

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
SUMMER 2025**

COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 4340.460
COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
INSTRUCTOR: TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Professor of Business Law
OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: COB 350.09; 566-7217 (office)
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Course Information: www.canvas.uttyler.edu

Literally EVERYTHING in this class will be posted on Canvas. Check the Canvas course site regularly for class updates and changes in the course schedule.

CLASS MEETING: Online

REQUIRED TEXT: Strategy, Law, and Ethics for Business Decisions, 1st Ed. By Ladwig & Siedel, West Academic (2020) ISBN: 9781642426106. AND (available for purchase or rent at UTT Bookstore)
Other required materials: Webcam

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of ethical problems in business and the foundations for decisions involving ethical issues. Topics include ethical concepts, personal integrity, individual conscience and company loyalty and responsibility conflict, as they impact on the decision process in the functional areas of business.

TOPICS COVERED:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Strategy, Law & Ethics Framework | 3.5 hrs. |
| Ethical Decision Making | 3.5 hrs. |
| Contracts | 3.5 hrs. |
| Product Liability | 3.5 hrs. |
| Regulatory Structures | 8 hrs. |
| Intellectual Property | 8 hrs. |
| Employment Issues | 8 hrs. |
| Total | 38 hrs |

Student Evaluation:

Your course grade will be based on Exams and Assignments as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Mid-Term & Final Exams (75 pts ea) | 150 |
| 2. Compliance Project | 200 |
| 3. Text Case Questions (6 @ 20 pts. Ea) | 120 |
| 4. Discussion Boards/Syllabus Quiz | 50 |
| Total Points Possible | 520 |

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

| |
|--------------------|
| A = 465-520 points |
| B = 413-464 points |
| C = 361-412 points |
| D = 309-360 points |

1. Exams: Two exams will be given, each worth 75 points. Each exam will contain multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. These questions will require you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of substantive law and ethics terminology, as well as the ability to apply the law or ethical theories to analyze specific fact situations. Students will be asked to select the best answer among multiple choice answers. None of the exams are comprehensive.

You will be required to use Respondus Monitor to access and complete the exams.

Exams will be available from Sunday afternoon until approximately 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. You may use notes handwritten on a single notebook size page, which must be shown to

the camera prior to taking the exam. 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 I SUSPECT CHEATING, AND IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REFERRED TO STUDENT AFFAIRS. If cheating is verified, I will recommend an F for the semester.

MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL.

2. Compliance Management Project: You will complete a legal and ethical compliance analysis for a new business- a coffee shop. The project will be completed in 6 parts over the course of the semester. For each topic/part, you will discuss the legal risks, ethical risks, and strategic issues in a brief written report. These parts will combine into a final report which you will submit. You will also record brief presentations using Zoom or Studio in Canvas and post it to Canvas for us to watch. You will be graded on both your paper and the presentation. Rubrics and detailed instructions will be provided in advance.

3. Text Case Questions: There will be assigned Cases from the Strategy, Law & Ethics text. From the assigned cases, you will choose 6. Prepare a response addressing the questions in the cases and evaluating proper strategy. You will record your response by video and submit it on Canvas. It will be graded for completeness and depth of your answers. Due dates for cases will be posted in Canvas. You should plan to complete them throughout the semester. There will be no make-ups and no late submissions allowed.

4. Discussion Boards/Syllabus Quiz: We have a syllabus quiz on Week 1. We will also have an Introduction Discussion Board, and you should make one original post (10 pts) and two responsive posts (10 pts). You should also make responsive posts to 6 text case questions (30 pts). Postings on the discussion board which are irrelevant, disrespectful, or which violate any provision of the terms of use of UT Tyler will result in point deductions.

*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.***

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

A. KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE INCLUDE:

1. To apply frameworks to strategic problems.
2. To understand basic contract theory and how it impacts business.
3. To understand product liability law and how it impacts business.
5. To understand employment law and how it impacts business.
6. To understand intellectual property law and its impact on business.
7. To analyze legal regulations and the impact on business.
8. To apply ethical constructs to business problems.

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

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

<http://www.uttvler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf>

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule:

Listed below are the weekly assignments and course schedule for this semester. You are responsible for the reading and other assignments on the week listed.

| WEEK/DATE | WHAT TO READ | ASSIGNMENTS/ WHAT TO DO | EXAMS |
|--------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| WEEK 1 JUNE 23-29 | Text Chp. 1 – Meet the Three Pillar Model; Text Chp. 2 – The Key Chasm: Closing the Gap | Introduction Video/Read Syllabus & Complete Quiz; Post on Discussion Board Case Question 1/ Response | |
| WEEK 2 JUNE 30-JULY 6 | Text Chp. 3 – Ethics: Icing on the Strategy-Law Pillar Cake; Text Chp. 4 – Transform Product Liability into Product Innovation | Compliance Project – Part 1 -Product Liability Issues Case Question 2/Response | |
| WEEK 3 JULY 7-13 | Text Chp. 5 – Use Employment Law to Attract and Retain the Best Business Talent | Compliance Project - Part 2- Employment Issues Case Question 3/Response | MID-TERM EXAM |
| WEEK 4 JULY 14-20 | Text Chp. 6 – Use Government Regulation to Develop New Business Models | Compliance Project – Part 3-Regulatory Issues Case Question 4/Response | |
| WEEK 5 JULY 21-27 | Text Chp. 7 – Use Your Intellectual Property to Create Shareholder Value | Compliance Project – Part 4-IP & Privacy Issues Case Question 5/Response | |
| WEEK 6 JULY 28-AUG 3 | Text Chp. 8 – Develop Contracts that Create Value for Both Sides | Compliance Project – Part 5-Contractual Issues Case Question 6/Response | |
| WEEK 7 AUG 4-9 | Text Chp. 9 – Use Dispute Resolution Processes for Value Creation | FINISH COMPLIANCE PROJECT/PRESENTATION Part 6 | FINAL EXAM |