

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Spring 2023

COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 3301.001
COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
INSTRUCTOR: TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law
CLASS MEETING: Tue/Thur 9:30-10:50; COB 111
OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: COB 350.15; 566-7217 (office)
OFFICE HOURS: Mon/Wed 10:00-2:00; Tue 12:30-2:00; Thur 11:00-1:00 (or by Appointment)
E-mail: tcowart@uttyler.edu

REQUIRED TEXT:

- 1) **The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases, 11th 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 \$111 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 for step-by-step registration instructions and information videos. Just select *MindTap/Canvas*.

OR

- 2) If you have another course which requires a Cengage text, you can choose to purchase MindTap through Cengage Unlimited-a digital subscription service which can save you money. (If you purchase Cengage Unlimited, you can access *any* Cengage materials you're using across all of your courses AND other ebooks, study guides, and reference materials for \$125.) More information is at <https://www.cengage.com/c/the-legal-environment-of-business-text-and-cases-11e-cross/9780357129760PF/>.

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.

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	<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. Legal Project	20
4. Participation/Attendance	25

5. Discussion Bd.	25
6. In-Class Activities	50
Total Points Possible	600

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

A = 537-600 points
B = 477-536 points
C = 417-476 points
D = 357-416 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. 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.

4. Participation/Attendance (25 pts.): Credit for class participation may be gained by discussing cases and concepts from the text and by participating in class discussions. [**Note:** You may also be specifically asked to discuss a concept or case in class with no prior notice. Your preparation (or lack of preparation) to discuss a case or concept will be noted and considered in determining your participation grade.] Also, a student may receive some 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 have attended and participation credit given for participation and discussion of cases.

5. Discussion Board (25 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 one substantive original post (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.

6. 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 and prepared to earn these points.

Writing Resources for Students:

www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

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.

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	Tue	Thur	Assn. Due
1-1/10	Read Syllabus & Chp. 1- Law & Legal Reasoning	Intro to course & Syllabus	Chp. 1- Law & Legal Reasoning	
2-1/17	Read Chp. 2 & 3	Chp. 2- Business & the Constitution	Chp. 4- Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution	Quiz 1- Sun. 1/22
3-1/24	Read Chp. 5; Study for Ex. 1	Chp. 5- Court Procedures	Exam 1 (1-2;4-5)	
4-1/31	Read Chp. 4 & 6	Chp. 3- Ethics in Business	Chp. 6- Tort Law	Quiz 2- Sun. 2/5
5-2/7	Read Chp. 8	Finish Chp 6	Chp. 8- Intellectual Property Rights	Quiz 3- Sun. 2/12
6-2/14	Read Chp 10; Study for Ex. 2	Chp. 10- Criminal Law	Exam 2 (3, 6, 8 & 10)	
7-2/21	Read Chp. 12 & 13	Chp. 12- Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts	Finish Chp. 12 & Chp. 13- Contract Performance, Breach & Remedies	Quiz 4- Sun. 2/26
8-2/28	Read Chp. 19	Chp. 19- Agency Relationships	Chp. 19	Quiz 5- Sun. 3/5
9-3/7	Read Chp. 16; Study for Ex. 3	Chp. 16- Small Businesses & Franchises	Exam 3 (12, 13, 16 & 19)	
10		Spring Break!		
11-3/21	Read Chp. 17 & 18	Chp. 17- Limited Liability Business Forms	Chp. 18- Corporations	Quiz 6- Sun. 3/26
12-3/28	Read Chp. 20	Finish Chp. 18	Chp. 20- Employment Law	Quiz 7- Sun. 4/2
13-4/4	Study for Exam 4 & Read Chp. 21	Exam 4 (17, 18, 20)	Chp. 21- Employment Discrimination	
14-4/11	Read Chp. 24	Finish Chp. 21 & Start Chp. 24	Chp. 24- Consumer Protection	Quiz 8- Sun. 4/16
15-4/18	Read Chp. 27 & 28	Chp. 27- Antitrust Law	Chp. 28	Legal Project & Discuss. Bd.
16	Study for Final Exam		Final Exam 9:30-11:30	