

BLAW 3430.501
Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Spring 2026
Mondays – 6:30 pm to 9:20 pm
In Person Classroom – Room FRLD 310 (Frisco)

Instructor

Lance Metcalf

Email: Lance.Metcalf@unt.edu

- I teach multiple sections, so in your email, please include the class section (i.e. “3430.501”) in the Subject Line
- Email will be the best way to contact me, although never assume that I actually received the email just because you have sent me an email. I will try to answer each email as soon as possible. If you have not had a response to your email within 36 hours, it will not hurt my feelings if you send me a brief reminder!

Office: BLB 313A (Denton Campus)

Office Phone: (940) 565-3168

- If I am unavailable when you call, please leave a voice message with a brief message, including a callback number

Office Hours:

- In Person – Tuesdays 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- via Zoom – Thursdays 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- By Appointment

Welcome to class!! We will spend the semester together, learning about the legal and ethical environment surrounding businesses. In order to maximize your time in this class, please read this syllabus closely. It contains much of the information you need regarding how the class is set up, deadlines, and grading requirements.

Attendance Policy: You are an adult. Class attendance is your choice and responsibility. The university does, at times, request attendance information. Therefore, I will take class attendance. Although attendance will not directly be a part of your grade, your attendance, as well as your focus during class, is critical to learning and understanding the material. **YOUR ATTENDANCE IS IN A SIGNAL TO ME OF THE LEVEL OF EFFORT THAT YOUR ARE DEDICATING TO THIS CLASS.** Our class discussions will help you to absorb the material. The goal is to learn and understand the material, and not just memorize for an exam!

THERE WILL BE INFORMATION SHARED DURING CLASS THAT IS NOT IN THE TEXT OR POWER POINTS, BUT WILL BE ON THE EXAM. With this in mind, solid attendance – as well as paying attention to the material discussed – will help you obtain the grade that you want in this class.

GIVEN THAT ATTENDANCE IS NOT PART OF YOUR GRADE, I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU DO NOT NOTIFY ME THAT YOU WILL NOT BE IN CLASS. If you have a significant issue, please feel free to contact me to discuss – or simply talk with me after class!

Class Participation: I will ask questions during class to promote participation in class discussions. Attendance is not the same as participation. I will expect class participation to promote critical thinking and dialogue as we work through class subject matter. Therefore, you are expected to come to class having read the assignment and prepared to discuss the topic(s). We will also break up into groups from time to time during class with the expectation that each student will contribute to the group discussions and participate in the class discussion.

Canvas: Students are required to use the class page to access announcements, power points, assignments, etc. Students will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access some of the postings. This syllabus is uploaded into Canvas. Students are encouraged to consult the course web page before class.

Office Hours: The best way to reach me is via email at Lance.Metcalf@unt.edu. I will attempt to respond to your email **within 36 hours**. If you are unable to meet me during regular office hours, please email me to make an appointment. I make it a point to be accessible via email and we can try to schedule a different time to meet.

Academic Integrity Standards and Sanctions for Violations: 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, 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 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. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Ultimately, everyone involved in this class should treat everyone else with respect. I will endeavor to begin on time, end on time, and use the class period productively.

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>).

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 or Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ADA Statement/Disability Accommodation: 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/).

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 and UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 for 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, 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 violate 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. The Student Advocate can be reached through email at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

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.

· 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.

Course Objectives

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.
7. To improve oral and written communication skills

Course Materials

Textbook: Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 13th Edition, by Richard A. Mann and Barry S. Roberts **with MindTap**. You will need Cengage's MindTap. There is information on this textbook on Canvas and instructions for accessing the e-book version and MindTap.

E-Book and MindTap: A portion of your course grade will be determined by exercises assigned within MindTap. **MindTap is an essential part of your grade**. MindTap exercises have been incorporated into Canvas and will be required for some chapters.

Handouts & Supplemental Materials: During the semester, handouts or supplemental materials may be assigned or distributed on Canvas. These are intended to supplement the material in the text and to assist students in further understanding the material. If utilized, it is your responsibility to get these materials. They are not intended to be class notes or to substitute for class attendance.

Exams: Three exams will be administered during the semester as specified in the syllabus. On occasion, we may fall behind on topics scheduled to be covered on an exam. If such occurs, only topics actually covered in class prior to the exam will appear on the exam. Exams dates may be changed only in rare cases such as unscheduled holidays due to the weather or other events deemed notable by the UNT Administration.

Exams will begin promptly at the scheduled time and class period. Students who arrive after the exam has been distributed will be allowed to take the exam; provided, however, that after a student has completed and turned in his or her exam, the exam will be considered to have been completely administered. No one arriving after that time will be allowed to take the exam and will be deemed to have missed the exam.

Make-Up Exams: The exams are scheduled at the beginning of this course. Please schedule these exam dates in your calendar system. Please treat the attendance of each exam just as you would treat a presentation that you are scheduled to provide to your future employer of a professional level job. Missing a presentation for your employer would not reflect positively on your performance and reputation. In **very exceptional circumstances only**, a student who must miss an exam will be allowed to take the examination early. Exceptional circumstances are unforeseen, undocumented, unpredictable, legitimate, and out of your control. No make-up exams will be given after the class has taken the exam.

Course Requirements & Student Expectations:

- You are expected to come to class having read the assignments and prepared to discuss the topic(s). I MAY CALL ON STUDENTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS DURING CLASS. I do not expect anyone to perfectly answer every question I may ask, but I do expect that you know what topic we are discussing. I also encourage you to ask questions and engage. This makes the class much more interesting and beneficial for everyone!
- 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. If you do not regularly check Canvas, you will miss important 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.
- **Please be respectful of your peers during class.** This includes not watching videos on your laptops and your phones... Not only is this disrespectful to everyone – including the instructor – it also distracts other students and disrupts the learning environment.

- 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.
- DO check your Canvas. 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 important information if you do not check the notices I send.
- **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.**
- Office hours are NOT the time to make up missed notes. Come to class or email a classmate if you miss lectures. Do not expect that you can fill-in-the-blanks during office time.
- 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 is 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.
- If you ever have any questions about anything in the assignment guidelines or other course documents, ASK! But please... make sure your question is not answered in the syllabus. I want to help you do well in this class and providing clarification to you all is one way for me to do that.

Grading Policy and Scale:

Grade Values:

Exam One	20%
Exam Two	20%
Final Exam	20%
<u>MindTap Assignments</u>	<u>40%</u>
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

A.....	90-100%
B.....	80-89%
C.....	70-79%
D.....	60-69%
F.....	0-59%

MINDTAP EXERCISES

The MindTap exercises are found in the online course book. There are two (2) graded exercises for the chapters specified below. These exercises are due at the end of the semester. You may do them as we progress through the class (recommended) or complete them at the end of the semester. I strongly encourage you to complete these exercises as you go through the course – primarily, so

you will be more prepared for the exams, but also, so you do not create a stressful deadline at the end of the term. You are all adults and you are on notice about this deadline.... **NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

Why is this deadline so strict? It's strict for two reasons – First, because this is how deadlines work in the work force (which you will be in very soon!). Second, because I'm mentioning this to you at the very beginning of the semester and you have the entire semester to calendar this deadline, prioritize it and make sure that last minute problems will not impact you because you planned ahead!

There are 20 MindTap Exercises. Each MindTap Exercise shall count five (5) points for a total of 100 points. The MindTap Exercises shall count as 40% of your total grade.

The Due date for ALL MindTap Exercises will be at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS! After that time, you will be locked out and will not be able to complete the assignment. **Once the deadline passes, you will not be able to access those assignments or points again, so plan your life accordingly.**

The MindTap Exercises that are part of the MindTap assignment are listed below:

- MindTap Exercise #1 – Chapter 2 Review
- MindTap Exercise #2 – Chapter 2 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #3 – Chapter 3 Review
- MindTap Exercise #4 – Chapter 3 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #5 – Chapter 6 Review
- MindTap Exercise #6 – Chapter 6 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #7 – Chapter 7 Review
- MindTap Exercise #8 – Chapter 7 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #9 – Chapter 9 Review
- MindTap Exercise #10 – Chapter 9 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #11 – Chapter 10 Review
- MindTap Exercise #12 – Chapter 10 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #13 – Chapter 11 Review
- MindTap Exercise #14 – Chapter 11 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #15 – Chapter 13 Review
- MindTap Exercise #16 – Chapter 13 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #17 – Chapter 14 Review
- MindTap Exercise #18 – Chapter 14 Brief Hypotheticals
- MindTap Exercise #19 – Chapter 28 Review
- MindTap Exercise #20 – Chapter 28 Brief Hypotheticals

PLEASE READ THE CHAPTERS AND MATERIALS PRIOR TO THE DATE SUCH CHAPTER AND MATERIAL WILL BE COVERED IN CLASS!

Class Lecture, Reading Assignments and Exam Schedule

The following schedule reflects the approximate schedule for reading text materials. Exams will take place at the scheduled time and day, unless delayed due to weather or other extraordinary event.

EXAM #1 SECTION

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan. 12	Introduction to the course Chapter 1 – Introduction to Law	Syllabus Chapter 1
Jan. 19	<i>MLK Day – NO CLASS!!!</i>	
Jan. 26	Chapter 2 – Business Ethics	Chapter 2
	Chapter 3 (Begin) – Civil Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
Feb. 2	Chapter 3 (Finish) – Civil Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
Feb. 9	Chapter 6 – Criminal Law	Chapter 6
Feb. 16	Chapter 7 – Intentional Torts	Chapter 7
Feb. 23	EXAM #1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7

EXAM #2 SECTION

Date	Topic	Reading
Mar. 2	Chapter 9 – Introduction to Contracts	Chapter 9
Mar. 9	<i>Spring Break! NO CLASS!!!</i>	
Mar. 16	Chapter 10 – Mutual Assent	Chapter 10
Mar. 23	Chapter 11 – Conduct Invalidating Assent	Chapter 11
Mar. 30	Chapter 13 – Illegal Bargains	Chapter 13
Apr. 6	Chapter 14 – Contractual Capacity	Chapter 14
Apr. 13	EXAM #2	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14

FINAL EXAM SECTION

Date	Topic	Reading
Apr. 20	Chapter 28 – Relationship of Principal and Agent	Chapter 28
Apr. 27	Chapter 50 – Trusts and Wills	Chapter 50
May 4	FINAL EXAM Date & Time TBD	Chapters 28 and 50