

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2012
SYLLABUS

BLAW 3430: Legal and Ethical Environment of Business 3Hrs	
Department of	Urban & Public Leadership
Division of	
Instructor Name:	Tim Haggard
Office Location:	Founders Hall, Room 302A
Email Address:	tim.haggard@unt.edu
Office Hours:	6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays or by appointment
Virtual Office Hours:	None at this time
Classroom Location:	Founders Hall, Room 242
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesdays 7-9:50 p.m.
Course Catalog Description:	A course that covers the historical, economic, political and ethical basis of contracts and sales, including the Uniform Commercial Code, and the impact of regulatory agencies on the business enterprise.
Prerequisites:	PSCI 1040D and PSCI 1050D, or equivalent
Co-requisites:	None
Required Text:	Business Law and the Regulation of Business, Tenth Edition, by Mann and Roberts, South-Western Cengage Learning
Recommended Text and References:	To be assigned throughout semester
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@fhcg.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 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	
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 the instructor during class.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Chapters 1 and 2: Introduction to Law and Business Ethics	September 4
2. Chapters 3 and 4: Civil Dispute Resolution and Constitutional Law	September 11
3. Chapter 5: Administrative Law; Review for Exam One	September 18
4. Exam One ; Chapters 6 and 7: Criminal Law and Intentional Torts	September 25
5. Chapters 8, 9 and 10: Negligence/Strict Liability; Introduction to Contracts and Mutual Assent	October 2
6. Chapter 11: Conduct Invalidating Assent; Review for Exam Two	October 9
7. Exam Two ; Chapters 12, 13, and 14: Consideration, Illegal Bargains and Contractual Capacity	October 16
8. Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18: Contracts In Writing, Third Parties To Contracts, Performance, Breach & Discharge, and Contract Remedies	October 23
9. Chapters 19 and 22: Sales/Leases and Product Liability; Review for Exam Three	October 30
10. Exam Three ; Chapters 31 and 33: Formation and Internal Relations of General Partnerships and Limited Partnerships; Limited Liability Companies	November 6
11. Chapters 34 and 35 and 36: Nature and Formation of Corporations and Financial Structure of Corporations	November 13
12. Chapter 36: Management Structure of Corporations	November 20
13. Chapters 41 and 42: Intellectual Property and Employment Law	November 27
14. Chapters 43 and 46: Antitrust Law and Environmental Law; Review for Final Exam	December 4
FINAL EXAM December 11, 2012 7 to 9 p.m.	December 11

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Exams – There will be a total of four exams during the semester. The exams will be multiple choice, short answer and essay. The written tests will be designed to measure knowledge of presented course material.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exam One	100 points	25%
Exam Two	100 points	25%
Exam Three	100 points	25%
Final Exam	100 points	25%
Total:	400 points	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 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.

Assignment Policy:

Assignments are due on the date mentioned in the above schedule. The assignments are due at 7:00 p.m. on the due date. Late work is not accepted unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

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.

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 is 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.