer Protection	<b>Legal Project &amp; DB Response due</b>	
16	Study for Final Exam			<b>Final Exam (20-21, 24, 27)</b>