

BLAW 3430
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Fall 2020

Instructor

Professor Houser

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

Office: BLB 317F

Office Phone: (940) 565-3050

Classes:

BLAW3430.003 (1253) MW 2:00-3:20 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences held W 2:00 PM)

BLAW3430.004 (13312) MW 5:00-6:20 PM (virtual synchronous class via Conferences held W 5:00 PM)

(Please note that there will be a Monday class on August 24th for the 3430.003 and 3430.004 class)

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

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

Required equipment:

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

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.

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

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.

COVID-19

If 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 being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. 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> (Links to an external site.)) 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.

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.

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, HARASSMENT, & 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 They can be reached at **UNT Survivor Advocate**, SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu. Renee McNamara is UNT's Associate Dean of Students and she can be reached through e-mail at renee.mcnamara@unt.edu or survivoradvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. For immediate help, contact the care team at care.team@unt.edu. You are not alone. We are here to help.

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:

- To enable students to understand the basic nature, classifications, and sources of law.
- To enable students to understand basic ethical theories, ethical standards in business, and the ethical responsibilities of business.
- To enable students to understand the basic principles underlying the U.S. Court system at both the federal and state levels and different methods of civil dispute resolution.
- To enable students to understand the basic principles of constitutional government, including the powers of government and the limitations on government.
- To enable students to understand principles relating to the operation of and limitations on administrative agencies.
- To enable students to understand the basic principles of torts, negligence and strict liability.
- To enable students to understand the basic requirements of contract formation and performance and contract remedies.
- To enable students to understand basic difference between the common law and UCC contracts.
- To enable students to understand the basic principles of labor regulation, employment discrimination, and employee protection.
- To enable students to understand the basic responsibilities of business under federal antitrust statutes.
- To enable students to understand the basic responsibilities of United States businesses when transacting business in the international environment.
- To improve oral and written communication skills.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

Virtual Activities	100	10 @ 10 points each	10%
Day 1 virtual class required			
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%

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.

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	Virtual Class session
1	Aug. 24 - Aug. 29	Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility	Chapter 1		Monday during class time 8/24 for 3430.003 and 3430.004 only Wednesday during class time 8/26 for all sections
2	Aug. 30 - Sept. 5	Trial and Appeal	Chapter 2	Discussion Forum 2 - CSR	Wednesday during class time 9/2
3	Sept. 6 - Sept. 12	Civil Procedure University closed 9/7	Chapter 3	Part 1 – Semester Project	Wednesday during class time 9/9
4	Sept. 13 - Sept. 19	Statutory Law and Case Law	Chapter 4		Wednesday during class time 9/16
5	Sept. 20 - Sept. 27	Intellectual Property	Chapter 6		Wednesday during class time 9/23

6	Sept. 28 - Oct. 3	Administrative Law	Chapter 5	Part 2 – Semester Project	Wednesday during class time 9/30
7	Oct. 4 - Oct. 10	Chapters 1-6		Exam 1 available Monday at 8:00 AM (10/5) through Wednesday (10/7) at 11:55 PM	No virtual class this week
8	Oct. 11 - Oct. 17	Business Organizations - Corporations and Corporate Governance	Chapter 8-9		Wednesday during class time 10/14
9	Oct. 18 - Oct.24	Contracts	Chapter 7	Part 3 – Semester Project	Wednesday during class time 10/21
10	Oct. 25 - Oct. 31	Torts and Strict Liability	Chapter 12		Wednesday during class time 10/28
11	Nov. 1 - Nov. 7	Torts and Strict Liability	Chapter 12	Part 4 – Semester Project	Wednesday during class time 11/4
12	Nov. 8 - Nov. 14	Constitutional Law	Chapter 10	Semester Project Due	Wednesday during class time 11/11
13	Nov. 15 - Nov. 21	Real and Personal Property Law	Chapter 13	Discussion Forum 13	Wednesday during class time 11/18
14	Nov. 22 - Nov. 28	Chapters 7-10, 12, 13 <i>University closed 11/26-27</i>		Exam 2 available Monday (11/23) at 8:00 AM through Wednesday (11/25) at 11:55 PM	No virtual class this week
15	Nov. 29 - Dec. 3	Course Summary			Wednesday during class time 12/2

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) Day 1 Monday Class required (choose 10 out of 14 virtual sessions held on Wednesdays) 100

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** earns 10 points towards project grade)

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.

For your first module activity (required) 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 16, 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