**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**

**SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

**SUMMER 2020**

**COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 3301.560**

**COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**INSTRUCTOR: TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law**

**CLASS MEETING: Online; Exams will available on Sundays and Mondays per the syllabus**

**REQUIRED TEXT: The Legal Environment of Business, Text and Cases, 10th Ed. By Cross/Miller. Cengage Learning, 2018. This course will require MindTap from Cengage. You can purchase the access to MindTap and ebook only (ISBN 9781337093842) in the bookstore or at the Cengage website.**

**You can also choose to purchase MindTap through Cengage Unlimited-a digital subscription service designed to save 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.)**

**Cengage Unlimited costs $119.99 for one semester (four months), $179.99 for a multi-term (12 months), or $239.99 for multi-term (24 months) subscription. You also get a print rental when you activate MindTap. You’ll pay $7.99 + free shipping. You also have the option to purchase a looseleaf version of your textbook, which you can keep. You can purchase access to Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore (ISBN 9780357700037) or at** [**www.cengage.com**](http://www.cengage.com)**.**

**Other required materials: Webcam and ProctorU proctoring**

**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.

**OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: COB 312.08 (Dean’s suite); 566-7217 (office)**

**OFFICE HOURS: Email or Call to make an appointment**

**E-mail:** **tcowart@uttyler.edu**

**Course Information:** [**www.uttyler.edu**](http://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 7 hrs.**

 **Total 37.5 hrs**

**Student Evaluation:**

Your course grade will be based on Exams and your Attendance/Participation as follows:

1. Five Exams (100 points each) 500

2. Assignments (10 @ 10 pts each) 100

3. Participation 20

Total Points Possible 620

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

 A = 555-620 points

 B = 493-554 points

 C = 431-492 points

 D = 369-430 points

 **1.** **Exams:** Four semester exams and a final exam will be given, each worth 100 points. Each exam will contain (40-45) multiple-choice questions and 2-3 short answer 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. Students will be asked to select the best answer among multiple choice answers. Neither the semester exams nor the final will be comprehensive. At the end of the semester, your highest exam grade will replace your lowest exam grade. **I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE EXAMS DURING THE SCHEDULED TIME. IF YOU MISS AN EXAM, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE IT UP.**

**Exams will be available from Sunday morning until approximately afternoon Monday 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 will be required to use ProctorU to access and complete the exam. You will need a computer, webcam and microphone (either computer installed or separate) to take the exams. Webcams are available at Walmart or Amazon for $10-15. You are not permitted to use your textbook, notes, or any other resources on the exam.  Your exams will be proctored via a web camera with a microphone by ProctorU.  During your exam you are not permitted to leave the computer (bathroom breaks, etc.), you must take the exam in a quiet room, and you must have good lighting and sound.  Copying any questions/answers on an exam or discussing exam questions with other students is considered cheating and may result in failing the course and/or other scholastic dishonesty disciplinary actions.**

**IMPORTANT: P*olicy on proctored exams for online classes***

**Exams:** The Soules College of Business is pleased to offer courses online in an asynchronous environment in order enhance their accessibility.  In order to preserve academic integrity in these online courses, we observe the following testing policy.

1)      Classes offered online may have up to two tests/examinations offered in a proctored setting.

2)      These proctored exams should have meaningful impact on a student’s grade in class.

3)      Exams administered online should be proctored using a proctoring service approved by the University.

4)      Students must register for the proctoring service using information provided by the instructor (on Canvas).

5)      Exam proctoring will be at no cost to the student provided that the exam is scheduled in a timely manner per the course instructions. Students may be billed for cancelling or rescheduling an exam per the provider’s fee schedule.

**2. Assignments:** There will be 10 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 will all be different and will require you to find and use information discussed in the text. Each assignment 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. Participation:** Credit for class participation may be gained by participating in the class discussion board on YellowDig. The class will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned to a topic. Students will monitor and post to their assigned YellowDig board topic. Posting is mandatory for your assigned topic. Points will be assigned for your thoughtful, meaningful, and relevant postings to the YellowDig discussion board. To gain full credit, you must make at least one substantive original post and at least two substantive responses. Postings which are irrelevant, disrespectful, or which violate any provision of the terms of use of UT Tyler will result in point deductions.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

A. KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE INCLUDE:

1. To apply ethical theories to business situations.

 2. To understand basic legal theory.

 3. To apply basic legal procedure.

 4. To understand constitutional issues in the law.

 5. To apply theories of tort law.

 6. To demonstrate knowledge of intellectual property laws.

 7. To understand principles of criminal law.

 8. To compare the legal aspects of various business forms.

 9. To understand corporate shareholder issues.

 10. To apply principles of agency law.

 11. To understand administrative agency laws.

B. COMPETENCIES TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN THIS COURSE INCLUDE:

 1. COMPUTER-BASED SKILLS:

 a. WORD PROCESSING: Preparation of assignment papers

 b. INTERNET SEARCH SKILLS: Completion of assignments

 2. COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

 a. WRITTEN

 1. REPORT ORGANIZATION: Preparation of assignment in appropriate format and analysis

 2. REFERENCING: Use of proper reference of sources in assignments

 3. PROBLEM SOLVING (CRITICAL THINKING):

a. CONCEPTUAL THINKING: Use precedent and *stare decisis* to analyze legal issues in assignments and discussion board posts.

b. CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION: Use precedent and *stare* *decisis* to analyze legal issues in assignments and discussion board posts. Formulate ways to prevent legal problems.

 4. ETHICAL ISSUES IN DECISION MAKING AND BEHAVIORS: Discuss ethical problems and missteps in cases presented in class and develop ways to prevent ethical conflict in similar scenarios.

5. PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACHIEVEMENT: Students must monitor grade progress and all projects must be completed on time. No make-up work is allowed.

6. COMPETENCE IN BASIC BUSINESS PRINCIPLES:

 a. COMPETENCE IN MAJOR FIELD AND GROUNDING IN OTHER MAJOR CORE AREAS: There is broad coverage of general business topics (described in more detail below), as well as some discussion of marketing issues in consumer law, management and accounting issues in discussion of business organizations, and finance issues in securities law and corporate law.

 b. AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS OF BUSINESS DECISIONS: Discuss and analyze cases involving international jurisdiction issues and antitrust issues with international implications. Relate international perspective to business organizations.

 c. UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF STRATEGIC IMPACT OF BUSINESS DECISIONS: Compare and contrast tax and liability issues in various business organizations; discuss various administrative agencies and their important impact on all business organizations.

C. OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THIS COURSE INCLUDE: Mastery of the above objectives as demonstrated by satisfactory completion of questions on each of five exams; Successful completion of required assignments.

**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.**

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct** [**http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf**](http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/files/syllabuspolicy.pdf)

**Writing Resources for Students:**

[www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/)

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>

**Reading Assignments and Course Schedule**:

 Listed below are the reading assignments and course schedule for this semester. You are responsible for the reading assignments on the dates listed even if the class discussion has not kept pace.

May 11 Introduction & Syllabus;

 Chp. 1 – Law & Legal Reasoning

 18 Chp. 2 – Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution

 Quiz 1

 25 Chp. 3 – Court Procedures

 Chp. 5 – Business Ethics

 Quiz 2

June 31/1 **Exam 1 (Chps. 1-3; 5)**

 1 Chp. 4 - Business & the Constitution

 Chp. 6 – Tort Law

 Quiz 3

 8 Chp. 8 – Intellectual Property Rights

 Chp. 10 – Criminal Law and Cyber Crime

 Quiz 4

 14-15 **Exam 2 (Chps. 4, 6, 8 & 10)**

 15 Chp. 12 – Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts

 Chp. 13 – Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies

 Quiz 5

 22 Chp. 19 – Agency Relationships

 Chp. 16 – Small Businesses & Franchises

 Quiz 6

28-29 **Exam 3 (Chps. 12-13; 16 & 19)**

 29 Chp. 17 – Limited Liability Business Forms

July 6 Chp. 18 – Corporations

 Quiz 7

 13 Chp. 20 – Employment Law

 Chp. 21 – Employment Discrimination

 Quiz 8

 19-20 **Exam 4 (Chps. 17-18; 20-21)**

 20 Chp. 24 – Consumer Protection

 Chp. 25 – Environmental Law

 Quiz 9

 27 Chp. 27 – Antitrust Law

 Chp. 28 – Investor Protection & Corporate Governance

 Quiz 10

August 2-3 **Final Exam – (Chps. 24-25; 27-28)**