

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2016**  
**SYLLABUS**

**BLAW 3430-002: Legal & Ethical Environment of Business 3 Hrs**  
**(Thursday Class)**

<b>Department of Finance and Law</b>		<b>School of Business</b>	
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Phillip C. Umphres		
<b>Office Location:</b>	Faculty Center (DAL 2-302)		
<b>Cell Phone:</b>	214-558-1285		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:Phillip.Umphres@untdallas.edu">Phillip.Umphres@untdallas.edu</a>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	DAL 2-307		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Thursday 7:00PM – 9:50PM		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b> 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.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050, or equivalent		
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None		

**Required Text:** *Essentials of Business Law and the Legal Environment*, also titled in some versions as *Business Law and the Regulation of Business*. Under both titles, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition by Mann and Roberts. Either the E-book or print version is perfectly fine.

**Course Goals or Overview:**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the legal and ethical environment in which businesses operate and to provide an understanding of the challenges organizations face in managing legal risks. The course begins with an overview of the concept of “business ethics” and an overview of the legal processes and legal system in which business operates in the United States. The majority of both the reading and the class lecture time will cover some of the major substantive areas of law that impact business, to include contract law, tort and personal injury law, business crimes, real property law and a very brief survey of some of the key areas in which government regulates business practices (to include securities regulation, employment law, antitrust law and environmental law.)

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

1	Understand the concept of “Business Ethics” and how “Ethics” relates to, compliments and differs from “Law.”
2	Understand the interaction of the state court systems, federal court system and administrative agencies in terms of how they impact the operation of business.
3	Have an understanding of the sources of law governing business operations, to include constitutional law, statutory law, regulatory law, common law and contractual agreements.
4	Have a basic understanding of the following areas of substantive law that most commonly effect business decisions and business operations: contract law, tort and personal injury law, criminal law (with particular emphasis on business frauds), agency and administrative law, intellectual property law (e.g., patents, trademarks and copyright), real property law, employment law. The student should understand what the Uniform Commercial Code is, how it is structured, and have a basic familiarity with Article 2 and Article 9 of the UCC.
5	Have developed 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.
6	Develop a knowledge base that will allow the student to communicate more effectively with legal professionals about business legal matters.

## Course Outline

Read and be prepared to discuss on the class date indicated below the indicated chapters in the assigned textbook. Prepare for and complete four non-cumulative exams on the specified dates. This schedule is subject to change by the Instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by the instructor either orally or by email written broadcast email message to the class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
<b>Class 1:</b> Chapters 1, 2 and 4: Introduction to Law and Ethics; Sources of Law effecting Business; Constitutional Law. Be prepared to discuss Pharmakon Drug Company ethics case at end of Chapter 2	January 21
<b>Class 2:</b> Chapters 3, 5 and 6: The Civil Dispute Resolution System; Administrative Law; Criminal Law	January 28
<b>Class 3:</b> Chapters 7 and 8: Intentional Torts; Negligence and Strict Liability; <b>Review for Exam 1</b>	February 4
<b>Class 4: Exam 1</b>	February 11
No Class on Thursday of this week (Catch up week for Tuesday Class; Thursday class has one more day of class scheduled than Tuesday session)	February 18
<b>Class 5:</b> Chapters 9, 10 and 11: Introduction to contract principles; Requirement for “Mutual Assent”; Conduct Invalidating Assent	February 25
<b>Class 6:</b> Chapter 12, 13, 14 & 15: Consideration; Illegal Bargains; Contractual Capacity; Contracts in writing	March 3
<b>Class 7:</b> Chapters 16, 17, and 18: Third Parties to Contracts; Performance, Breach & Discharge; and Contract Remedies; <b>Review for Exam 2</b>	March 10
<b>No Class (spring break)</b>	March 17
<b>Class 8: Exam 2</b>	March 24
<b>Class 9:</b> Chapters 19 and 37: Introduction to the Uniform Commercial Code; Sales and Leases; Secured Transactions	March 31
<b>Class 10:</b> Chapters 30, 31 and 32: Introduction to Business Associations; General Partnerships, Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies	April 7
<b>Class 11:</b> Chapters 33, 34 and 35: Nature and Formation of Corporations; Financial Structure & Management of Corporations; <b>Review for Exam 3</b>	April 14

<b>Class 12: Exam 3</b> <b>Note:</b> An abbreviated class will follow the exam and will cover Chapters 28 and 29: Introduction to Agency Law	April 21
<b>Class 13:</b> Chapters 39, 40 and 41: Survey of selected areas in which Government regulates business; Securities Regulation; Intellectual Property Law; Employment Law; Antitrust Law; Environmental Law	April 28
<b>Class 14:</b> Chapter 48 and 49; Real property and Transfers of Interests in Real Property. <b>Review for Exam 4</b>	May 5
<b>Class 15: Exam 4</b>	<b>Finals Week</b>

### Course Evaluation Methods

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

**Exams** – Four non-cumulative written exams will be given consisting of a combination of multiple-choice, true-false, short answer and essay questions designed to measure knowledge of presented course material. Exam questions will include material from the written assignments in the assigned textbook as well as material and topics addressed in the class lectures that may be in addition to that contained in the textbook.

**Alternate to Exam 3** -- If the student wishes to substitute a written paper for Exam Three the student shall advise the instructor of this election at least two weeks before the scheduled date of Exam Three. The student and instructor will work together to define an appropriate topic for the paper within the subject matter to be covered by Exam Three. After the instructor approves the legal topic for the paper, the student will complete a typed, three-page, single-spaced paper and submit it to the instructor no later than the day of the scheduled exam.

### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (percentages)	Possible Points
Exam One	25%	100
Exam Two	25%	100
Exam Three (or paper)	25%	100
Exam Four	25%	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>400</b>

## **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%

**Extra Credit Assignment** – Students who wish to earn up to 10 extra credit points toward their overall grade total will be given an opportunity to complete a short essay that will be assigned by the instructor after the Exam Three and will be due on the last day of class.

**Curving of grades** – Students who earn grade scores shown in the schedule above will earn a letter grade for the course no less than the letter grade shown in the schedule. However, if the overall performance of the class requires it, the instructor reserves the right at his sole discretion to curve the grades upward. Grades will only be curved up, not down, if they are curved.

## **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@untDallas.edu](mailto:studentlife@untDallas.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, short answer and essay questions and will cover preceding material from both reading assignments and class discussions. Exams will each be worth 100 points. You are 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](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 during class:*

- 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.untDallas.edu](http://www.untDallas.edu). 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.*