

Business Law & Social Responsibility - BLAW 3301.001  
Mon/Wed 2:30-3:55 – COB 111

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

**COURSE NUMBER:** BLAW 3301.001  
**COURSE TITLE:** BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
**INSTRUCTOR:** TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law  
**CLASS MEETING:** Mon/Wed 2:30-3:55; COB 111  
**OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER:** COB 350.15; 566-7217 (office)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mon/Wed 10:00-2:00; Tue/Thur 10:30-12:00; 1:30-2:30 (or by Appointment)  
**E-mail:** [tcowart@uttyler.edu](mailto:tcowart@uttyler.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

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 9780357129791) for \$114 in the bookstore or 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 Business Law & Social Responsibility Text/MindTap. From there, create your Cengage account or sign in to an existing one and follow the instructions to complete the registration process.

**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 failing grade. 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 (8 @ 10 pts each)	80
3. Participation/Attendance	50
4. Discussion Bd.	35
<u>5. In-Class Activities</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Points Possible	615

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

- A = 551-615 points
- B = 490-550 points
- C = 428-489 points
- D = 366-427 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.**

**2. Quizzes (80 pts.):** There will be 8 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. These will help you prepare for the exam by giving you an idea about the type of questions to expect. 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. Participation/Attendance (50 pts.):** Students will receive participation credit for attendance upon signing the roll at the beginning of class and attending **ALL** of class. Additional participation credit will be assigned by the instructor's subjective assessment of your approach to the class and course work, industry and preparation for class, meaningful oral participation during class, punctual attendance, and quality of written work. Likewise, participation points will be **deducted** for a lack of attention, cell phone and laptop or tablet use during class. Your participation grade at the end of the semester will be comprised of the percentage of classes you attended plus participation credit given or deducted for participation and discussion of cases.

**4. Discussion Board (35 pts.):** The class will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned to a topic. Students will monitor and post to their assigned board topic. Posting is mandatory for your assigned topic. Points will be assigned for your thoughtful, meaningful, and relevant postings to the discussion 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.). At least 1 response must be to another topic. Postings which are irrelevant, disrespectful, or which violate any provision of the terms of use of UT Tyler will result in point deductions. *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).*

**5. In-Class Activities (50 pts.):** We will periodically have graded in-class activities during the semester. These could be a pop quiz at the beginning of class, a small group activity, etc. You must be present, prepared, and participate according to the instructions in order to earn these points.

**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 compare the legal requirements of various business forms.
8. To apply principles of agency law.
9. To describe requirements of various administrative agency laws, including labor, employment, consumer and antitrust.

- This course can be difficult. You can successfully navigate this course by doing the following each week:**
- 1-Read (at least skim) the chapters before class. This is very important!**
  - 2-Attend class and take notes on the power point slides or the outlines I provide in Canvas.**
  - 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>Prepare</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Assn. Due</b>
1-1/17	Read Syllabus		Intro to course & Syllabus	
2-1/22	Read Chp. 1 & Chp. 2	Chp. 1-Law & Legal Reasoning	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution	<b>Quiz 1- Sun. 1/28</b>
3-1/29	Read Chp. 4	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution (finish)	Chp. 4- Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution	<b>Quiz 2- Sun. 2/4</b>
4-2/5	Read Chp. 5; Study for Ex. 1	Chp. 5- Court Procedures	<b>Exam 1</b> (1-2; 4-5)	<b>DB Post 1- Sun. 2/11</b>
5-2/12	Read Chp. 3 & Chp. 8	Chp. 3- Ethics in Business	Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	<b>Quiz 3- Sun. 2/18</b>
6-2/19	Read Chp. 6	Chp. 6- Tort Law	Chp. 6-continued	<b>Quiz 4- Sun. 2/25</b>
7-2/26	Read Chp 12; Study for Ex. 2	<b>Exam 2</b> (3, 6, 8)	Chp. 12- Formation of Traditional & E-Contracts	<b>DB Response 2- Sun. 3/3</b>
8-3/4	Read Chp. 12 & Chp. 13	Finish Chp. 12 & start Chp. 13- Performance, Breach & Remedies	Finish Chp. 13	<b>Quiz 5- Sun. 3/10</b>
9	Spring	Break!		
10-3/18	Read Chp. 19; Study for Ex. 3	Chp. 19- Agency Relationships	<b>Exam 3</b> (12, 13 & 19)	<b>DB Post 3- Sun. 3/24</b>
11-3/25	Read Chp. 16 & Chp. 17	Chp. 16- Small Businesses & Franchises	Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms	<b>Quiz 6- Sun. 3/31</b>
12-4/1	Read Chp. 18	Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms & Chp. 18	Chp. 18- Corporations	<b>DB Response 4- Sun. 4/7</b>
13-4/8	Read Chp. 20; Study for Ex. 4	<b>Exam 4</b> (16, 17, 18)	Chp. 20- Employment Law	<b>Quiz 7- Sun. 4/14</b>
14-4/15	Read Chp. 21	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	<b>DB Response 5- Sun. 4/21</b>
15-4/22	Read Chp. 24 & Chp. 27	Chp. 27- Antitrust Law	Chp. 24- Consumer Protection	<b>Quiz 8- Sun. 4/28</b>
16	Study for Final Exam		<b>Final Exam (Chp. 20, 21, 24, 27) - 2:45-4:45</b>	