

BLAW 3430.004 – Legal & Ethical Environment of Business

This course meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 am in room BLB 155

Instructor Name

Scott Smith, JD/MBA

Office Location

COBA 416, University of Texas at Arlington Campus

Email Address

Scott.Smith@unt.edu

Faculty Profile

<https://www.uta.edu/academics/faculty/profile?user=scott.smith>

Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:00 pm to 1:00 p.m. and by appointment. I will be available in person and [virtually on MS Teams](#).

Communication Guidelines

My preferred communication method is email.

I will respond to emails and voice messages within one business day.

Background

I'm a Business Law Professor. I'm originally from Oregon and I took a fairly unconventional path to get to where I am today - I started off in undergrad business school at BYU (Marriott), went on to get a JD/MBA and worked as an attorney in Las Vegas, Nevada for 16 years (Business, Real Estate and Civil Litigation) before pivoting into an entirely different realm - full-time college teaching. I teach Business Law classes, Economics classes (Micro Economics, Macro Economics) and Business classes (Introduction to Business, Ethics and Business Communications.)

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Historical, economic, political and ethical bases of contracts and sales, including the Uniform Commercial Code, and the impact of regulatory agencies on business enterprise.

Prerequisite(s): PSCI 2306 and PSCI 2305, or equivalent.

This class will be taught face to face. Coursework will be submitted to the UNT Canvas. All exams will be taken in class, in Canvas. The semester is a 16-week semester. There will be 21 modules during the class.

The course 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.

How to Succeed in this Course

Share your availability with students and communication preferences in a way that reveals the value of connecting outside of class and normalizes success through goals and challenges. You **must** include your office hours, and you might also share what success means to you or include common feedback you receive from students when they utilize office hours and/or other academic success resources.

The most important action you can take to succeed is to do at least a little bit every day. Law is, usually, not something students can pack into an all-nighter or “cram” session. The modules are designed with this in mind: the more passes over the material, the more likely it is you will retain the knowledge.

The other most important action you can take is to stay connected with me and your classmates. I maintain regular student hours (which you may have also called office hours) for you to come in without an appointment to discuss any class-related issues you may have. And I’m glad to make appointments that fit our respective schedules if these times do not work.

Again, my office hours are Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:00 pm to 1:00 p.m. and by appointment. I will be available [virtually on MS Teams](#).

ADA Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it’s important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out [mental health services](https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies) (<https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies>), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

It is my goal to create an inclusive learning environment. Every student should feel supported in sharing their unique perspective and be treated with respect. You are an integral part of our learning community, and your viewpoint and perspective are valuable to your fellow learners. Through our group discussions, you'll have opportunities for collaboration, so your participation is essential to not only your learning but your fellow team members. For you and your teammates to get the most out of the course, please do your part by participating fully, sharing your insights, and doing so by the deadlines provided. When connecting with me and your fellow students, please keep an open mind and communicate in a respectful manner. We don't all have to agree, but we can learn from one another's unique perspectives. I encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline of understanding.

What Book You Need

You will purchase the required textbook through Canvas as you progress through an introductory module. You do not need to purchase the required textbook from the publisher directly or any bookstore. While you certainly may do so, I recommend purchasing through Canvas.

- Required Textbook: *Business Law, 12th Edition*, by Henry R. Cheeseman, with MyLab Business Law with Pearson eText, ISBN-13: 9780138033668
 - E-Book and MyLab: A portion of your course grade will be determined by online quizzes from the publisher's learning portal, MyLab. MyLab is an essential part of your grade. MyLab exercises have been incorporated into Canvas and will be required for each chapter, and due dates are set up for these exercises. There are links on Canvas to walk you through the MyLab process.
- Technology requirements:
 - This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and Pearson MyLab (which you will access through Canvas). If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (<https://online.unt.edu/learn>).

- Exams will be via Canvas using Lockdown browser. Please make sure your computer is capable of running these programs.
- Make sure that you have a consistent, functioning internet connection. ***“Internet problems” is not generally an excuse for missed work.***
- Special note on copyright:
 - Some Videos or PDFs shared in this course may contain portions of federal, state, and local laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances. Of these, many are snipped from court websites; other websites of information in the public domain; and some are pulled from [Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute’s website](#). The text of the law that Cornell shares is in the public domain, but some of the style or formatting may be covered by Cornell Law School’s licensing under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.5](#).

Course Requirements/Schedule

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	8/19/2025	Introduction
2	8/21/2025	1. Legal Heritage and the Information Age
3	8/26/2025	2. Courts and Jurisdiction
4	8/28/2025	3. Judicial, Alternative, and E-Dispute Resolution
5	9/2/2025	4. Constitutional Law for Business and E-Commerce
6	9/4/2025	4. Constitutional Law for Business and E-Commerce
7	9/9/2025	5. Intentional Torts and Negligence
8	9/11/2025	Review
9	9/16/2025	Exam 1
10	9/18/2025	7. Intellectual Property and Information Technology
11	9/23/2025	8. Criminal Law and Cybercrime
12	9/25/2025	9. Nature of Traditional and E-Contracts
13	9/30/2025	10. Agreement
14	10/2/2025	11. Consideration and Promissory Estoppel
15	10/7/2025	Review
16	10/9/2025	Exam 2
17	10/14/2025	12. Capacity and Legality
18	10/16/2025	29. Agency Formation and Termination
19	10/21/2025	30. Liability of Principals, Agents, and Independent Contractors
20	10/23/2025	31. Employment, Worker Protection, and Immigration Law
21	10/28/2025	33. Equal Opportunity in Employment
22	10/30/2025	Review
23	11/4/2025	Exam 3
		34. Entrepreneurship, Sole Proprietorships, and General
24	11/6/2025	Partnerships
25	11/11/2025	37. Corporate Formation and Financing

26	11/13/2025	36. Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships
27	11/18/2025	43. Administrative Law and Regulatory Agencies
28	11/20/2025	49. Landlord-Tenant Law and Land Use Regulation
29	11/25/2025	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
30	11/27/2025	Thanksgiving Break (no classes)
31	12/2/2025	52. Wills, Trusts, and Estates
32	12/4/2025	Review
	12/10/2025	Exam 4 at 8:00 a.m. in room 155

Assessing Your Work

Students should be prepared to discuss the reading assignment. Read approximately 15 pages of the text before each class meeting.

Graded Assignments & Values

Assignment Name	Value (pts or %)
Exams	60%
MyLab Homework	10%
Reading Assignments	5%
Chapter Quizzes	15%
Class Participation Exercise	10%
Total	100%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester which Canvas facilitates and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor).

Final Grade Calculation

Range (pts or %)	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

Make-Up Exams & Late Work Policy

I want you to be ready for your career. To prepare for that career, you must be ready for what your employer, customers and clients will expect.

In the law, deadlines are important. And even if you don't go into the law for a career, if you always have your work done and submitted on time, you will likely have an advantage over the majority of your colleagues and competitors.

I want to help you to be ready for the real world you will face in your career. So we are going to practice the on-time work ethic.

Therefore, it is your instructor's policy to accept **NO late assignments, NO late quizzes, and NO late exams**. The only exception to this rule is University Policy. Any other exception must be pre-approved in writing by the instructor. Your instructor does not allow extra credit (other than what is listed in the syllabus.)

You must be on time to exams. I allow a ten-minute grace period. If you are not in your seat ready to take the exam within 10 minutes of its start time, you will receive a 20% grade penalty. As stated above, if you contact the instructor before the exam begins, you may be granted an exception to this rule.

If you can't be in class on the date and time of the exam, I will happily work out a time for you take the exam early as long as you communicate with me ahead of time.

Extra Credit Policy

There is only one kind of extra credit allowed in this course: Student Evaluations. At the end of the semester you will get a chance to evaluate this course. Once you have completed the evaluation, take a screen shot of your list of courses to evaluate with this course showing the green check mark as completed. Upload that screenshot in the Canvas assignment that will appear at that time and you will receive a 1% bump in the overall grade of the course. There is no other extra credit allowed in this class.

Grades & Feedback Timeline

Exams and Class Participation Exercises will be graded upon submission.

In addition to standards for success in courses, there are UNT policies and procedures at [Student Support Services & Policies](#) page.

Office of Disability Access

The Office of Disability Access (ODA) can work with you on academic accommodations if needed. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Additional Resources

I encourage you to take advantage of the many resources UNT has to offer students, including (but not limited to):

- [UNT's Counseling and Testing Services](#) can provide psychological counseling and academic testing.
- [UNTWell](#) provides FREE individual and group counseling as well as a vocational assessment.
- [UNT Food Pantry](#) is a great resource if you or someone you know experiences food insecurity.
- [Academic Success Center](#) can support you in your academics.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty of any sort is unacceptable. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (copying other's work as you own without appropriate citations) and copying others material during any of the relevant activities. UNT faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the UNT. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Any form of Academic Dishonesty will result, at a minimum but not solely limited to, getting a zero on the assessment in question.

Attendance

Attending class sessions is a critical predictor and indicator of student success. The University of Texas at Arlington does not recognize a single attendance policy but encourages faculty to establish class-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I expect all students to attend class. Past experience has shown that there is an extremely strong correlation with class attendance and passing the class. I will not be taking roll. It is incumbent on each student to determine their own attendance.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that UNT have a mechanism in place to verify Federal Student Aid recipients' attendance in courses. UNT instructors are expected to report the last date of attendance when submitting students' final course grades; specifically, when a student earns a course grade of F, instructors must report the last date a student attended their class. For on-campus classes, last date of attendance can be based on attendance rosters or on academic engagements—a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or Canvas-based activity. Online or distance education courses require regular and substantive online interaction and participation. Students must participate in online course activities in Canvas to demonstrate attendance; logging into an online class is not

sufficient by itself to demonstrate attendance. The last date of attendance is reported to the U.S. Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Student Bereavement Guidelines

These guidelines apply to all students seeking an excused absence from course work for grief related issues.

Your Instructor understands that grief impacts every student differently. This is not an attempt to quantify the impact the death of a loved one has on any student or in any way address the nature of the grief process. The purpose of this policy is to provide students the time to attend the bereavement services of family members. In applying the guidelines below, students are strongly encouraged to use their judgment about the time they need and can afford to take given their academic responsibilities and goals. Similarly, students should use their discretion about the need to take more extended time through mechanisms such as late course drops, withdrawal (undergraduates and graduate students) or leave of absence (graduate students).

Your Instructor is aware that students will experience other types of loss that are not addressed by this policy. And although these absences are not eligible for an excused absence, students may need to make individual choices about taking time away that are consistent with their emotional needs.

Students will be eligible for an excused absence for the period of time outlined below if documentation (e.g., an obituary or funeral program) can be provided. However, the decision about whether bereavement related absences will be excused remains at the discretion of the instructor.

Length of Bereavement

Up to five days of bereavement leave in the event of the death of an immediate family member including: parent, legal guardian, spouse/life partner, child, sibling, or grandparent.

Up to three days of bereavement in the event of the death of an uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or cousin.

Students who need to travel outside of North America may be approved by the instructor for up to four additional absence days. These days will be approved based upon a documented travel itinerary.

Students should notify their instructors of the death and impending absence prior to leaving campus or shortly thereafter.

* Providing falsified documents or misleading information is a violation.

Generative AI Use in This Course

The use of Generative AI (GenAI) in course assignments and assessments must align with the guidelines established by the instructor. Unauthorized use of GenAI could result in breaches of academic integrity. Instructors bear the responsibility of clearly delineating the permissible uses of GenAI in their courses, underscoring the importance of responsible and ethical application of these tools.

As the instructor of this course, I have adopted the following policy on Student use of GenAI: **Cited use of GenAI**

Approach	Description
Cited Use of GenAI	This course permits the use of Generative AI (GenAI) as a resource for completing assignments. However, transparency is crucial, students are required to explicitly cite any GenAI tools they utilize in the creation of their work. This citation requirement allows for the acknowledgment of the collaborative nature of GenAI in the learning process while enabling the assessment of student learning to remain focused on the achievement of the course's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).