

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2014
SYLLABUS

BLAW 3430D-091: Legal & Ethical Environment of Business 3 Hrs	
Department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law	Division of Business
Instructor Name:	Sharon Fjordbak
Office Location:	
Office Phone:	
Email Address:	sharon.fjordbak@unt.edu
Office Hours: By appointment	
Virtual Office Hours:	
Classroom Location: DAL 2-308	
Class Meeting Days & Times: Thursday 7:00PM – 9:50PM	
Course Catalog Description: A study of the legal environment applied to common business situations, including the nature and sources of law, entity formation, the Uniform Commercial Code, the legal system, litigation and civil dispute resolution; constitutional and administrative law, tort law and strict liability, contract law; business ethics and social responsibility; intellectual property law; and selected topics of government regulation of business, including antitrust law and employment law.	
Prerequisites:	PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050, or equivalent
Co-requisites:	
Required Text: Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 11 th Edition by Mann and Roberts, Cengage Learning	

Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com
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Course Goals or Overview:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the legal and ethical environment in which businesses operate, providing an understanding of the challenges organizations face in managing legal risks. The course will introduce the basic principles of law applying to business transactions as they relate to the legal process, legal system, business crimes, ethics, contracts, torts, regulation of business and social responsibility.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will

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| 1 | Be introduced to the 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 | Increase his or her understanding of 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 enhance his or her awareness of the connections and tensions among these issues. |
| 3 | Understand 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 by delivery of written changes from the Instructor.

Assignments: Read and be prepared to discuss the following chapters as the student prepares for and completes the exams on the specified dates:

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Introduction to Law; Chapter 2: Business Ethics	January 16
2. Chapters 3 and 4: Civil Dispute Resolution and Constitutional Law	January 23
3. Chapter 5: Administrative Law; Review for Exam 1	January 30
4. Exam 1 ; Chapters 6 and 7: Criminal Law and Intentional Torts	February 6
5. Chapters 8 and 10: Negligence/Strict Liability and Mutual Assent	February 13
6. Chapter 11: Conduct Invalidating Assent; Review for Exam 2	February 20
7. Exam 2 ; Chapters 12, 13, and 14: Consideration, Illegal Bargains and Contractual Capacity	February 27
8. Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18: Contracts In Writing, Third Parties To Contracts, Performance, Breach & Discharge, and Contract Remedies	March 6
9. Chapters 30 and 32: Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships; Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies; Review for Exam 3	March 20
10. Exam 3 ; Chapters 33 and 34: Nature and Formation of Corporations and Financial Structure of Corporations	March 27
11. Chapters 40 and 41: Intellectual Property and Employment Law;	April 3
12. Chapters 42 and 48: Antitrust Law and Interests in Real Property	April 10
13. Chapter 45: Environmental Law	April 17
14. Chapters 19 and 22: Sales/Leases and Product Liability	April 24
15. Review for Exam 4	May 1
16. Exam 4	May 8

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.*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (percentages)	Total
Exam One	25%	25%
Exam Two	25%	25%
Exam Three	25%	25%
Exam Four	25%	25%
Total		100%

****Please Note:** Students will have the option of substituting a three-page, single-spaced, typewritten essay for one exam only (Exam One, Two or Three) on a topic to be announced by the professor. The essay must be turned in on the scheduled exam date for full credit (possible 100 points).

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 Dallas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.*

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the

basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call 972-780-3632.

The Department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the department will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Student Life and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNTD Policy 7.004, [Disability Accommodations for Students](#), and by visiting Student Life, Building 2, Suite 200. 972-780-3632, studentlife@unt.edu.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. 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 the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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 conduct and Academic Dishonesty 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 Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code. In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNT Dallas Academic Integrity Policy.

Classroom Behavior:

As mature adults, we're expected to be respectful of our peers and the Instructor during class. An open and informal class atmosphere will be maintained, and as such, there are specific behaviors that are unacceptable and will not be permitted in the classroom. To avoid being removed from the class, please refrain from the following behavior:

- 1. Responding to pagers or cell phones. All electronic devices are to be turned off during class.*
- 2. Engaging in extended private conversations about subjects other than those being discussed in class.*
- 3. Working on assignments or reading materials for other classes.*
- 4. Entering the classroom late or in a noisy manner to the distraction of the other students.*
- 5. Speaking out in the class in a repetitive manner without being recognized by the Instructor.*
- 6. Leaving the classroom without prior arrangements with the Instructor, except in the case of illness.*
- 7. Using vulgar, offensive language or actions that detract from a learning environment.*
- 8. Engaging in conduct of personal grooming.*

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning

experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in 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 is 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 they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & 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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the Instructor deems appropriate.

Note: *Your Instructor may change any information in this syllabus, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student.*