

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2013**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>BLAW 3430: Legal &amp; Ethical Environment of Business 3 Hrs</b>	
<b>Department of Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Law</b>	<b>Division of Urban &amp; Professional Studies</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Lawrence G. Newman
<b>Office Location:</b>	
<b>Office Phone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:lgn@newman-law.com">lgn@newman-law.com</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment only Thursdays 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.	
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	<i>Upon request</i>
<b>Classroom Location:</b> FH – 101	
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b> Thursdays 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M.	
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b> A study of the legal environment applied to common business situations, including the nature and sources of law, the legal system, litigation and civil dispute resolution, constitutional and administrative law, tort law and product liability, contract law, Uniform Commercial Code, business ethics and social responsibility, structure and formation of corporations, and intellectual property and employment law.	
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	PSCI 1040 and PSCI 1050, or equivalent
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	
<b>Required Text:</b> Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 10 <sup>th</sup> Edition by Mann and Roberts, South Western Educational Publishing	

<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fheg.follett.com">1012mgr@fheg.follett.com</a>
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>	
	<p>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 will introduce the basic principles of law which apply to business transactions as they relate to the legal process, legal system, business crimes, ethics, contracts, torts, regulation of business and social responsibility.</p>
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> 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 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 on the specified dates:**

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Chapter 1: Introduction to Law	Jan. 17
2. Chapter 2: Business Ethics	Jan. 24
3. Chapter 3: Civil Dispute Resolution	Jan. 31
4. Chapters 4 and 5: Constitutional Law, Administrative Law	Feb. 7
5. Chapters 6 and 7: Criminal Law, Intentional Torts	Feb. 14
6. Chapter 8: Negligence and Strict Liability	Feb. 21
7. Chapters 9 and 10: Introduction to Contracts, Mutual Assent	Feb. 28
8. Review of Ch. 1-10; EXAM ONE (Covering Chapters 1-10)	March 7  SPRING BREAK March 11-17
9. Chapters 11, 12, and 13: Conduct Invalidating Assent, Consideration, Illegal Bargains	March 21
10. Chapters 14, 15 and 16: Contractual Capacity, Contracts in Writing, Third Parties to Contracts	March 28
11. Chapters 17 and 18: Performance, Breach and Discharge, Contract Remedies	April 4
12. Chapters 19 and 22: Sales and Leases, Product Liability	April 11
13. Chapter 34: Nature and Formation of Corporations	April 18
14. Chapters 41 and 42: Intellectual Property Law, Employment Law	April 25
15. Review and practice exam; ALL ESSAYS DUE	May 2
16. FINAL EXAM (Covering Chapters 11-19, 22, 34, 41, and 42)	May 9

## Course Evaluation Methods and Grading:

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

**Mid-Term and Final Exams** - *written tests of multiple-choice, true-false, and/or essay questions designed to measure knowledge of presented course material. Each exam will be graded up to 100 (plus any bonus points). Grades on the Mid-term and Final Exams will be 40% of the final grade each.*

**In lieu of quizzes** we will have team discussion/competition/participation on the questions at the ends of the chapters. ***Please read and be prepared to discuss the questions at the end of each chapter.*** *Everyone who is prepared and actively participates will earn a grade of 100, which will be 20% of the final grade. If you do not prepare, attend class, and actively participate, you will not be able to get a 100.*

*Students can earn extra credit and increase the final grade of up to 5 points by completing and turning in an essay before the final exam on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the instructor or chosen by the instructor related to the material covered in the class. No page minimum or limit, but thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and quality of writing will be considered in the amount of extra credit. Must be typewritten or legible printing or writing.*

## Grading Matrix:

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent of Final Grade</b>
Exam One (Mid-Term)	100	40%
Essay extra credit	Up to 5 points of Final Grade	
Final Exam	100	40%
Team Discussion/Competition/Participation	100	20%

## Final Grade Determination:

A = 90-100  
B = 80-90  
C = 70-80  
D = 60-70  
F = below 60

### Grading Example:

Mid-term exam grade	77 times 40% equals 30.8
Final exam grade	91 times 40% equals 36.4
Participation	100 times 20% equals <u>20.0</u>
<b>Grade</b>	<b>87.5</b>
<b>Essay Extra Credit</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>92.5</b>

## 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/or essay questions, and will cover preceding material from both reading assignments and class discussions. All exams, including the Final Exam, will each be worth 100 points. You're encouraged to take class notes. Electronic devices used for other purposes computers will not be permitted during class 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.*

*The Final Exam will include material covered during the second half of the semester and, with no exceptions, must be taken only at the time, date and place published by the University. You will not be permitted to take the exam if you arrive in class more than 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time for the Final 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.*

### **Classroom Behavior:**

*As adults, students are 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](http://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. Information will be presented in class to prepare you for exams. Class participation counts for 20% of your final grade. 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.*

**Seating Chart:**

*A seating chart will be prepared to assist the Instructor in recognizing you during class discussions. Advance notice will be given of seating chart day. 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 to 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.*