COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 3301-002

COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

INSTRUCTOR: Kacie Czapla, JD, LL.M. in Tax Law


COURSE DESCRIPTION: An 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. The course also includes an introduction to business and professional ethics.

PREREQUISITE: None

CORE VALUES:

- Professional proficiency;
- Technical competence;
- Global awareness;
- Social responsibility; and
- Ethical courage.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE INCLUDE:
   a. To apply ethical theories to business situations;
   b. To understand basic legal theory;
   c. To apply basic legal procedure;
   d. To understand constitutional issues in the law;
   e. To apply theories of tort law;
   f. To demonstrate knowledge of intellectual property laws;
   g. To understand principles of criminal law;
   h. To compare the legal aspects of various business forms;
   i. To understand corporate shareholder issues;
j. To apply principles of agency law; and  
k. To understand administrative agency law.

2. COMPETENCIES TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN THIS COURSE INCLUDE:

a. Computer-based skills:  
   i. Word processing: Read and outline subject matter prior to attending class and be ready for class and frequent pop tests;  
   ii. Internet search skills: Research court cases;

b. Communication skills:  
   i. Written:  
      1. Report organization: Prepare IRAC on some of the essay questions;  
      2. Referencing: Ability to identify the issue, state the rule apply the facts to the rule of law and make a proper conclusion;  
   ii. Oral: Standing and presenting material to the entire class;

c. Interpersonal skills: Learn some basic areas of law and the underlying policy under those areas of law to enable appropriate course of action prior to creating conflicts with society or the legal system;

d. Problem solving:  
   i. Conceptual thinking: Utilize the constitution, statutes, and cases to analyze societal conflicts and predict the outcomes of such conflicts;  
   ii. Gathering and analyzing data: Reading cases and statutes and be able to identify the relevant facts, issues, law, application and conclusion;  
   iii. Creativity and innovation: Learning building blocks of basic law and deciding how a conflict in society should be resolved based on those building blocks;

e. Ethical issues in decision making and behaviors: Discuss the ethical issues that resulted in the cases discussed in class, and develop ways to prevent ethical conflicts in similar scenarios;

f. Personal accountability for achievement:  
   i. Meeting deadlines: Four tests and four assignments will be given during the semester. Students are expected to attend, study material prior to class and be ready for class tests every day. All projects must be completed on time. No makeup work will be allowed;  
   ii. Quality of work performed: The grades on the four tests and the assignments will determine most of your grade. The ability to read for class, the assignments and thereafter for the four major tests will determine a large portion of your grade. Finally, participating in class and rising to your feet as a professional and addressing the class will determine part of your grade.
g. Competence in basic business principles:
   i. Competence in major field and grouping in other major core areas: There is broad coverage of general business law topics (described in more detail below), as well as some discussion of: marketing issues in consumer law, management and accounting issues; business organizations; finance issues in securities law; and corporate law;
   ii. Awareness of international as well as domestic implications of business decisions: Discuss differences in operating a business in the United States or some other country, like Mexico, when looking at each body of law, as well as analyze the differences in different Federal taxation structures versus state law created entities when reviewing business formation;
   iii. Understanding and appreciation of strategic impact of business decisions: Compare and contrast different types of arrangements, including but not limited to the different type of organizational structures and taxation thereto, employee versus independent contractor relationships, raising capital through lending operations or security filings, and liability for torts for employers versus independent contractors.

3. OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THIS COURSE INCLUDE: Mastery of the above objectives as demonstrated by satisfactory completion of:
   a. questions on each of the four exams;
   b. four assignments;
   c. class participation via discussion of the chapters.

CLASS MEETING: Monday 6-8:45 PM

CLASS ROOM: Braithwaite Building Room 01055

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture and class discussion.

OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: 903-705-1101 (law office); 832-370-9799 (cell)
If you want me, call or email me. If you want to come see me, set up an appointment with me at my law office:

Gardner Firm PLLC
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Tyler, Texas 75703

EMAIL ADDRESS: kczapla@uttyler.edu or kc@glgtx.com
If you want me, email my “non-school” email. I check it all the time. I check the UT Tyler email about two times a week.
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment only

Please see my cell number, law email address and law address if you want to contact me.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE SCHEDULE: The following is subject to change based on the Professor’s guidance.

JANUARY:

Mon. 25: Introduction and Syllabus; Appendix A-1 How to Brief a Case; Chapter 1 Law and Legal Reasoning;

FEBRUARY:

Mon. 1: Chapter 2 The Court System; Chapter 4 Business Ethics;

Mon. 8: Chapter 5 Business and the Constitution; Chapter 6 Administrative Agencies

Mon. 15: Exam Chapter 1,2,4,5,6; Chapter 7 Criminal Law and Cyber Crime;

Mon. 22: Chapter 9 Formation of Tradition and E-contracts; Chapter 10 Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies;

Mon. 29: Chapter 12 Torts; Chapter 13 Strict Liability and Product Liability

MARCH:

Mon. 7: Spring Break—No class

Mon. 14: Exam Chapters 7, 9, 10, 12, 13; Chapter 20 Agency;

Mon. 21: Chapter 17 Small Business Organizations; Chapter 18 Limited Liability Forms;

Mon. 28: Chapter 19 Corporations; Chapter 15 Internet Law, Social Media, and Privacy

APRIL:

Mon. 4: Exam Chapters 15,20,17,18,19; Chapter 21 Employment Relationships
Mon. 11: Chapter 22 Employment Discrimination; Chapter 24 Consumer Protection

Mon. 18: Chapter 26 Real Property and Land Use Control; Chapter 28 Investor Protection and Corporate Governance

Mon. 25: Chapter 27 Antitrust Law Discuss/Review for Final

MAY:

Mon 2: Exam Chapters 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28

STUDENT EVALUATION: Your course grade will be based on four exams, assignments and your attendance/participation as follows:

1. Four Exams (100 points each): 400
2. Four Assignments (40 points each): 160
3. Attendance/Participation: 20
   Total Points Possible: 580

1. **Exams:** Four exams will be given, each worth 100 points. Each exam will contain forty (40) multiple-choice questions and one to two essays. 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. Students will be asked to select the best answer among multiple choice answers.

   Each Student is required to bring a Scantron 882 answer sheet to each exam. The exams will not be comprehensive, but the principals from early in the semester are used to learn principals later in the class. I EXPECT YOU TO BE PRESENT FOR ALL FOUR EXAMS. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY FOR EXTRAORDINARY SITUATIONS.

2. **Assignments:** There will be 1 assignment given prior to each exam during the semester. The assignments will be posted on Mind Tap or Blackboard and should be submitted before the date of the exam immediately proceeding the assignment. The Assignments will all be different and will require you to find and use information discussed in the text. Each assignment is worth 40 points. Please do not wait until the last minute. One assignment will have multiple smaller assignments. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. **Attendance / Participation:** Several classes give “fluff” points for attendance. Just as you will receive 0 points for attending your job, you will receive 0 points for coming to class. However, if you do not attend class often or leave class early/arrive late, your grade will be affected. In addition, credit for class
participation may be gained by discussing cases in class as designated in the syllabus and by participating in class discussions. [Note: You may also be specifically asked to discuss a particular case in class with no prior notice. Your preparation (or lack of preparation) to discuss a case will be noted and considered in determining your participation grade.] 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, cell phone usage during class, and quality of written work.

4. **Other Policies:**

(a) **Students’ Rights and Responsibilities.** To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php.

(b) **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies.** Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit;
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date);
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade);
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment; and
• Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid.

(c) **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy.** Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

(d) **Disability Services.** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@utttyler.edu.

(e) **Student Absence due to Religious Observance.** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

(f) **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities.** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

(g) **Social Security and FERPA Statement.** It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.
(h) **Emergency Exits and Evacuation.** Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

(i) **Course Disclaimer.** This course is not intended to be comprehensive analysis of the laws and issues presented. The information contained in this course may not be applicable to all situations due to the generality of our discussions, the evolution of case law, and the necessity of interpretive guidance. For these reasons, nothing contained in this course should be relied upon without the benefit of legal and financial advice based on the particular circumstances presented. Furthermore, the policy of the State Bar of Texas prohibits the Instructor from providing legal advice to students. Students seeking individual legal advice are encouraged to contact their respective attorneys, or the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Service (800-252-9690).

(j) **College of Business Statement of Ethics.** The ethical problems facing local, national and global business communities are an ever-increasing challenge. It is essential the College of Business and Technology help students prepare for lives of personal integrity, responsible citizenship, and public service. In order to accomplish these goals, both students and faculty of the College of Business & Technology at The University of Texas at Tyler will:

a. Ensure honesty in all behavior, never cheating or knowingly giving false information;
b. Create an atmosphere of mutual respect for all students and faculty regardless of race, creed, gender, age or religion;
c. Develop an environment conducive to learning;
d. Encourage and support student organizations and activities;
e. Protect property and personal information from theft, damage and misuse; and
f. Conduct yourself in a professional manner both on and off campus.

(k) **Academic Dishonesty Statement.** The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment of the award of a degree, and/or the submission, as one’s own work of material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings. University regulations require the instructor to report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. In the event disciplinary measures are imposed on the student, it becomes part of the students’ official school records. Also, please note that the handbook obligates you to report all observed cases of academic dishonesty to the instructor.