



University of North Texas

BLAW 3430-011
Legal & Ethical Environment of Business
Spring 2016

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Legal & Ethical Environment of Business
Course Number: BLAW 3430
Section Number: 011
Credit Hours: 3
Classroom: BLB 070
Class Hours: 6:30 pm – 9:20 pm, Thursday

INSTRUCTOR

Instructor: Kevin T. White



I graduated with a BBA in Administrative Management from the University of North Texas in 1983. I received my law degree (JD) from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1986. I engaged in the private practice of law until 2004, when I accepted my current position. I currently serve as General Counsel for Ivie & Associates, Inc., an international advertising and marketing communications firm.

Office Phone: (972) 899-5352

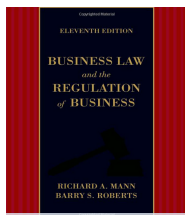
Cell Phone: (469) 766-4344

Email: kevin.white@ivieinc.com

Office Hours: By appointment. Please make arrangements in advance. You are encouraged to contact me by email or telephone, or speak to me before or after class.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook: *Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 11th Edition (2014)*



Richard A. Mann and Barry S. Roberts
ISBN-13: 978-1133587576 ISBN-10: 1133587577

The book is available in print at the UNT Bookstore or from Cengage at <http://www.cengage.com>

Put in the above ISBN number in the search box. You may get the print copy, or electronic copy. Or, 2 copies of the book are available for review at Willis Library.

Supplemental Materials: I may also distribute other supplemental materials, which may include some case materials, statutes, administrative regulations, articles or excerpts from periodicals. I may also point you to some outside links for other materials or information of interest. Don't worry--you don't have to memorize all of the information in the supplemental materials. But chances are, if you ignore the supplemental materials, you won't get as much out of this course.

COURSE WEBSITE

To be successful in this course, you must visit the class page on Blackboard Learn regularly, especially prior to class. <https://learn.unt.edu> Check out if I have posted new messages. Find out if there have been changes to the course schedule or course syllabus. On Blackboard, you will find the syllabus, course schedule, supplemental materials, quizzes, announcements and other important information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PREREQUISITES

- A. Course Description. This course is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of the legal principles governing businesses and business transactions. Subjects covered include nature and sources of laws; torts; crimes; intellectual property; contracts; sales and leases; agency and employment law; bankruptcy; and business entities.
- B. Course Objectives. Here's what you will get out of this course. The course objectives include:
- 1) To present an overview of the legal environment in which business takes place, and to help students understand the role of law, ethics and social responsibility in the business environment.
 - 2) To provide an understanding of perspectives that form the context for business, including ethical and global issues, the influence of political, social, legal and regulatory, environmental and technological issues, and the impact of demographic diversity on organizations, and to foster an awareness of the relationships and tensions among these perspectives.
 - 3) To enhance students' ability to make sound legal and ethical decisions in the face of ambiguity and conflicting information, by developing skills and spotting legal and ethical issues, weighing the likely benefits and risks of possible courses of action, deciding upon the action to be taken, and constructing a persuasive case support for the decision.
 - 4) To develop critical thinking skills by providing students with an opportunity to practice applying acquired knowledge to resolve real-world legal and ethical conflicts.
 - 5) To highlight ethical concerns managers often confront and to help students obtain an understanding of how managerial decisions must incorporate consideration of ethics and social responsibility, the ethical implications of business decisions made in response to legal rules, and the moral boundaries of the legal regime.
 - 6) To familiarize students with basic legal sources and principles relevant to business; and
- C. Prerequisites. None

POLICIES

- A. Disabilities Accommodation. **If you need help, ask!** In accordance with Federal and State law, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the policies of the University of North Texas, UNT is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at <http://www.unt.edu/oda/apply/index.html>. Also, you may visit the Office

of Disability Accommodation (ADA) in the University Union, Room 321, or call (940) 565-4323.

- B. Academic Dishonesty. **Don't cheat!** Academic dishonesty is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with University policies and procedures. Possible academic penalties include a grade of "F" in the course. You will If I suspect that you have engaged in academic dishonesty, I will deal with the situation as outlined in the University Policy shown above. You will be allowed to remain in the class during the entire time that the academic misconduct accusation is being investigated, adjudicated, and appealed. As noted above, the maximum academic penalty that can be assessed by an instructor is an "F" in the course. However, university officials use the academic misconduct information to decide if other misconduct sanctions are then to be applied, and the student has separate rights to appeal those decisions, remaining in the class until all appeals are exhausted. See <http://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/student-standards-academic-integrity-18-1-16>
- C. Attendance Policy. **Come to class on time!** You are expected to attend class regularly and be punctual. Notify me prior to any absences of which you have advance notice. Failure to attend will diminish your understanding of the course material, which, in turn, will impact your grade. Also, I will take attendance into account in deciding whether or not to round up a borderline grade, AND ATTENDANCE MAY BE USED AS A BASIS FOR AWARDED EXTRA CREDIT.
- D. Preparation and Participation. **Be prepared!** Advance preparation for class and active participation in classroom discussion increases understanding and retention of the course material and greatly enhances the learning experience. You are expected not only to come to class, but to come prepared. You are also expected to participate in a meaningful way in classroom discussion.
- E. Classroom Behavior. **Pay attention!** Most of the time, class will be interesting. Some of the time, it will be pretty boring. Either way, pay attention. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior, or anything that might have a tendency to interfere with someone else's ability to concentrate.
- **CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF!** No talking on your cell phone, and the dang thing better not ring or buzz during class!
 - **No text messaging during class.** It might be relatively quiet, but it is still distracting. If you can't go without it for a couple of hours then you shouldn't take this course.
 - **No talking during class,** except as part of class discussion.
- F. Computer Use. **Obey the geeks!** As long as you use the computer systems of UNT, including Eagle Connect and Blackboard, you will be required to adhere to the University's computer use policies. If you have a laptop or tablet, use it to take notes only. You may not watch movies, stream audio or video, check or send email or texts, surf the web, fool around with Facebook or anything like that. The laptop or tablet may only be used to enhance your classroom experience, not distract you from it.
- G. Other Policies. For other applicable policies, see the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/pdf/conduct/code_of_conduct.pdf.
- H. Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT). See Addendum attached.

REQUIRED WORK

- A. Examinations. I will give three (3) exams, including the final exam, each of which will be equally weighted. The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. The examinations may cover any matters contained in the course materials or which are discussed in class. The examinations will be closed book, meaning you will not be allowed to refer to your textbook, notes or any other materials during the examination.

The exams must be taken on the date and time specified in the Course Schedule. If due to circumstances beyond your control, you are unable to take an exam during the specified time, you should contact me in advance to make other arrangements for taking the exam. Together, the exams are worth 75% of your grade.

- B. Reading Assignments. Naturally, you are expected to read each of the chapters assigned in the schedule. It is okay to read ahead, but you shouldn't get too far ahead of the schedule. There is a bunch of reading in this course, some of it more interesting than others. Many of the concepts have to be digested before they are understood. **Don't get behind**—it is too hard to catch up with this much material.
- C. Quizzes. There will be a series of very short quizzes prior to almost each lecture. The quizzes are designed to get you to read and keep up with the material. The quizzes are to be taken outside of class online through Blackboard prior to the date and time specified in the Course Schedule. The quizzes are worth 25% of your grade.
- D. Grade Allocation. Your grade is allocated as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Exam 1	100	25%
Exam 2	100	25%
Exam 3	100	25%
Quizzes	100	25%
Total	400	100%

- E. Grade Determination. Your grade will be determined on the basis of the following:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
360+	90-100%	A
320-359	80-89%	B
280-319	70-79%	C
240-279	60-69%	D
0-239	0-59%	F

- F. Extra Credit. Extra credit may be assigned in my sole discretion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule will be distributed separately, and may be modified periodically.

Addendum

Student Perceptions of Teaching (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 short SPOT survey will be made available **April 18th – May 1st** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the spring 2016 semester you will receive an email on **April 18th (12:01 a.m.)** from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you 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.