

BLAW 3430.002 3430.003 3430.503
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Spring 2021

Instructor

Professor Houser

Please contact me through the Canvas Inbox tab (in the left column).

Office: BLB 317F

Office Phone: (940) 565-3050

Teaching Assistants

Alivia Martin - Aliviamartin@my.unt.edu

Kimberly Pinto - kimberlypinto@my.unt.edu

Classes:

(Please note that there will be a Monday class via Conferences on January 11th)

BLAW3430.002 (14384) MW 2:00-3:20 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences held W 2:00 PM)

BLAW3430.503 (18978) MW 2:00-3:20 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences held W 2:00 PM)

BLAW3430.003 (15763) MW 5:00-6:20 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences held W 5:00 PM)

Beginning January 25th (see course schedule for dates)

BLAW3430.002 (14384) MW 2:00-3:20 PM (Group Meeting via Zoom held M 2:00 PM)

BLAW3430.503 (18978) MW 2:00-3:20 PM (Group Meeting via Zoom held M 2:00 PM)

BLAW3430.003 (15763) MW 5:00-6:20 PM (Group Meeting via Zoom held M 5:00 PM)

Office Hours: Canvas - Conference after class and by appointment.

Class has been converted to online format with weekly virtual sessions for the spring semester.

Required equipment:

You will need to have a computer camera for taking exams (Respondus Lockdown).

Additionally, you will need reliable internet services, speakers and a microphone (although the chat feature will be enabled in all classes). In order to use Canvas, please make sure you have the following installed on your computer - <https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>

Please note that neither the TAs nor I have any control over problems with technology with UNT, Canvas, Respondus Lockdown or your personal device. Please work with the Student help desk and document anything they tell you.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site \(http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm\)](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328\)](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Required Textbook:

Text: Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce, Henry Cheeseman with additional materials by Kimberly A. Houser, J.D.
You can purchase the printed textbook or the ebook.

Direct purchase: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/legal-environment-of-business-online-commerce-henry-r-cheeseman-v9780137351305>

ISBN	Publisher	Title	Edition	Notes
9780137351275	Pearson	Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce - Custom	8th	e-book access code – UNT bookstore
9780137351305	Pearson	Legal Environment of Business and Online Commerce - Custom	8th	ISBN – B&N and Voertman's

PREREQUISITE(S): PSCI 2306 and PSCI 2305, or equivalent.

Communication

Please check announcements every day as that is the primary way I will communicate with you. If you have a questions about the course, homework or due dates, please post your question in the Student Forum so that everyone in the class may benefit. Questions of this nature will not be answered via email. If you have a personal question, please send it through the course email by clicking Inbox in the left column and then the write message icon at the top of the page. This will keep all of our correspondence in the course shell. Questions may also be directed to the TAs. Questions in the Student Forum will be added within one business day. Emailed questions will be addressed within 3 business days. If you are able to help a student who has posted a question in the Student Forum, please do. All communications must comply with the course Netiquette policy posed in the Course Shell. Additional online communication tips can be found at - <https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>.

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

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

Virtual Activities	100	10 @ 10 points each	10%
Discussion Forums	150	2 @ 75 points each	15%
Exams	300	2 @ 150 points each	30%
Semester Group Project	450	1 @ 450 points	45%
Total:	1,000		100%

The following grading scale will be used:

90–100%	900-1,000	A
80–89%	800-899	B
70–79%	700-799	C
60–69%	600-699	D
Below 60%	599 or below	F

Class schedule and syllabus subject to change. Please always refer to the version posted in the course shell. 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.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Deliverable	Deliverable Due Date	Virtual Class session - Conferences	Group session - Zoom
1	Jan. 11 – Jan 17	Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility	Chapter 1			Monday during class time 1/11 Wednesday during class time 1/13	
2	Jan 18 – Jan 24	Trial and Appeal	Chapter 2	Discussion Forum 2 – CSR (75)	Initial post 1/20 (W) 2 comments 1/23 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 1/20**	
3	Jan 25 – Jan 31	Civil Procedure	Chapter 3	Part 1 – Semester Project and 2 peer reviews (10)	1/30 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 1/27	Monday during class time 1/25
4	Feb. 1 – Feb 7	Statutory Law and Case Law	Chapter 4			Wednesday during class time 2/3	Monday during class time 2/1
5	Feb 8 – Feb 14	Intellectual Property	Chapter 6			Wednesday during class time 2/10	Monday during class time 2/8

6	Feb 15 – Feb 21	Administrative Law	Chapter 5	Part 2 – Semester Project and 2 peer reviews (10)	2/20 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 2/17	Monday during class time 2/15
7	Feb 22 – Feb 28	Chapters 1-6		Exam 1 available Monday at 8:00 AM (2/22) through Wednesday (2/24) at 4:55 PM (150)	2/24 (W 4:55 pm)	No virtual class this week	
8	Mar 1 – Mar 7	Business Organizations - Corporations and Corporate Governance	Chapter 8-9			Wednesday during class time 3/3	Monday during class time 3/1
9	Mar 8 – Mar 14	Contracts	Chapter 7	Part 3 – Semester Project and 2 peer reviews (10)	3/13 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 3/10	Monday during class time 3/8
10	Mar 15 – Mar 21	Torts and Strict Liability	Chapter 12			Wednesday during class time 3/17	Monday during class time 3/15
11	Mar 22 – Mar 28	Torts and Strict Liability	Chapter 12	Part 4 – Semester Project and 2 peer reviews (10)	3/27 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 3/24	Monday during class time 3/22
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	Constitutional Law	Chapter 10	Semester Project Due (410)	4/3* (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 3/31	Monday during class time 3/29
13	Apr 5 – Apr 11	Real and Personal Property Law	Chapter 13	Discussion Forum 13 (75)	4/65 PM (Tu) last day to turn in Semester Project Initial post 4/7 (W) 2 comments 4/11 (Sa 11:55 pm)	Wednesday during class time 4/7**	
14	Apr 12 – Apr 18	Chapters 7-10, 12, 13	Chapter 13	Exam 2 available Monday (4/19) at 8:00 AM through Wednesday (4/21) at 4:55 PM (150)	Exam 2 must be completed by W 4:55 PM	No virtual class this week	
15	Apr 19 – Apr 21	Course Summary			SPOT evals due 4/29	Wednesday during class time 4/21	

Due Dates

2 - Discussion forum post due Wednesday evening with 2 comments by Saturday evening (75 points each) 150

10 – Virtual Activities (10 points each) (choose 10 out of 14 virtual sessions) 100 **required class AACSB learning assessment

2 – Exams using Respondus Lockdown due by Wednesday in the week assigned (150 points each) 300

1 Semester Group Project – each of the 4 parts is due on the Saturday in the week indicated 450 (Project is graded at the end of the semester – each part submitted **on time** with 2 peer reviews earns 10 points towards project grade) *Semester Project will be accepted through 4/6 Tuesday at 5 PM. For Parts 1-4, only on-time submissions with a title page indicating the names of the group members who worked on the project and 2 peer reviews will receive the 10 points.

Please note that late work cannot be accepted. All of the assignments are made available as of the first day of class. Please work ahead to prevent any issues should you have an unexpected emergency. For group projects, it is your responsibility to maintain contact with your group. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and/or true/false. They will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be permitted only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. flood, tornado, or pestilence) when **prior** permission has been obtained. Make-up exams may be essay questions.

For your first module activity we will meet as a class through **Canvas – Conferences** on the first day – Monday. Each Wednesday thereafter during class time I will hold a virtual session via Conferences. You are welcome to attend all 14, but only 10 will count towards your final grade. They will begin at the beginning of class time and end when everyone’s questions have been addressed. If Conferences becomes unavailable, I will set up Zoom sessions.

Tech Support Hours – please keep these hours in mind when taking your exam

Phone, email, ticket, or chat support hours:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m.– 3 p.m.

Contact Information

Call: [940-565-2324](tel:940-565-2324)

Chat: [Click Here](#)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. 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 ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

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. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

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 a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

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](https://disability.unt.edu/) (https://disability.unt.edu/).

COVID-19

If in our F2F class, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. 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 **prior to any class or due date** as to what you are experiencing so I may make a decision about accommodating your request. Because all of the assignments have been made available as of the first day of class in the online version, **working ahead can help avoid problems in submitting your work on time**. Please remember that **late work is not accepted**. If you develop a condition that makes it impossible for you to complete this course, please contact the ADA office for directions on how to proceed.

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 PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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 Canvas 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 student's 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. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

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, 14 and 15 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](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION (POLICY 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under

applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

FEDERAL REGULATION

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COMPLIANCE

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

STUDENT VERIFICATION

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

USE OF STUDENT WORK

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

TRANSMISSION AND RECORDING OF STUDENT IMAGES IN ELECTRONICALLY-DELIVERED COURSES

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT eUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar \(https://registrar.unt.edu/registration\)](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid \(https://financialaid.unt.edu/\)](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center \(https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center\)](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance \(https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance\)](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry \(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

- [Academic Resource Center \(https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources\)](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center \(https://success.unt.edu/asc\)](https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries \(https://library.unt.edu/\)](https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab \(http://writingcenter.unt.edu/\)](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

Syllabus attachment - https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Revised.06.049_Standard%20SyllabusStmt.pdf