



**Law for Accountants and Managers**  
**BLAW 5400**  
**Summer 5w1 2025 (May 18, 2026, to June 19, 2026)**

## Instructor Information

Adam T. Whitten, J.D.

- Email address: [adam.whitten@unt.edu](mailto:adam.whitten@unt.edu)
- Physical Office Location: Business Leadership Building 367B
- Office Telephone: 940-565-3054
- Zoom Meeting Room: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/4017819025>
  - Meeting ID: 401 781 9025

### **Zoom student hours:**

- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment**
- <https://unt.zoom.us/j/4017819025>

## What You'll Be Learning

Study of and practice in the technique of analyzing law problems and cases affecting accountants and managers. Topics include agency, contracts, debtor-creditor relationships, accountant's liability and professional conduct regulations, government regulation of business, and business structures.

## How We'll Learn Together

This course is designed to be online asynchronous to be completed during the Summer 5w1 semester. You may principally self-pace this course, although there will be regular, optional check-ins for you to raise any questions, comments, or concerns you may have. Despite the self-paced format of the course, you must complete all modules by the end of the semester.

\*F1 Visa Holders, please be aware of the regulations and policies regarding online courses. Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for F-1 Visa (PDF) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.

## How to Demonstrate Your Learning

The course objectives of BLAW 5400 are:

1. Explain the legal environment in which accountants and managers 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.

## What Book You Need

You will purchase the required textbook through Canvas as you progress through an introductory module. You do not need to purchase the required textbook from the publisher directly or any bookstore. While you certainly may do so, I recommend purchasing through Canvas.

- 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.
- Technology requirements:
  - This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and Pearson MyLab (which you will access through Canvas). If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere \(https://online.unt.edu/learn\)](https://online.unt.edu/learn).
  - Make sure that you have a consistent, functioning internet connection. "Internet problems" is not an excuse for missed work.
- Special note on copyright:
  - Some Videos/PDFs shared in this course may contain portions of federal, state, and local laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances. Of these, many are snipped from court websites, in the public domain; some are pulled from [Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute's website](#). The text of the law that Cornell shares is in the public domain, but some of the style or formatting may be covered by Cornell Law School's licensing under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.5](#). An example is seen in Module 7, Ch 14, slide 20.

## How to Succeed in this Course

The most important action you can take to succeed is to do at least a little bit every day. Law is, usually, not something students can pack into an all-nighter or “cram” session. The modules are designed with this in mind: the more passes over the material, the more likely it is you will retain the knowledge.

The other most important action you can take is to stay connected with me and your classmates. I maintain regular student hours (which you may have also called office hours) for you to come in without an appointment to discuss any class-related issues you may have. And I’m glad to make appointments that fit our respective schedules if these times do not work.

### **Zoom student hours:**

- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; and by appointment**
- <https://unt.zoom.us/j/4017819025>

What are some reasons to stop by during student hours? You can ask for clarification on content or an assignment, help me get to know you better as a learner/person, discuss career paths you may be considering or any number of reasons. Your success is my goal! Note that student hours are not the time to take missed notes. I expect you to bring substantive questions after you have attempted the material.

I welcome both Canvas messages and emails. I prefer Canvas messages over email simply because it helps keep me a little more organized. If you do email me (which is encouraged!), you must use your UNT email when reaching out to me; I will not respond to non-UNT email addresses. You must include the course “BLAW 5400” in the subject line or I may not respond to your email.

Although I try to check my messages at least twice a day, I do not always check messages at frequent intervals during the day, or I may not have time to provide a full response. Nevertheless, I make every effort to respond to an email within 24 hours during weekdays.

If you send me an email after 5:00 p.m., I will not respond until the next business day. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated!

Some other things to keep in mind:

1. **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.

2. This class is run through Canvas. You MUST check your Canvas regularly. 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 valuable information if you do not check the notices I send.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 essential 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.

## Our Learning Community

It is my goal to create an inclusive learning environment. Every student should feel supported in sharing their unique perspective and be treated with respect. You are an integral part of our learning community, and your viewpoint and perspective are valuable to your fellow learners. Through our group discussions, you'll have opportunities for collaboration, so your participation is essential to not only your learning but your fellow team members. For you and your teammates to get the most out of the course, please do your part by participating fully, sharing your insights, and doing so by the deadlines provided. When connecting with me and your fellow students, please keep an open mind and communicate in a respectful manner. We don't all have to agree, but we can learn from one another's unique perspectives. I encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline of understanding.

## AI Use Policy

Students may use Artificial Intelligence tools (for example, Chat-GPT, Microsoft Copilot, Claude AI, or Google NotebookLM) as aids when studying for this course (I particularly like Google NotebookLM) I find these tools useful in my personal and professional roles, so students are likewise able to make use of these tools. Students should never use AI tools as substitutes for a student's critical engagement with the material. The best use of AI tools in this class will be as supplements to classroom learning.

It is critically important to remember that AI tools are not trained attorneys and do not understand the nuances of the legal concepts we will encounter in this course. There are numerous examples of attorneys using AI tools uncritically, which have resulted in embarrassing at best and sanctionable at worst consequences. (See e.g., [Lawyers in Walmart lawsuit admit AI 'hallucinated' case citations \(Reuters\)](#), [Another lawyer faces ChatGPT trouble \(Legal Cheek\)](#), and [ChatGPT: US lawyer admits using AI for case research \(BBC\)](#)).

AI tools cannot be trusted to provide correct answers to direct questions about the work we will be encountering. Students should be mindful of the limitations of these tools in the context of our classroom. Moreover, because these AI tools continue to “learn” based on their inputs, questions posed must be the students' own questions and thoughts, built off the material we cover. Therefore, to encourage student learning and success, I think it is important to set a clear guideline for the misuse and use of these tools.

As to the misuse of AI tools, there are some situations where student use of AI tools is not only counterproductive but actively harmful, to both student learning and to me and the textbook publisher. Therefore:

***Students are strictly prohibited from directly inputting into any AI tool any questions from any assignments in this course (the online homework, chapter assessments, or the exams) or exact language from any class slides, the textbook, or other copyrighted material. Additionally, students are strictly prohibited from any use of AI tools where directly prohibited in assignment instructions.***

Any student found to have directly input into an AI tool assessment questions or language from class slides or the textbook, either as copy–paste or even edited, or to have used AI tools where otherwise prohibited, shall be deemed to have violated UNT policy on student academic integrity ([UNT Policy 06.003](#)) as a form of “unauthorized assistance” that constitutes “cheating.” Instances of direct input of assessment questions or exact language

from any class slides or the textbook into an AI tools, or any otherwise prohibited use of AI, shall be referred to the [Office of Student Success's Academic Integrity department](#).

I have this policy for two reasons. First, the student does not own the copyrights to any material either from the textbook publisher, which owns the copyright for the textbook assignments and material, or myself, who owns the copyright to course assignments and materials I prepared. I consider direct input of assignment questions or material from class slides or the textbook to be a violation of copyright. Students are allowed to input any materials noted in the class as public domain or otherwise not copyright restricted. Second, regarding any assessment, AI simply cannot be trusted to provide a correct answer. As mentioned above, AI is not actually intelligent, especially in the context of this course. Direct input of assessment questions will be actively harmful for student learning.

As to the appropriate use of AI tools, I want students to engage with the material and not simply learn to prompt AI tools for an answer without critical thinking. Therefore, students may use AI tools to generate study guides, discussion questions, summarize concepts, or even produce hypothetical situations meant to highlight the concepts we cover. AI tools can be incredibly useful as extensions of the learning environment in this class and can benefit students through expansion and application meant to enhance your understanding.

Because we have set clear guidelines, I trust students to police themselves on their use. I therefore do not require students to disclose to me when they use AI tools. But again, any student found to have violated this policy will be reported for academic integrity violations.

## Class Schedule

This class is online, asynchronous. For the most part, it is self-paced through guided modules. Modules will consist of stated learning objectives, at least one recorded video lecture, then required MyLab assignments, followed by a chapter test at the end of the module. You must complete each module in sequence before proceeding to the next module.

I have placed due dates on all assignments, but those due dates are suggested in order to provide a level of structure. There are no penalties for submitting “late” assignments. The sole exception is that all assignments must be submitted by the last day of class.

Because this is an online, asynchronous course, your attendance and engagement are what you make of it. There will be discussion posts available, and I am always a Canvas message or an email away.

I have profound respect for students who are balancing the demands of their coursework with the responsibilities of outside responsibilities such as work and caring for family members. If you run into challenges, please contact me. There may be some flexibility we can offer to support your academic success.

I am freely available for Zoom conferences, both individually and if you’d like to have a group meeting.

Module 1	Chapter 1: Introduction to law
Module 2	Chapter 9: Contract basics
Module 3	Chapter 10: Mutual assent
Module 4	Chapter 13: Conduct invalidating assent
Module 5	Chapter 11: Consideration
Module 6	Chapter 12: Legality and Capacity
<b>Exam #1</b>	<b>Chapters 9-13</b>
Module 7	Chapter 14: Statute of Frauds and Equitable Exceptions
Module 8	Chapter 15: Third Party Rights and Discharge
Module 9	Chapter 16: Breach of Contract and Remedies
Module 10	Chapter 21: Warranties
<b>Exam #2</b>	<b>Chapters 14-16, 21</b>
Module 11	Chapter 27: Secured Transactions

Module 12	Chapter 28: Bankruptcy
<b>Exam #3</b>	<b>Chapters 27 &amp; 28</b>
Module 13	Chapter 31: Employment regulations
Module 14	Chapter 33: Employment discrimination
Module 15	Chapter 52: Wills, trusts, and estates
Module 16	Chapter 51: Accountants' duties and liabilities
<b>Exam #4</b>	<b>Chapters 31, 33, 52, 51</b>

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.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the [Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy \(https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049\)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

### How You Will Be Graded and Assessed

Grades will be determined according to the following:

Exams.....	45%
MyLab Assignments .....	25%
Chapter Assessments .....	25%
Discussion Posts .....	5%
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 cover multiple chapters after proceeding through several modules. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. **They will not be cumulative; the exams will only cover material from the preceding modules.** Each exam will be 50 questions.

All exams are required. I will not drop any exam scores.

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.

## MyLab Exercises.

MyLab assignments are built into the course modules. There are two graded exercises per chapter for each chapter covered, a “Chapter X Warm Up” assignment and a “Chapter X Quiz” assignment. You will have two attempts for each, after which I will take the highest score.

There are other assignments included in the modules throughout the course. They are optional and will not count towards the final grade.

I will drop the lowest six scores at the end of the course.

## Chapter Assessments

Each module will, more or less, cover a chapter in the text. There will be one assessment per chapter at the end of each module (note: these assessments are different than the exams, which cover multiple chapters). The assessments will be 20 questions, multiple choice and true–false. You will have 20 minutes to complete the assessments. You will have two attempts, after which I will take the highest score.

I will drop the lowest three scores at the end of the course.

## Discussion Posts

We will have regular check ins, question and answer time, and I'll occasionally post about interesting legal topics or cases in the news. I will provide new posts regularly.

## Use Your Resources!

We all need additional support from time to time. Don't suffer in silence or feel you have to go at this alone. University life is filled with challenges! UNT has so many great resources to support you.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to [unt.edu/success](http://unt.edu/success) and explore [unt.edu/wellness](http://unt.edu/wellness). To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to [scrappysays.unt.edu](http://scrappysays.unt.edu).

### Office of Disability Access

The Office of Disability Access (ODA) can work with you on academic accommodations if needed. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### Additional Resources

I encourage you to take advantage of the many resources UNT has to offer students, including (but not limited to):

- [UNT's Counseling and Testing Services](#) can provide psychological counseling and academic testing.
- [UNTWell](#) provides FREE individual and group counseling as well as a vocational assessment.
- [UNT Food Pantry](#) is a great resource if you or someone you know experiences food insecurity.
- [Academic Success Center](#) can support you in your academics.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

Please note the Student Honor Code: “I commit myself to honor, integrity, and responsibility as a student representing the University of North Texas community. I understand and pledge to uphold academic integrity as set forth by UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy, 06.003 (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). I affirm that the work I submit will always be my own, and the support I provide and receive will always be honorable.”

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](http://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](http://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/](http://eagleconnect.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](mailto: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](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto: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](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). You are not alone. We are here to help.