

Course Syllabus

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

Course Information

Course Title:	Business Law and Social Responsibility
Course Number:	BLAW 3301-002 (81087)
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.
Class Dates:	August 24, 2026 — December 12, 2026

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 – 5:00 pm Wed 10:00 am – 12:00 pm; 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Thurs 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm <i>Also available at other times by appointment.</i>
Communication:	Email is the best way to contact me, but you can also communicate with me through Canvas messaging. 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](#). Our bookstore on campus will have this book.

Course Overview

Business decisions are shaped by legal rules, ethical principles, and public policy. This course introduces students to the American legal system and examines the legal environment in which businesses and individuals operate. Students will develop an understanding of how laws are created, interpreted, and enforced, and how legal principles influence business operations, management decisions, and society.

Topics include the structure of the legal system; constitutional and administrative law; litigation and alternative dispute resolution; torts and criminal law; intellectual property; agency; employment law; contracts; business organizations; corporate governance; antitrust law; and business ethics. Throughout the course, students will analyze realistic business scenarios and learn to identify legal issues, evaluate alternative courses of action, and communicate reasoned legal conclusions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the structure and operation of the American legal system and the role of law in regulating business activity.
- Identify legal issues arising in common business transactions and relationships.
- Apply legal principles to factual situations using analytical reasoning and critical thinking.
- Evaluate alternative legal and business strategies in light of applicable law, ethical considerations, and business objectives.
- Distinguish among the various forms of business organizations and explain their legal characteristics, advantages, and disadvantages.
- Analyze contractual relationships, including contract formation, performance, breach, and available remedies.
- Recognize legal risks associated with torts, crimes, employment practices, intellectual property, and regulatory compliance.
- Demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles and their relationship to legal compliance and responsible business decision-making.

Major Course Topics

The course includes instruction in the following areas:

- Law and Legal Reasoning
- The U.S. Constitution and Business
- The Court System and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Civil Litigation and Court Procedures
- Administrative Agencies and Regulatory Law
- Tort Law
- Strict Liability and Product Liability
- Criminal Law and Cybercrime

- Intellectual Property
- Agency Relationships
- Employment Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Contract Formation (Traditional and Electronic Contracts)
- Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies
- Small Business and Franchising
- Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies
- Corporations: Formation, Financing, and Governance
- Investor Protection and Securities Regulation
- Antitrust Law
- Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility

Required Work

Examinations (700 pts)

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 can't access your phones, smartwatches, laptops, tablets, or any other electronic device (including any surreptitious device) during the exam. **You can't use AI during or to help you on the exam.** In other words, you cannot cheat on the exams. However, you are encouraged to use AI in helping you learn the material, prepare for exams, etc.

Projects

There will be two (2) small projects during the semester. Generally speaking, each project requires you to prepare or review 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 or reviewing your work. However, you remain fully responsible for the final content you submit, and you must disclose your AI usage. Your work must meet all stated project requirements.

Each project is worth **75** points, for a total of **150** points. Projects are graded individually, and late submissions are subject to the course late-work policy. I reserve the right to use teaching assistants and/or AI to assist me in grading the projects.

Attendance and Engagement (100 pts)

Class attendance is your responsibility. I expect students to attend and be engaged during each lecture. Attendance/engagement is worth **100** points or 10% of your grade. 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.**

I RESERVE THE RIGHT IN MY SOLE DISCRETION TO COUNT A STUDENT ABSENT for (a) lack of attention (b) leaving early or arriving late (c) talking or disruptive behavior.

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

Intro Video (50 pts)

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 **50** points or 5% of your grade. Options will be given for those not able or comfortable submitting a video.

Grade Allocation

Your grade will be allocated as follows:

Item	Points	% of Grade
Examinations	700	70%
Projects	150	15%
Attendance	100	10%
Intro Video	50	5%
Total	1,000	100.0%

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

Student Resources

[Resources](#) to assist you in this course can be found in Canvas in the Getting Started Module.

University Policies and Information

[University Policies](#) and Information can be found in Canvas in the Getting Started Module.

I would like to emphasize this policy:

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).

Course Schedule

The Course Schedule which shows due dates of assignments, reading assignments, exam dates, and other schedule information, will be distributed separately and may be amended periodically through Canvas notification. Look to Canvas for more detailed information.

Artificial Intelligence

General Statement on AI

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.

Course Specific Guidance on AI

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. **You can’t use AI during or to help you on the exams.**

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.

BLAW 3301-002 (Fall 2026)

Business Law and Social Responsibility

COURSE SCHEDULE (08.19.2026)

Week	Date(s)	Chapter and Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 25	Welcome and Introduction Chapter 1 - Law and Legal Reasoning	n/a
	Aug 27	Chapter 1 - Law and Legal Reasoning	n/a
2	Sep 1	Chapter 2 - Business and the Constitution	n/a
	Sep 3	Chapter 2 - Business and the Constitution	Intro Video Due – Upload Intro Video Due Sep 7
3	Sep 8	Chapter 4 - Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution	n/a
	Sep 10	Chapter 5 – Court Procedures	n/a
4	Sep 15	Chapter 23 – Administrative Agencies	n/a
	Sep 17	Exam No. 1 – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 23	n/a
5	Sep 22	Chapter 6 – Tort Law	
	Sep 24	Chapter 7 – Strict Liability and Product Liability	n/a
6	Sep 29	Chapter 10 – Criminal Law and Cybercrime	n/a
	Oct 1	Chapter 8 – Intellectual Property Rights	n/a
7	Oct 6	Chapter 8 – Intellectual Property Rights	Project 1 Due Oct 6
	Oct 8	Chapter 3 – Ethics in Business	n/a
8	Oct 13	Exam No. 2 – Chapters 3, 6, 7, 8, 10	
	Oct 15	Chapter 19 – Agency Relationships	n/a

Week	Date(s)	Chapter and Topic	Assignments
9	Oct 20	Chapter 20 – Employment Law	n/a
	Oct 22	Chapter 20 – Employment Law	n/a
10	Oct 27	Chapter 21 – Employment Discrimination	n/a
	Oct 29	Chapter 12 – Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts	n/a
11	Nov 3	Chapter 13 – Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	n/a
	Nov 5	Chapter 13 – Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	
12	Nov 10	Exam No. 3 – Chapters 12, 13, 19, 20, 21	n/a
	Nov 12	Chapter 16 – Small Business and Franchises Chapter 17 – Limited Liability Business Forms	Project 2 Due Nov 12
13	Nov 17	Chapter 18 – Corporation Formation and Financing	n/a
	Nov 19	Chapter 18 – Corporation Formation and Financing	n/a
14	Nov 24	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	n/a
	Nov 26	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	n/a
15	Dec 1	Chapter 28 – Investor Protection, Insider Trading and Corporate Governance	n/a
	Dec 3	Chapter 27 – Antitrust Law	n/a
16	Dec 10 12:30 pm	Exam No. 4 (Final Exam) – Chapters 16, 17, 18, 27, 28	