



BLAW 3430.001
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Summer 5w1 2023: May 22, 2023 – June 23, 2023

Instructor

Adam T. Whitten

Email: adam.whitten@unt.edu

- Please include the class section “3430.001” in the subject line.
- Canvas messages and email will be the best way to contact me, although never assume that just because you have sent me an email that I have received it. I will endeavor to answer each email as soon as possible. If you have not had a response to your question within 36 hours, it will not hurt my feelings if you send me a brief reminder.
- Feel free to also find me on MS Teams and send a text/chat.

Office: BLB 367B

Office Phone: (940) 565-3054

- If I am unavailable when you call, please leave a voice message with a brief message, including a callback number.

Office Hours: -Tues. 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 -By appointment

Class Meeting Time: Mo–Th 12–1:50 pm

***** Full class schedule and reading assignments on next page*****

Class Meeting Place: BLB 010

Required Textbook. *Business Law*, 11th Edition, by Henry R. Cheeseman, with **MyLab Business Law with Pearson eText**, ISBN: 9780136827993

E-Book and MyLab. A portion of your course grade will be determined by online quizzes from the publisher’s learning portal, MyLab. **MyLab is an essential part of your grade.** MyLab exercises have been incorporated into Canvas and will be required for each chapter, and due dates are set up for these exercises. There are links on Canvas to walk you through the MyLab process.

Required Equipment: A web camera or a laptop with integrated camera is required for all remote exams. It is your responsibility to obtain a properly functioning camera for remote exams. Your test score will be invalid without a functioning camera. All remote exams will be administered through Canvas using Respondus Lockdown Browser with Camera option. Respondus Lockdown browser can be downloaded through your Canvas account.

BLAW 3430.008 Legal and Ethical Environment of Business (Topics and dates are subject to change) Updated May 22, 2023 to reflect class progress through today's date.		
Date	Topic	Reading
Mo. May 22	Introduction to the Course Legal Heritage and the Information Age	Syllabus Chapter 1
Tu. May 23	Ethics and Social Responsibility of Business	Chapter 42
W. May 24	Courts and Jurisdiction	Chapter 2
Th. May 25	Judicial, Alternative, and E-Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
	AACSB Quiz #1	Due Sun. May 28 at 11:59 pm
Mo. May 29	<i>Memorial Day – No Class</i>	
Tu. May 30	Constitutional Law for Business and E-Commerce	Chapter 4
W. May 31	Constitutional Law for Business and E-Commerce (con't)	Chapter 4
Th. June 1	<u>Exam #1</u>	
Mo. June 5	Nature of Traditional and E-Contracts	Chapter 9
	Agreement	Chapter 10
Tu. June 6	Agreement (con't)	Chapter 10
	Genuineness of Assent and Undue Influence	Chapter 13
W. June 7	Genuineness of Assent and Undue Influence (con't)	Chapter 13
	Consideration and Promissory Estoppel	Chapter 11
Th. June 8	Consideration and Promissory Estoppel (con't)	Chapter 11
	Capacity and Legality	Chapter 12
Mo. June 12	<u>Exam #2</u>	
Tu. June 13	Statute of Frauds and Equitable Exceptions	Chapter 14
W. June 14	Statute of Frauds and Equitable Exceptions (con't)	Chapter 14
	Third Party Rights and	Chapter 15

	Discharge	
Th. June 15	Third Party Rights and Discharge (con't)	Chapter 15
	Breach of Contract and Remedies	Chapter 16
Mo. June 19	<i>Juneteenth – No Class</i>	
Tu. June 20	Exam #3	

W. June 21	Equal Opportunity in Employment	Chapter 33
	Intentional Torts and Negligence	Chapter 5
Th. June 22	Intentional Torts and Negligence (con't)	Chapter 5
Fri. June 23	Final Exam*	
	AACSB Quiz #2	Due June 23 at 11:59 pm

***The Final Exam will be Friday, June 23, 2023, from 12:00 pm to 1:50 pm.** The Final Exam time and date is set by the University of North Texas Registrar. I have no authority to modify it.

I understand that this is a lot of material to cover. We may not reach it all. I reserve the right to modify this class schedule as the course progresses to reflect where we are with the material. **The exam dates will not change.**

***The Final Exam date is set by the University of North Texas Registrar. I have no authority to modify it.**

CONSULT OFFICIAL, CURRENT UNIVERSITY CALENDAR FOR ADD/DROP, WITHDRAW AND OTHER KEY DATES, WHICH IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE AS IF COPIED AT LENGTH HEREIN.

Course Description

Historical, economic, political, and ethical bases of contracts and sales, including the Uniform Commercial Code, and the impact of regulatory agencies on business enterprise.

Course Objective

The objectives of BLAW 3430 are:

- (1) Explain the legal environment in which businesses operate
- (2) Compare and contrast the business formation options
- (3) Describe how contracts are formed and enforced
- (4) Identify legal risks encountered by businesses
- (5) Analyze how governmental regulation impacts businesses
- (6) Assess ethical and social responsibility issues facing businesses
- (7) To improve oral and written communication skills.

Course Requirements & Student Expectations

- (1) You are expected to come to class having read the assignments and prepared to discuss the topic(s). I MAY CALL ON STUDENTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS DURING CLASS. I do not expect anyone to perfectly answer every question I may ask but I do expect that you know what topic we are discussing. I also encourage you to ask questions and engage.
- (2) Students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in class. In addition to the readings listed in the syllabus, there may be additional readings assigned that will be posted on Canvas: <https://unt.instructure.com>. If you do not regularly check Canvas, you will miss important information such as handouts and announcements. Many of these additional resources are not required, but simply recommended to help you better understand the concepts and topics discussed in class. If a handout or resource is not marked required, it is only recommended.
- (3) Please be respectful of your peers during class. This includes keeping your microphones muted unless you are asking a question, or your video off if

you are doing something distracting. This disrupts the learning environment.

- (4) DO read the syllabus and the assignment guidelines carefully. I do my best to lay everything out for you all in those documents. If you read and follow them carefully, you will successfully complete all the major requirements for the course.
- (5) DO check your Canvas. I will send class emails to your Canvas account so you either need to access that account regularly or forward your email to another account that you use. You will miss extremely important information if you do not check the notices I send.
- (6) At the end of the semester, do NOT ask me to change your grade. That would be unethical and unfair to every student that has earned his/her given grade.
- (7) Office hours are NOT the time to make up missed notes. Come to class or email a classmate if you miss lectures. Do not expect that you can fill-in-the-blanks during my office time.
- (8) I am here for you. Please consult with me with any questions or concerns. I want each of you to enjoy this class and learn the material. Success in this course your choice! If you choose to be successful, I will be happy to help you. If you do not choose to be successful, I will honor your choice. Every student has the potential to succeed in this class.
- (9) If you ever have any questions about anything in the assignment guidelines or other course documents, ASK! I want to help you do well in this class and providing clarification to you all is one way for me to do that.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam #3	20%
Final Exam	20%
MyLab Exercises	20%
Total	100%

The following grading scale will be used:

90–100%.....	A
80–89%.....	B
70–79%.....	C
60–69%.....	D
Below 60%.....	F

Exams

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. **They will not be cumulative.** Each exam will be 50 questions. I will curve up the raw exam scores (i.e., not including any extra credit) to a class mean of 75. Additionally, there will be 5 extra credit questions on each exam.

Make-up exams will be permitted only under extraordinary circumstances when prior permission has been obtained. Documentation is required. All make-up exams will be entirely essay questions.

Use of Exam Aids: I allow each student to use One 4 x 6 index card on the exams. The card **MUST** be **handwritten** by the student taking the exam. The card *may* be written front and back. The card **MUST** have the **student's name and ID** on it.

Remote Exam Procedures: All exams will make use of the Respondus Remote Lock Down Browser with Camera option to mitigate student academic misconduct. Students will have 100 minutes to complete the exam. Students may take the exam in the classroom or at home.

The exam dates will not change.

***The Final Exam will be Friday, June 23, 2023, from 12:00 pm to 1:50 pm. The Final Exam date is set by the University of North Texas Registrar. I have no authority to modify it.**

MyLab Exercises.

These are found in the online course book. **There are two graded exercises per chapter for each chapter covered, a “Chapter X Warm Up” assignment and a “Chapter X Quiz” assignment.** These exercises will be due at the end of the semester. You may do them as we progress through the class (recommended) or complete them at the end of the semester. **All assignments are due at 11:59 pm on June 23, 2023.** After that time, you will be locked out and will not be able to complete the assignment. Extensions to the set due dates will only be given in extreme circumstances with prior written approval of the instructor. **Once the deadline passes, you will not be able to access those assignments or points again, so plan your life accordingly.**

I will not grant extensions or modifications to this deadline.

During the semester there *might* be opportunities for extra credit. I will announce them far enough in advance so that you may plan accordingly. In fact, to show that you’re paying attention and reading the syllabus, any student who emails me between May 22, 2023, at 8 AM to May 25, 2023, at 11:59 PM with the subject heading “BLAW 3430.001 Mammal” naming your favorite mammal and explaining why with 1-2 sentences will receive one (1) extra credit point on Exam 1.

AACSB Quizzes—Required Extra Credit.

The class will take two comprehensive quizzes to evaluate overall student performance. These separate quizzes are promulgated by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The UNT G. Brint Ryan College of Business will collect these quiz scores for data purposes only. These quizzes will not negatively impact a student's overall grade. However, they will be used for extra credit purposes. If you complete the first quiz—regardless of score, just take it and try your best—you will receive One (1) extra credit point added to your final Exam #1 grade. When you complete the second AACSB quiz, that score will count towards up to Five (5) extra credit points on the final exam (i.e., if you score 100% on the second quiz, then you will receive an extra 5 points on Exam #4; if you score 50% on the second quiz, then you will receive an extra 2.5 points on Exam #4). The AACSB quizzes are available at the following times:

1. AACSB Quiz #1: Available from May 22 at 8 am to May 28 at 11:59 pm.
2. AACSB Quiz #2: Available from June 22 at 2 pm to June 23 at 11:59 pm.

Attendance and Engagement: Every class meeting is essential to your success. I will hold class live at the normal class time. But because of ongoing pandemic concerns, ***attendance is not required.*** That said, attendance will help you understand the material. I encourage you to be present and learn.

Although not required, I do note your attendance and participation. Your attendance and participation may enable you to receive a higher grade at the end of the semester. In my sole discretion, when your numerical score is on the borderline of two letter grades, I may raise your letter grade to the next highest grade. The borderline is defined as one (1) point.

If the classroom technology permits, I will record all classes. The recordings will be available to any student that provides a documented reason for an absence, provided through the Dean of Students office, the Office of Disability Accommodation, or other recognized UNT department.¹ I will also post recorded lectures at least three days before the next scheduled exam.

Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. I encourage you to attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF) (https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039_StudAttnandAuthAbsence.Pub2_.19.pdf). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

I have great respect for students who are balancing the demands of their coursework with the responsibilities of caring for family members. If you run into challenges that require you to miss a class, please contact me or my TA. There may be some flexibility we can offer to support your academic success.

Being punctual indicates our respect for others. Please arrive before class begins to find a seat, prepare your materials, and connect with your peers. The beginning of class is especially critical—just like the beginning of a movie or book. Being late to class is sometimes inevitable. If you are late, know that you are welcome to join the class, but please do so without distracting others.

¹ Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 is a serious illness affecting everyone we know. Please care for yourselves and others by getting vaccinated & boosted, wearing masks (even if you are vaccinated), and maintaining physical distancing as best as possible. UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines.

You **MUST** contact COVID@unt.edu if you have either been exposed to someone you know is COVID-19 positive or if you are developing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

You can make appointments to get vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 on the UNT campus at the Student Health and Wellness Center. You may find the information at <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/>

For the latest COVID-19 guidance for UNT, please visit <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/covid-guidelines>

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940)-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me so we can coordinate together how to best keep you on track in class.

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a webcam, microphone, and Respondus Lockdown Browser with Camera option to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

The G. Brint Ryan College of Business takes academic honesty seriously. So do I. Ethics and integrity are important business values, essential to building trust, and adhering to both professional and legal standards. Academic dishonesty destroys trust, damages the reputation and the value of the degree, and is unacceptable.

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions from admonition (a warning) to expulsion from the University.

Some of the most common examples of academic integrity violations include plagiarism or cheating, such as unauthorized assistance on examinations, homework, research papers, or case analyses. Your work must be entirely your own. When working on assignments, you should not discuss your work with others unless approved by the course instructor. Group assignments should only be discussed with members assigned to your group, and all group members may be held accountable in some way for known academic integrity violations in a group assignment.

Another example of academic dishonesty relates to improper attribution. When preparing your assignments, you must cite all outside sources in the manner requested by your instructor. Copying or using material from any source prepared by or previously submitted by others, at UNT or other institutions, or downloaded from the Internet, is plagiarism. Unless directed otherwise in an assignment, large scale “cutting and pasting” from other sources, even if properly footnoted, is not appropriate. You should synthesize this material in your own words and provide a footnote.

Your instructor will specify what materials, if any, may be used on the tests and exams.

Using materials other than those permitted, talking with other individuals during the exam, individuals exchanging information about an exam when one has taken the exam and the other has not, or copying or using material from another individual’s exam is academic dishonesty and will result in a meeting to discuss academic integrity violations and potentially issue sanctions mentioned above, and may result in ineligibility for academic scholarships. The use of online assistance, such as sites commonly used for finding homework solutions, group chat, cell phones, smart watches, and similar tools during exams is not allowed

for any reason unless specifically permitted. No portion of an exam may be copied or photographed without permission.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's status as an institution of higher education. A student is responsible for responding to a request to discuss suspected academic dishonesty when issued by an instructor or other University official. If a student fails to respond after a proper attempt at notification has been made, the University may take appropriate academic actions in the absence of the student's participation.

According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Academic sanctions will range from a warning to a failing grade in the course.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ADA STATEMENT

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to

faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES FOR BUSINESS LEADERSHIP BUILDING:

- **Severe Weather** In the event of severe weather, all building occupants should immediately seek shelter in the designated shelter-in-place area in the building. If unable to safely move to the designated shelter-in-place area, seek shelter in a windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest floor of the building. All building occupants should take shelter in rooms 055, 070, 090, and the restrooms on the basement level or in rooms 170, 155, and restrooms 122, 182 or 183 on the first floor.
- **Bomb Threat/Fire** In the event of a bomb threat or fire in the building, all building occupants should immediately evacuate the building using the nearest exit. Once outside, proceed to the designated assembly area. If unable to safely move to the designated assembly area, contact one or more members of your department or unit to let them know you are safe and inform them of your whereabouts. Persons with mobility impairments who are unable to safely exit the building should move to a designated area of refuge and await assistance from emergency responders. All building occupants should immediately evacuate the building and proceed to the south side of Crumley Hall in the grassy area, west of parking lot 24.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at

least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about students' records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.