

BLAW 3301-002 (Spring 2026)
Business Law and Social Responsibility

COURSE SYLLABUS (01.07.2026)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Business Law and Social Responsibility
Course Number: BLAW 3301.002 (20613)
Credit Hours: 3
Classroom: Soules COB 111
Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm
Type of Course: This course is delivered as a face-to-face course.

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Kevin T. White, Assistant Professor of Business Law
Phone: (903) 565-6568
Email: kevinwhite@uttyler.edu
Office: COB 350.16
Office Hours: Tue 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Wed 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Thu 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Also available at other times by appointment.
Communication: Email is the best way to contact me, but you can also communicate with me through Canvas.
Or come by my office during office hours.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbook

The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases, 12th Ed.
by Frank B. Cross; Roger LeRoy Miller (Cengage 2025)



eBook: ISBN: 9780357985823
Hardback: ISBN: 9780357985700

Because of the price of the print version, it is recommended that you get the eBook or a Cengage unlimited plan. If you prefer print, look at a rental. We will NOT use any of the MindTap materials available through Cengage so don't pay extra for MindTap. See Cengage at <https://www.cengage.com/c/new-edition/9780357985700/>

Our bookstore on campus will have this book.

Supplemental Materials I may also assign or distribute supplemental materials, which may include cases, statutes, administrative regulations, articles or excerpts from periodicals. **CHECK CANVAS** frequently for additional readings. I may also point you to some outside links for other materials or

information of interest. Don't worry--you don't have to memorize the information in the supplemental materials. But chances are, if you ignore the supplemental materials, you won't get as much out of this course.

CANVAS & PATRIOT MAIL

Announcements, notifications, assignments, due dates, supplemental materials, class updates, changes in the course schedule, grades and more will be posted on or accessible through Canvas. Additional notifications will be sent to your Patriot email address. **You are expected to regularly check Canvas and your Patriot email for notifications about this class.**

COURSE OVERVIEW/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Course Overview. 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.
- B. Topics Covered/Learning Outcomes. By the end of the course, it is expected that you will understand how the law (in the various legal areas we will cover) impacts individuals, organizations, and society. You will be able to use analytical and critical problem solving skills to apply the legal concepts you learn in this course to a myriad of fact situations. Broadly speaking, the areas of the law we will look at include:
- Law and Legal Reasoning
 - Business and the Constitution
 - Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution
 - Court Procedures
 - Administrative Agencies
 - Tort Law
 - Strict Liability and Product Liability
 - Criminal Law and Cybercrime
 - Intellectual Property Rights
 - Agency Relationships
 - Employment Law
 - Employment Discrimination
 - Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts
 - Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies
 - Small Business and Franchises
 - Limited Liability Business Forms
 - Corporation Formation and Financing
 - Investor Protection and Corporate Governance
 - Antitrust Law
 - Ethics in Business

REQUIRED WORK

- A. Examinations. There will be four (4) exams, including the final exam. None of the exams will be cumulative, meaning they will only cover material presented in that module. The exams will be made up of multiple choice and true/false questions. Each of the exams is worth 175 points, and together, the exams are worth 700 points, or 70% of your grade.

The exams must be taken on the date and time specified in the Course Schedule. If, due to illness or other compelling reasons beyond your control, you are unable to take an exam during the specified time, you should contact me (in advance if possible) to make other arrangements for taking the exam. I will only allow a makeup exam if you provide satisfactory documentation of an excused absence (school athletic event, illness, etc.).

THE EXAMS ARE CLOSED BOOK, CLOSED NOTE, CLEAN DESK EXAMS. You cannot access your phones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, or any other electronic device (including any surreptitious device) during the exam. You can't use AI to help you on the exam. In other words, you cannot cheat on the exams.

- B. Projects. There will be eight (8) small projects throughout the semester, two (2) in each of the modules. Generally speaking, each project requires you to prepare some legal-related document you might encounter in business. Detailed instructions will be provided, including formatting and submission requirements.

You may consult publicly available forms, templates, and reference materials, and you may use generative AI tools to assist you in drafting your work. However, you remain fully responsible for the final content you submit. Your work must meet all stated project requirements.

Each project is worth 25 points, for a total of 200 points across all 8 projects. Projects are graded individually, and late submissions are subject to the course late-work policy.

- C. Attendance and Professionalism.

Class attendance is your responsibility. We expect students to attend and actively participate in all activities for a course. Regular attendance and engagement in class activities/assignments contribute to learning the content. Attendance/professionalism is worth 75 points. Attendance will not be taken on exam dates. On all other class dates, attendance will be taken. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SIGN THE ROLL SHEET DURING CLASS PERIOD.

Absences will be excused in my sole discretion only for documented illnesses, participation in school athletic events or approved school activities, or inclement weather.

Three and one-half (3½) points will be awarded for each scheduled class period you attend (or which is excused) for a total possible of 75 points. But if you miss more than eight (8) class periods (unexcused), you will get 0 points for attendance.

Canvas will reflect whether you are present or absent on a particular day but will not necessarily accurately reflect your score for attendance.

- D. Intro Video. Within the first two weeks of the semester, I expect you to upload a short video of yourself. Detailed instructions will be given in Canvas. It is worth 25 points.
- E. Reading Assignments. Naturally, you are expected to read each of the chapters assigned in the Course Schedule. It is okay to read ahead. There is a bunch of reading in this course, some of it more interesting than others. Many of the concepts have to be digested before they are understood. **Don't get behind**—it is too hard to catch up with this much material!
- F. Extra Credit. Extra credit may be given in my sole discretion.

- G. Grade Allocation. Your grade is allocated as follows:

Item	Points	% of Grade
Examinations	700	70.0%
Projects	200	20.0%
Attendance	75	7.5%
Intro Video	25	2.5%
Total	1,000	100.0%

- H. Grade Determination.

<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
900+	90-100%	A

800-899.9	80-89%	B
700-799.9	70-79%	C
600-699.9	60-69%	D
0-599.9	0-59%	F

COURSE POLICIES

- A. Attendance Policy. **Come to class!** You are expected to attend class meetings regularly and on time. To encourage attendance, which will enhance your learning, attendance is a component of your grade.
- B. Preparation. **Be prepared!** Advance preparation for class increases understanding and retention of the course material and greatly enhances the learning experience. You are expected not only to come to class, but to come prepared.
- C. Late Work. **Do your work on time!** Late work is generally not accepted.
- D. Exams. **Take your exams when given!** Exams will be administered IN CLASS and will be closed book, closed note unless otherwise indicated. Makeups will be allowed only for compelling reasons, in the discretion of the instructor.
- E. Distractions. **Pay attention!** No talking during class, except to participate in class discussion. You may not make or receive phone calls during class; please turn your phone OFF or to SILENT. An occasional text is okay, but please refrain from protracted text conversations or excessive texting. If you have a laptop or tablet, use it to take notes only. You may not watch movies, stream audio or video, surf the web, fool around with Facebook or anything like that, either on your phone, tablet or laptop. **You may not keep earbuds, airpods or similar devices in your ears (unless necessary for a hearing impairment) during class time.** Electronic devices may only be used to enhance your classroom experience, not distract you from it. **YOU ABSOLUTELY MAY NOT BECOME A DISTRACTION TO ME OR TO OTHER STUDENTS!!! I MAY DEMAND THAT YOU LEAVE THE CLASSROOM! I MAY ALSO DEDUCT SOME OR ALL OF YOUR ATTENDANCE POINTS FOR THE SEMESTER. IN MORE EGREGIOUS CASES, I MAY REFER YOU FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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.

For this course, although artificial intelligence (AI) tools are cool, I want to see your own work. Unless the instructions for the assignment expressly permit, generative AI (like ChatGPT) or other AI-empowered tools may not be used to assist you in any work assignments for this course.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & INFORMATION

Important UT Tyler policies and information may be found in Canvas. See Syllabus Module.

I would like to emphasize this one:

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct. The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that “Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.” Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

STUDENT RESOURCES

Resources to assist you in this course and other resources available for UT Tyler students may be found in Canvas. See Syllabus Module.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Course Schedule will be distributed separately and may be amended periodically through Canvas notification. Look to Canvas for more detailed information.

AMENDMENTS TO SYLLABUS

I reserve the right to amend and revise this Course Syllabus and/or the Course Schedule--but will give notice of any amendment.

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Week	Date(s)	Chapter and Topic	Assignments
1	Jan 13	Welcome and Introduction Chapter 1 - Law and Legal Reasoning	n/a
	Jan 15	Chapter 1 - Law and Legal Reasoning	n/a
2	Jan 20	Chapter 2 - Business and the Constitution	n/a
	Jan 22	Chapter 2 - Business and the Constitution Chapter 4 - Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution	Assign 1 – Upload Intro Video Due Jan 22
3	Jan 27	Chapter 4 - Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution Chapter 5 – Court Procedures	n/a
	Jan 29	Chapter 5 – Court Procedures	n/a
4	Feb 3	Chapter 23 – Administrative Agencies	Assign 2 – Small Claims Petition Due Feb 5
	Feb 5	Exam No. 1 – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 23	
5	Feb 10	Chapter 6 – Tort Law	n/a
	Feb 12	Chapter 6 – Tort Law Chapter 7 – Strict Liability and Product Liability	Assign 3 – Mark Lanier Int. Due Feb 12
6	Feb 17	Chapter 10 – Criminal Law and Cybercrime	n/a
	Feb 19	Chapter 8 – Intellectual Property Rights	n/a
7	Feb 24	Chapter 8 – Intellectual Property Rights	n/a
	Feb 26	Chapter 3 – Ethics in Business (ONLINE LECTURE-NO CLASS)	Assign 4 – Trademark Application Due Feb 26
8	Mar 3	Exam No. 2 – Chapters 3, 6, 7, 8, 10	
	Mar 5	Chapter 19 – Agency Relationships	n/a

Week	Date(s)	Chapter and Topic	Assignments
9	Mar 10	NO CLASS – Spring Break	n/a
	Mar 12	NO CLASS – Spring Break	n/a
10	Mar 17	Chapter 20 – Employment Law	n/a
	Mar 19	Chapter 20 – Employment Law Chapter 21 – Employment Discrimination	Assign 5 – Non-Compete Due Mar 19
11	Mar 24	Chapter 21 – Employment Discrimination	n/a
	Mar 26	Chapter 12 – Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts	n/a
12	Mar 31	Chapter 13 – Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	Assign 6 – Services Contract Due Apr 2
	Apr 2	Exam No. 3 – Chapters 12, 13, 19, 20, 21	
13	Apr 7	Chapter 16 – Small Business and Franchises	n/a
	Apr 9	Chapter 17 – Limited Liability Business Forms	Assign 7 – Certificate of Formation Due Apr 9
14	Apr 14	Chapter 18 – Corporation Formation and Financing	n/a
	Apr 16	Chapter 28 – Investor Protection, Insider Trading and Corporate Governance	Assign 8 – Letter to Senator Due Apr 16
15	Apr 21	Chapter 27 – Antitrust Law	n/a
	Apr 23	Review	n/a
16	TBD	Exam No. 4 (Final Exam) – Chapters 16, 17, 18, 27, 28	