

University of North Texas at Dallas

Spring 2015

SYLLABUS

BLAW 3430D-092: Legal & Ethical Environment of Business		3 Hrs
Department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Law		Business School
Instructor Name:	Ed Fjordbak	
Office Location:	3 rd flr, bldg. 2, adjunct faculty offices	
Office Phone:	Use (but do not abuse) my cell 214-707-2213 – I will return calls as soon as I can, pending my ordinary business	
Email Address:	Edward.Fjordbak@untdallas.edu	
Office Hours:	By appointment	Wed. 4-6:45 pm or by special arrangement
Virtual Office Hours:	By e-mail or cell - I prefer e-mail to texting	
Classroom Location:	DAL 2 - 241	
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday 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:	none	
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	
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 basic principles of law applying to business entities, 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		
1	be introduced to critical thinking skills needed to make informed legal and ethical decisions for real-life business organizations, learn how to spot legal and ethical issues, engage in comprehensive risk-benefit analysis, when necessary, & make decisions supported by good-faith business judgments.	
2	Increase 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 awareness of connections and tensions among these issues.
3	Understand how to communicate more effectively with legal professionals about business legal and ethics matters.

Course Outline NOTE: Because of the Monday Jan 19 holiday and the last exam date of May 11, and considering the spring break week (Mon. March 16), this course has only 16 total meetings rather than the usual 17 (including the last exam). This requires certain topics to be treated quickly unless the class majority decides to also meet on Monday March 16, which as instructor I am willing to do. I doubt that will be the case.

This schedule is subject to change by the Instructor. Changes to this schedule will be communicated by delivery of written or verbal 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. Exams are not cumulative.

TOPICS	Mondays 7-9:50 pm
1. Introduction to Law; Chapter 2: Business Ethics	January 26
2. Chapters 3 and 4: Civil Dispute Resolution and Constitutional Law	February 2
3. Chapter 5: Administrative Law; Review for Exam 1	February 9
4. Exam 1 ; + lecture on Chapters 6 and 7: Criminal Law and Intentional Torts	February 16
5. Chapters 8 and 10: Negligence/Strict Liability and Mutual Assent	February 23
6. Chapter 11: Conduct Invalidating Assent; Review for Exam 2	March 2
7. Exam 2 ; + Lecture on Chapters 12, 13, and 14: Consideration, Illegal Bargains, Contractual Capacity	March 9
8. Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18: Contracts In Writing, Third Parties To Contracts, Performance, Breach & Discharge, and Contract Remedies	March 23 <small>(Note Mar.16 is during spring break and class is not scheduled to meet that day)</small>
9. Chapters 31 and 33: Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships; Limited Liability Companies; Review for Exam 3	March 30
10. Exam 3 ; + Lecture on Chapters 34 and 35: Nature and Formation of Corporations and Financial Structure of Corporations	April 6
11. Chapters 41 and 42: Intellectual Property and Employment Law	April 6
12. Chapters 43 and 46: Antitrust Law and Environmental Law	April 13
13. Chapters 19 and 22: Sales/Leases and Product Liability	April 20
14. Securities Regulation and Venture Capital	April 27
15. Wrap Up and Review for Exam 4	May 4
16. Exam 4 (7-9 PM, subject to change to 7:30 start to fit UNTD schedule)	May 11

Instructor no-show “things happen” policy: If instructor has not shown up by 15 min. after regular start time and hasn’t notified at least one present class member that he will be late and asked them to communicate that to the class, then presume class is dismissed for the day, but someone first please call my cell before leaving 214-707-2213 Look for the outline to be posted.

General Class Note Procedures:

While I expect each of you to take notes during the class, it is also important to **participate**. I will ask questions and often circulate short articles on law cases for you to scan briefly and report the key elements to the class. **Look for 1: The legal issues, 2. The Law, 3. The Facts, and recite how the law was applied to the issue given the facts. Then comment on why you may think the court's (or agency's) "holding" is appropriate or not.** Generally about 24 hours after the lecture, a relatively thorough **outline will be posted on Blackboard** which will give you **most of the key information**. Doing well on the exams, however, will be almost impossible without being in class since additional information and context is often critical in legal matters. You may even see how a misplaced comma can change the outcome of a case, from which **you will learn the need to be precise, thorough and able to consider issues not apparent to others**. I may ask each of you to bias yourselves purposefully in favor of employees or of employers for purposes of your responses.

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will use primarily 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%

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%

Class participation, which requires consistent attendance, may be considered as a factor at the discretion of the Instructor.

Note: Substitute Paper: If a student would like to substitute a written paper on a legal topic (3 pages of typed, single-spaced text), he or she may do so in lieu of either Exam Two or Exam Three. The topic must be approved ahead of time by Professor Fjordbak, and must be handed in on the date and time of the scheduled exam for which it's substituted.

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 and expect you to complete the form and submit it.

Exam Policy: *Exams, which are not cumulative, **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. Bring two #2 sharpened pencils*

and a Scantron form to each exam. DO NOT bend or fold or run the Scantron form through your laundry before use. 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.

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 to the students and the instructor.

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 and, if not written out, it is still assumed the student has agreed to this policy:

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. If you have a pending emergency, notify the professor that you need to have your device on vibrate then before answering a call, leave the classroom. Reading or typing on your device during class will count off your final grade.
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.

9. If a student misses class for good cause, help them by sharing your notes.

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 Campus 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. Tent cards with student's names will be available at the beginning of each class. Keep them in front of you at all times and on the back, sign and date each class attended, then return the tent card to the instructor at the end of each class. 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.*