

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
SOULES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
FALL 2019

COURSE NUMBER: BLAW 3301.003
COURSE TITLE: BUSINESS LAW & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
INSTRUCTOR: TAMMY W. COWART, J.D., Associate Professor of Business Law
CLASS MEETING: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20 pm

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 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. You can also purchase the access to MindTap and ebook only (ISBN 9781337093842) in the bookstore or at the Cengage website.

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.

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture, case analysis, and class discussion.

OFFICE & PHONE NUMBER: COB 312.08 (Dean's suite); 566-7217 (office)
OFFICE HOURS: Tue/Thu 11:00pm-2:00pm; Mon/Wed 11:00am-1:00pm (or by Appointment)
E-mail: tcowart@uttyler.edu

Course Information: 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	<u>7 hrs.</u>
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
<u>3. Participation</u>	<u>20</u>
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 1-2 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. Each student is required to bring a Scantron 882 answer sheet to each exam. 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 BE PRESENT FOR EXAMS. IF YOU MISS AN EXAM, YOU MUST CONTACT ME WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EXAM TO DISCUSS AN ALTERNATE MAKE-UP EXAM.**

2. Assignments: There will be approximately 2 assignments given prior to each exam 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, announced on Canvas, and emailed to your Patriot email. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

3. Attendance/Participation: Credit for class participation may be gained by discussing cases and concepts from the text 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.] Also, a student may receive some participation credit for attendance upon signing the roll at the beginning of class and attending ALL of class. 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, and quality of written work. Likewise, participation points will be **deducted** for a lack of attention, cell phone and laptop or tablet use during class. Your participation grade at the end of the semester will be comprised of the percentage of classes you have attended and participation credit given for participation and discussion of cases.

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>

Writing Resources for Students:

www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter/

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

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.*

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.

August	27	Introduction & Syllabus
	29	Chp. 1 – Law & Legal Reasoning
September	3	Chp. 2 – Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution
	5	Career Success Conference (university wide event)
	10	Chp. 3 – Court Procedures
	12	Chp. 5 – Business Ethics
	17	Exam 1 (Chps. 1-3; 5)
	19	Chp. 4 - Business & the Constitution
	24	Chp. 6 – Tort Law

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	26	Chp. 8 – Intellectual Property Rights
October	1	Chp. 10 – Criminal Law and Cyber Crime
	3	Exam 2 (Chps. 4, 6, 8 & 10)
	8 & 10	Chp. 12 – Formation of Traditional and E-Contracts
	15	Chp. 13 – Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies
	17 & 22	Chp. 19 – Agency Relationships
	24	Chp. 16 – Small Businesses & Franchises
	29	Exam 3 (Chps. 12-13; 16 & 19)
	31	Chp. 17 – Limited Liability Business Forms
November	5 & 7	Chp. 18 – Corporations
	12	Chp. 20 – Employment Law
	14	Exam 4 (Chps. 17-18; 20)
	19	Chp. 21 – Employment Discrimination
	21	Chp. 24 – Consumer Protection
December	3	Chp. 27 – Antitrust Law
	5	Chp. 28 – Investor Protection & Corporate Governance
	TBD	Final Exam – (Chps. 21, 24, 27-28)