**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**

**SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

**SPRING 2020**

**COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 5310.060**

**COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS LEGAL ENVIRONMENT**

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

**REQUIRED TEXT: Miller’s Business Law: Text and Cases - Commercial Law for Accountants, 14th Edition with MindTap® Business Law, 1 term (6 months) Instant Access – By Roger LeRoy Miller – ISBN: 9781337105569.**

This course will require **MindTap** from Cengage. **MindTap** is available for purchase on its own, or through [**Cengage Unlimited**](http://www.cengage.com/unlimited), a subscription that gives you access to all your Cengage access codes and online textbooks for $119.99 per term, $179.99 per year or $239.99 for two years. No matter how many Cengage products you use, they are included in Cengage Unlimited, and the price stays the same.You also get a textbook rental when you activate **MindTap**through Cengage Unlimited for $7.99 + free shipping. You also have the option to purchase a looseleaf version of your textbook, which you can keep. View this [**tutorial video**](https://embed.vidyard.com/share/tCmahZqerofRy6v3HZiSve) to see how to access and obtain your print options. You can purchase access to Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore or at [**cengage.com**](http://www.cengage.com/).

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to the legal environment of business, legal reasoning, and historical perspective. An emphasis is placed on contracts, Uniform Commercial Code, secured transactions, bankruptcy, wills and trusts.

**CLASS MEETING: Online; Exams will be available on Sundays and Mondays per the syllabus during the time designated.**

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

**OFFICE HOURS: Tue/Thu 11:00am-3:00pm; Mon/Wed 11:00am-2:00pm (or** **by Appointment)**

**E-mail:** [**tcowart@uttyler.edu**](mailto:tcowart@uttyler.edu)

**Course Information:** [**www.canvas.uttyler.edu**](http://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; the text web site contains additional resources for each chapter.*

**TOPICS COVERED:**

**General Legal Principles 2 hrs.**

**Business Organizations 3 hrs.**

**Contracts (common law/UCC) 20hrs.**

**Negotiable Paper/Secured Trans. 8 hrs.**

**Property, Wills & Trusts 4.5hrs.**

**Total 37.5 hrs**

**Student Evaluation:**

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

1. Three Exams (100 points each) 300

2. Contract Negotiation Group Project 100

3. Quizzes (15 @ 10 pts. Each) 150

4. Discussion Board 25

5. Legal Research Project 25

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:** Three semester exams will be given, each worth 100 points. Each exam will contain multiple-choice questions and short answer/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. Students will be asked to select the best answer among multiple choice answers. None of the exams are comprehensive.

**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.** You will need to follow the registration instructions for ProctorU posted in the Getting Started section on Canvas to avoid any expenses for late registration.  If you register by the time required, The University of Texas at Tyler is covering the cost of proctoring.  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.

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

**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 live 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. Contract Negotiation Project:** The class will be divided into several groups. All materials needed will be uploaded to Canvas, and discussion groups will be set up on Canvas for the purpose of the exercise. Each team will engage in three parts in this project. A.) First, each team will complete a short negotiation exercise and report on results. B.) Each team will represent either the buyer or seller in a contract negotiation. A sample contract, fact sheet, and contract worksheet will be provided on Canvas. The teams will either draft an initial contract or a response to the initial contract. Both sides must come to an agreement and submit the final agreed upon contract as a final project near the end of the semester. Your final grade will be based on the terms proposed, nature of the negotiations on the discussion board, and the final contract. C.) Finally, each team will answer a series of questions after the completion of the contract exercise.

**3. Quizzes:** We will have 15 short quizzes over the course of the semester. The quizzes will be found in MindTap within the chapters. Due dates will be posted in Canvas and on MindTap but will generally be on Sunday night. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

**4**. **Case Discussion Board:** The class will be divided into groups (same as #2 above) and assigned a case or topic from one of the chapters in the text. A question or issue regarding the case will be posted. Students in the assigned groups will monitor and guide the discussion board postings. Posting is mandatory for your assigned topic but optional for other topics. 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 original posts (10 pts ea) and three substantive responsive posts (5 pts ea). 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.

**5. Legal Research Project:** A list of possible projects will be posted. You will choose one and conduct outside research on a real world business law topic. Each project is different and has its own requirements.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

A. KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES OF THIS COURSE INCLUDE:

1. To apply UCC rules to various contracts.

2. To understand basic contract theory.

3. To apply damage theory to contracts.

4. To compare warranty and product liability in the law.

5. To understand and apply the requisites of Negotiable Instruments.

6. To demonstrate knowledge of secured transactions.

7. To apply laws pertaining to personal and real property.

8. To differentiate between uses of wills and trusts.

**Grade Replacement: If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class.  Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.**

**WITHDRAW DATE:** Date to withdraw without penalty (12th class day)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You’ll be required to make discussion board postings and complete assignments. Those constitute your participation in this class and will impact your grade.

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CORE VALUES**

* PROFESSIONAL PROFICIENCY
* TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCE
* GLOBAL AWARENESS
* SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
* ETHICAL COURAGE

**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>

**Student Writing Resources:**

<http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/>

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

**Student Accessibility and Resources**

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 (SAR) 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@uttyler.edu](mailto:cstaples@uttyler.edu)

**Course Disclaimer:** This course is not intended to be a 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).

**Reading Assignments and Course Schedule**:

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

January 13 Introduction Video/Read Syllabus

Chp. 2 – Small Businesses & Franchises

20 Chp. 3 – All Forms of Partnerships

Chp. 9 – Agency Formation & Duties

Quiz 1 & 2

27 Chp. 4 – LLCs & Special Business Forms

Chp. 5 – Corporate Formation & Financing

Quiz 3 & 4

February 3 Chp. 6 – Corporate Directors, Officers & Shareholders

Quiz 5

9-10 **Exam 1 (Chps. 2-6 & 9)**

10 Chp. 13 – Formation of Sales & Lease Contracts

Chp. 14 – Performance & Breach of Sales & Lease Contracts

Quiz 6 & 7

17 Chp. 15 – Negotiable Instruments

Chp. 16 – Transferability & Holder in Due Course

Quiz 8 & 9

24 Chp. 17 – Liability, Defenses & Discharge

Chp. 19 – Creditors’ Rights & Remedies

Quiz 10

March 1-2 **Exam 2 (Chps. 13-17; 19)**

2 Chp. 20 – Secured Transactions

Quiz 11

9 Spring Break

16 Chp. 30 – Insurance

Chp. 31 – Wills & Trusts

Quiz 12

23 Chp. 21 – Bankruptcy Law

Chp. 22 - Professional Liability & Accountability

Quiz 13

30 Chp. 27 – Personal Property & Bailments

Chp. 28 – Real Property & Landlord-Tenant Law

Quiz 14 & 15

April 5-6 **Exam 3 (Chps. 20-22, 30-31, 27-28)**

6 Preliminary Contract Negotiation Exercise and Legal Research Assignment

**12** **Preliminary Contract Exercise & Legal Research Project Due - midnight**

13 Begin Group Contract Negotiation Project

**22 Contract Negotiation Exercise Due – midnight**

23 Post-Contract Process Assignment (Due **April 29**)