

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

BLAW 3430-001 Legal and Ethical Environment of Business 3 HRS			
Department of	Finance and Law	School of	Business
Instructor Name:	Sharon Fjordbak, JD		
Office Location:	TBA		
Office Phone:	TBA		
Email Address:	sharon.fjordbak@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:	Tuesdays: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Wednesdays: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (or by appointment)		
Course Format/Structure:	100% Face to Face only		
Classroom Location:	TBA		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Thursdays: 7:00 PM – 9:50 PM		
Course Catalog Description:	A study of the legal environment applied to common business situations, including the nature and sources of law, entity formation and management, the legal system, contract law, business ethics, intellectual property law, strict liability, and interests in real property. Students will also analyze selected topics about government regulation of business, including employment law and securities regulation.		
Prerequisites:	PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050, or equivalent		
Co-requisites:			
Required Text:			
Recommended Text and References:	Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 12 th Edition by Mann and Roberts, Cengage Learning ISBN – 978-1-305-50955-9		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: (Founders Hall) phone: (972) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library e-mail: Library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: (Building 1) phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com		
Course Goals or Overview:	The goals of this course are as follows: To introduce students to the legal and ethical environment in which businesses operate, providing discussions about the challenges organizations face in managing legal risks. The course will introduce the basic principles of law applying to business management and transactions as they relate to the legal system, including protection of intellectual property, ethics, contracts, regulation of business, and social responsibility.		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, students will be able to:		
1	Apply critical thinking skills needed to make informed legal and ethical decisions for real-life business organizations, by learning how to spot legal and ethical issues, engage in a comprehensive risk-benefit analysis, when necessary, and make decisions supported by good-faith business judgments.		
2	Analyze how organizational policies and operations are influenced by political, social, global, environmental and technological issues, including some exposure to the differences between state and federal law, and the impact of demographic diversity. The student will demonstrate his or her awareness of the connections and tensions among these issues.		
3	Discuss how to communicate more effectively with legal professionals about business legal matters.		

Course Outline

This schedule is **subject to change by the instructor**. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added by direction from the instructor in class and documented on Blackboard. The instructor will post comprehensive power point outlines for each topic on Blackboard after each class discussion. These outlines may be used as preparation for the scheduled exams.

Timeline	Topics
Aug. 25	Introduction to Law; Chapter 2: Business Ethics
Sep. 1	Chapters 3 and 4: Civil Dispute Resolution and Constitutional Law
Sep. 8	Chapter 5: Administrative Law; Review for Exam One
Sep. 15	Exam One
Sep. 22	Chapters 6 and 7: Criminal Law and Intentional Torts
Sep. 29	Chapters 8 and 10: Negligence/Strict Liability and Mutual Assent
Oct. 6	Chapter 11: Conduct Invalidating Assent; Review for Exam Two
Oct. 13	Exam Two
Oct. 20	Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 15: Consideration, Illegal Bargains, Contractual Capacity, and Contracts in Writing
Oct. 27	Chapters 16, 17, and 18: Third Parties to Contracts, Performance, Breach & Discharge, and Contract Remedies Paper Due on "Hot Topic" of Business Law
Nov. 3	Chapters 31 and 33: Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships, Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies
Nov. 10	Chapters 34 and 35: Nature and Formation of Corporations and Financial Structure of Corporations
Nov. 17	Chapters 41 and 42: Intellectual Property Law and Employment Law; Chapter 48: Interests in Real Property
Nov. 24	No Class - Thanksgiving
Dec. 1	Review for Final Exam
Dec. 8	Final Exam

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams: - *written tests of multiple-choice, true-false, and essay questions, designed to measure knowledge of presented course material.*

Assignment: - *written assignment on "hot topic" of business law is designed to supplement and reinforce the student's knowledge of employment law principles applied to scenarios covered within or outside the course material.*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (percentages)	Total
Assignment (100 pts.)	25%	25%
Exam One (100 pts.)	25%	25%
Exam Two (100 pts.)	25%	25%
Final Exam (100 pts.)	25%	25%
TOTAL:		100%

Grade Determination

A = 400 – 360 pts; i.e.90% or better

B = 320 – 359 pts; i.e.80 – 89 %

C = 280 – 319 pts; i.e.70 – 79 %

D = 240 – 279 pts, i.e.60 – 69 %

F = 239 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNTD Policy 7.004)

CourseEval Policy: Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy: According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Each exam will contain multiple-choice, true-false and essay questions, and will cover preceding material from both reading assignments and class discussions. Exams will each be worth 100 points. You're encouraged to take class notes, however, open laptop computers or cellphones will not be used during class, without the instructor's permission, to prevent an environment of disruption or distraction. You will not be permitted to take any exams if you arrive in class more than 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time for the exam, or if any student has completed the exam and left the classroom.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014_.pdf Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written

assignments must include the following statement: *"On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy."*

Bad Weather Policy: Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy: The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Please refer to Policy 7.005 Student Attendance at <http://www.untDallas.edu/hr/upol>. Class attendance and participation are expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings are essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It's recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if he or she is absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001)