THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
FALL 2025

COURSE NUMBER: **BLAW 3301.060**
COURSE TITLE: **BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
INSTRUCTOR: **TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Professor of Business Law**
CLASS MEETING: **Online; Exams will be available per the syllabus**
OFFICE & PHONE #: **COB 350.09; 566-7217 (office)**
OFFICE HOURS: **MW 10:00-12:30; TR 10-1:00 (or by Appointment)**
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*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, almost weekly graded assignments, and (proctored) exams. If you were taking this course in person, you'd be in class 2.5 hours per week, plus spend time preparing and completing 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 proctoring requirements during exams. For exams, you need a web camera, microphone and a quiet, well-lit place.

REQUIRED TEXT:
   1) **The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases, 12th Ed. By Cross/Miller. Cengage Learning, 2025. You can purchase access to the ebook only (ISBN-13: 9780357985823) or purchase or rent the hard cover (ISBN-13: 9780357985700) .**
   2) **Other required materials: Webcam with microphone**

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 an F for the semester**. I take this very seriously.

Course Information: 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	**7 hrs.**
Total	**37.5 hrs**

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Online

Student Evaluation:

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

1. Five Exams (80 points each)	400
2. Assignments (8 @ 25 pts each)	200
3. Syllabus Quiz & Intro DB	40
4. Discussion Bd. (4 @ 15 pts each)	60
Total Points Possible	700

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

             A = 627-700 points
             B = 557-626 points
             C = 487-556 points
             D = 417-486 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. All exams are proctored, and you may not use any materials to answer exam questions-just your brain. During the proctored exams, you are not permitted to leave the computer (bathroom breaks, etc.), you must take the exam in a quiet room, you must have good lighting and sound, present ID, and your face must be in view for the entire exam. Respondus staff reviews and flags exam activity for suspicion of cheating, and lighting and sound issues will cause a cheating flag. 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 CHEATING IS FLAGGED, AND IT MAY AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS. If cheating is verified, I will recommend an F for the semester.

*AI POLICY STATEMENT: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. **This course has specific assignments where artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or Copilot) are permitted and encouraged. When AI use is permissible, it will be clearly stated in the assignment directions, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. Otherwise, the default is that AI is not allowed during any stage of an assignment.***
AI 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!

    2. Assignments (200 pts.): We will have assignments that you will complete in Canvas. They will be designed to help you fully understand the assigned readings. There will be **8 assignments** given during the semester, each worth **25 points**. The assignments will be posted and must be completed before the date specified in the assignment posting. The Assignments are open book/open note and will require you to <u>find and use</u> information discussed in the text. Completing these and other outlines will help you prepare for the exams! Notice of the assignments and due date will be posted on Canvas. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

3. Intro Assignments (40 pts):. You will complete a syllabus quiz in Canvas worth **20 points** before you begin the material for week 2. This ensures that you have reviewed this syllabus and understand the requirements. You should refer to the syllabus to answer the questions! You must also post to our class introduction board (**15 pts.**) and respond to the post of a classmate (**5 pts**) before the due date**.**

4. Participation/Discussion Board (60 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 research and discuss business law topics. Students will monitor and post to their assigned board. To gain full credit, you must make at least **four substantive original posts (10 pts. Ea.)** and at least **four substantive responses (5 pts. Ea.)**. There will be various due dates during the semester. All posts should be respectful, relevant to the topic, and reference course content and resources. Postings which are irrelevant, disrespectful, or which violate any provision of the terms of use of UT Tyler will result in point deductions. Some posts and responses will be written and some will be videos. Written 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. Video posts should be made in Canvas and detailed instructions will be provided.

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 essay questions…and I base them on the lectures and outlines).
3-Complete the assignments and learn from them! 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.

Week-Date	Topic	Read	Due	Exam
1/ Aug. 25	Introduction; Legal Background	Read Syllabus & Watch Intro video; Read Chp. 1-Law & Legal Reasoning	**Introduction DB/ Syllabus quiz-due Sun. 8/31**	
2/ Sep. 1	Constitutional Law	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution	**Assn. 1-due Sun. 9/7**	
3/ Sep. 8	Court Systems & Procedures	Chp. 4- Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution; Chp. 5- Court Procedures	**Discussion Bd. Post & Reply #1- Due Sun. 9/14**	**Exam 1 (1-2;4-5)- due 9/15**

4/ Sep. 15	Business Ethics & Torts	Chp. 3- Ethics in Business Chp. 6- Tort Law	**Assn. 2-due Sun. 9/21**	
5/ Sep. 22	Intellectual Property	Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	**Assn. 3-due Sun. 9/28**	
6/ Sep. 29	Criminal Law	Chp. 10-Criminal Law & Cyber Crime	**Discussion Bd. Post & Reply #2-Due Sun. 10/5**	**Exam 2 (3, 6, 8, 10)- due 10/6**
7/ Oct. 6	Contract Formation	Chp. 12- Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts	**Assn. 4-due Sun. 10/12**	
8/ Oct. 13	Contract Breach & Remedies	Chp. 13- Contract Performance, Breach & Remedies	**Assn. 4-Due 10/19**	
9/ Oct. 20	Small & Limited Liability Businesses	Chp. 16- Small Businesses & Franchises Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms	**Discussion Bd. Post & Reply #3-Due Sun. 10/26**	**Exam 3 (12, 13, 17, 17)- due 10/27**
10/ Oct. 27	Corporations	Chp. 18-Corporate Formation & Financing	**Assn. 6- due 11/2**	
11/ Nov. 3	Agency & Labor Law	Chp. 19- Agency Relationships Chp. 20- Employment Law	**Assn. 7-due 11/9**	
12/ Nov. 10	Employment Law	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	**Discussion Bd. Post & Reply #4-Due Sun. 11/16**	**Exam 4 (18-21)-due 11/17**
13/ Nov. 17	Administrative & Consumer Law	Chp. 23-Administrative Law Chp. 24- Consumer Protection	**Assn. 8--due 11/23**	
14	Thanksgiving Break			
15/ Dec. 1	Antitrust & Securities Law	Chp. 27-Antitrust Law Chp. 28-Investor Protection, Insider Trading & Corp. Governance		
16	Study for Final Exam			**Final Exam (23, 24, 27& 28) Due 12/9**