

BLAW 3430
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Fall 2021

Instructor

Professor Houser

Please contact me through the Canvas Inbox tab.

002 – M/W BLB 010 12:30-1:50

003 – M/W BLB 010 2:00-3:20

Office: BLB 358B

Office Phone: (940) 565-3109

Office Hours: **W** 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM and by appointment – BLB 358B

Th 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM and by appointment – Zoom

Teaching Assistant

Alivia Martin - aliviamartin@my.unt.edu

Rayann Nasser – RayannNasser@my.unt.edu

Required Textbook:

Text: Melvin Business Law and Strategy, 1st edition, (2021) with McGraw Hill Connect.
MELVIN, Connect access card, Business Law & Strategy, 1st ed.
ISBN: 9781264982554

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

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:

Mod 1 – Ch 1- Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 1 – Ch 5 – Smart Book – 25 points

Exam 1 (Chapters 1 & 5) – 90 points

Mod 2 – Ch 6 – Contracts – 25 points

Mod 2 – Alternative Dispute Resolution ABA – 75 points

Mod 2 – Ch 7 - Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 2 – Ch 8 – Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 2 – Ch 11 – Smart Book – 25 points

Exam 2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 11) – 90 points

Mod 3 – Ch 27 – Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 3 - Elements of a Contract ABA – 75 points

Mod 3 – Ch 28 - Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 3 – Ch 29 – Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 3 – Ch 30 – Smart Book - 25 points

Exam 3 (Chapters 27, 28, 29, & 30) – 90 points

Mod 4 – Ch 42 - Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 4 - Negligence ABA – 75 points

Mod 5 – Ch 50 - Smart Book – 25 points

Mod 5 - Trademarks ABA – 75 points

Mod 5 – Ch 48 - Smart Book – 25 points

Week 14 DF – 30 points

You be the Judge-Intellectual Property – 75 points

Total 1000 points

Tests will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. They will not be cumulative and must be taken in the week assigned.

Please not that late work will not be accepted in this course.

The following grading scale will be used:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

900-1000	90–100%	A
800-899	80–89%	B
700-799	70–79%	C
600-699	60–69%	D
0-599	Below 60%	F

Class schedule and reading assignments follow. 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	Monday	Wednesday
1	August 23- August 29	Legal System	Chapter 1 Smart Book Assignmen t– 25 points (Due 8/29 @11:59 PM)		
2	August 30- Sept. 5	Resolving Disputes	Chapter 5 Smart Book Assignmen t– 25 points (Due 9/5 @ 11:59 PM)		
3	Sept. 6- Sept. 12			No class-Labor Day	Exam 1 – 90 (in-class 9/8)
4	Sept. 13- Sept. 19	Contracts	Chapter 6 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 9/19 @ 11:59PM)		ABA – 75 Elements of a Contract (Due 9/19 @ 11:59 PM)
5	Sept. 20- Sept. 26	Mutual Assent	Chapter 7 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 9/26 @ 11:59 PM)		
6	Sept. 27- Oct. 3	Capacity & Legality	Chapter 8 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 10/3 @ 11:59 PM)		

7	Oct. 4- Oct. 10	Breach & Remedies	Chapter 11 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 10/10 @ 11:59 PM)		Exam 2 – 90 (in-class 10/6)
8	Oct. 11- Oct. 17	Choice of Business Entity	Chapter 27 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 10/17 @ 11:59PM)		ABA – 75 Business Entities (Due 10/17 @ 11:59 PM)
9	Oct. 18- Oct. 24	Partnerships	Chapter 28 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 10/24 @ 11:59 PM)		
10	Oct. 25- Oct. 31	Limited Liability Companies	Chapter 29 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 10/31 @ 11:59 PM)		
11	Nov. 1- Nov. 7	Corporations	Chapter 30 Smart Book Assignmen t – 25 points (Due 11/7 @ 11:59 PM)		Exam 3 – 90 (in-class 11/3)
12	Nov. 8- Nov. 14	Torts	Chapter 42 Smart Book Assignmen		ABA – 75 Negligence (Due 11/14 @ 11:59 PM)

			t – 25 points (Due 11/14 @11:59 PM)		
13	Nov. 15- Nov. 21	Intellectual Property	Chapter 50 Smart Book Assignment – 25 points (Due 11/21 @ 11:59 PM)		ABA – 75 Trademarks (Due 11/21 @ 11:59 PM) You be the Judge – 75 (to be completed by Dec. 1 st - do not attempt until you have completed the Chapter 50 readings)
14	Nov. 22- Nov. 28	Personal Property	Chapter 48 Smart Book Assignment – 25 points (Due 11/28 @ 11:59 PM)	No class	No class DF – 30 (Original post due Fri. 11/26 @ 11:59 PM responses to classmate due Sun. 11/28 @ 11:59 PM)
15	Nov. 29- Dec. 3	Course Review			You be the Judge – 75 (Due Dec. 1 @ 11:59 PM)

Required equipment:

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 TA nor I have any control over technology issues you may encounter with UNT, Canvas, your internet provider, or your personal device. Please work with the student help desk and document anything they tell you. As a first step, please click on “Help” in the left column of the course shell, “Student Help Desk,” and then “Live Chat.” Save a copy of the Live Chat to your device for proof that you attempted to obtain help with your problem through the University. After you have attempted to get assistance, please contact either the TA or the Professor with the issue. **Please note that because late work is not accepted**, you should make sure to complete your work well in advance of the due date to allow for technological issues.

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)

Communication

Please remember to check the announcements on canvas. 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 cannot not be answered via email. You can also ask during class or office hours. If you have a personal question, please do use my office hours. Questions may also be directed to the TA. Questions in the Student Forum will be answered by the end of the following business day. 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>.

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. Academic sanctions will range from a warning to a failing grade in the course.

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

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

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

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

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for each class. If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<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 COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Class Materials for Online Learning:

This course includes online learning components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Learning Management System. Information on how to be successful in an online learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](#)

Examination Policy

Exams are closed book. Please note that if you know you will be unable to take the exam on the day offered, please contact the TA to arrange to take it in advance. If you miss an exam, you can take a make-up, but it will be in a different format with different questions (including essay questions). If you are taking an exam online (in the event this class goes online due to UNT policy), and run into difficulties, contact the Student Helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting the TA.

Assignment Policy

Assignments may be subject to Turnitin. See course shell for all information.

Syllabus Change Policy

Please read the announcement daily. An announcement will be made if there are any changes to the syllabus.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

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. Academic sanctions will range from a warning to a failing grade in the course.

ADA Policy

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/).

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.

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.

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>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

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 [insert administration dates] 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.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

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.

Classes may not be recorded.

Academic Support & Student Services

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