

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
Spring 2026

**COURSE NUMBER:** BLAW 3301.001  
**COURSE TITLE:** BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
**INSTRUCTOR:** TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Professor of Business Law  
**CLASS MEETING:** Mon/Wed 2:30-3:55; COB 203  
**OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER:** COB 350.09; 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, 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).

**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. Assignments (8 @ 25 pts each)	200
3. Participation/Attendance	50
4. In-Class Activities	<u>50</u>
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.**

**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 find and use 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. 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. 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 assignments using your text. 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	Prepare	Monday	Wednesday	Assn. Due
1-1/12	Read Syllabus	Intro to course & Syllabus	Chp. 1-Law & Legal Reasoning	
2-1/26	Read Chp. 2	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution (finish)	<b>Assn 1-Sun. 1/25</b>
3-1/26	Read Chp. 4 & Chp. 5	Chp. 4- Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution	Chp. 5- Court Procedures	<b>Assn 2-Sun. 2/1</b>
4-2/2	Read Chp. 3; Study for Ex. 1	<b>Exam 1</b> (1-2; 4-5)	Chp. 3- Ethics in Business	

5-2/9	Read Chp. 6 & Chp. 8	Chp. 6- Tort Law	Chp 6 & Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	<b>Assn 3- Sun. 2/15</b>
6-2/16	Read Chp. 6	Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	Chp. 10-Criminal Law & Cyber Crime	<b>Assn 4- Sun. 2/22</b>
7-2/23	Read Chp 12; Study for Ex. 2	<b>Exam 2</b> (3, 6, 8, 10)	Chp. 12- Formation of Traditional & E-Contracts	
8-3/2	Read Chp. 12 & Chp. 13	Finish Chp. 12 & start Chp. 13- Performance, Breach & Remedies	Finish Chp. 13	<b>Assn 5- Sun. 3/8</b>
	Spring	Break!		
9-3/16	Read Chp. 19; Study for Ex. 3	Chp. 19- Agency Relationships	<b>Exam 3</b> (12, 13 & 19)	
10-3/23	Read Chp. 16 & Chp. 17	Chp. 16- Small Businesses & Franchises	Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms	<b>Assn 6- Sun. 3/29</b>
11-3/30	Read Chp. 18	Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms & Chp. 18	Chp. 18- Corporations	
12-4/6	Read Chp. 20; Study for Ex. 4	<b>Exam 4</b> (16, 17, 18, 19)	Chp. 20- Employment Law	<b>Assn 7- Sun. 4/12</b>
13-4/13	Read Chp. 21	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	
14-4/20	Read Chp. 24 & Chp. 27	Chp. 27- Antitrust Law	Chp. 24- Consumer Protection	<b>Assn 8- Sun. 4/26</b>
15	Study for Final Exam		<b>Final Exam (Chp. 20, 21, 24, 27) - 2:45-4:45</b>	