

**University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2012
SYLLABUS**

BLAW 3430: Legal & Ethical Environment of Business 3 Hrs	
Department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law	Division of Urban & Professional Studies
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: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 P.M. – 5:50 P.M.	
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, 10 th Edition by Mann and Roberts, South Western Educational Publishing	

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:	
	<p>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.</p>
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
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 class announcements or delivery of written changes from the Instructor.

Assignments: Read and be prepared to discuss the following chapters and complete the exams on the specified dates:

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5: Business Ethics, Civil Dispute Resolution, Constitutional Law and Administrative Law	July 9
2. Review for Exam 1 and Chapters 6, 7, and 8: Criminal Law, Intentional Torts, Negligence and Strict Liability	July 11
3. Exam 1 and Chapters 10 and 11: Mutual Assent, Conduct Invalidating Assent	July 16
4. Review for Exam 2 and Chapters 12, 13, and 14: Consideration, Illegal Bargains and Contractual Capacity	July 18
5. Exam 2 and Chapters 15, 16, 17 and 18: Contracts In Writing, Third Parties To Contracts, Performance, Breach & Discharge, and Contract Remedies	July 23
6. Review for Exam 3 and Chapters 31 and 33: Formation and Internal Relations Of General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies	July 25
7. Exam 3 and Chapters 34 and 35: Nature and Formation of Corporations and Financial Structure Of Corporations	July 30
8. Chapters 41 and 42: Intellectual Property Law and Employment Law	August 1
9. Review for Exam 4 and Chapters 43 and 47: Antitrust Law and International Business Law	August 6
10. Exam 4	August 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%

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 faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations within the first week of class and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

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. All exams will each be worth 100 points. You're encouraged to take class notes, however, open laptop computers will not be used during class (except for exam reviews) to prevent an environment of disruption or distraction. If you arrive late on exam day and another student has completed the exam and left the classroom, you will not be permitted to take the exam. 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.

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.

Seating Chart:

A seating chart will be prepared to assist the Instructor in recognizing you during class discussions. Notice will be given for completing the seating chart. When the seating chart is passed out, please sign your name in the seat where you're sitting that day. The Seating Chart will be used to return graded exams, to take roll and make notes of early departures.

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.*