

BLAW 3430.003 Version 1.2
The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Fall 2014

Professor Marcia J. Staff

Professor, Business Law

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Blackboard: A class web page will be maintained on Blackboard Learn. Students are required to use the class page to access handouts, test tips, etc. Students will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to access some of the postings. A course calendar will be updated regularly to reflect the material being covered. Students are encouraged to consult the course web page before class.

Please note that email sent to my UNT email address (marcia.staff@unt.edu) may be sent to a spam file. The best way to communicate with me via email is using the Blackboard Learn class page. Never assume that because you sent me an email I have received it.

Office Hours: 4 to 5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. **I am on campus every day so please let me know when it is convenient for you to meet. Do not miss class or work to meet with me. I can arrange to meet at a time that is convenient for you.**

DISABILITY ACCOMODATION

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. 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 in the University Union (room 321) or call them at (940) 565-4323.

If you need an accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible but at the latest by the second week of class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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 the University policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties include a grade of "F" in the course. You will find the policy and procedures at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>

NOTE: This is a "no lap top, no text messaging, etc." class. If you cannot live with this restriction please drop now.

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.

STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS (SETE)

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback that I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider participation in the SETE to be an important part of your involvement in this class and in all of your classes so please participate in the SETE process. The administration of the SETE will begin a couple of weeks before the end of the semester and remain open through the week of finals to try to maximize student SETE participation. You can access the SETE instrument by going to <http://www.my.unt.edu>

EAGLE CONNECT ACCOUNT

All students should activate and regularly check their EagleConnect (e-mail) account. EagleConnect is used for official communication from the University to students. Many important announcements for the University and College are sent to students via EagleConnect. For information about EagleConnect, including how to activate an account and how to have EagleConnect forwarded to another e-mail address, visit <https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

SUCCEED AT UNT

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student.

Here's how to succeed to UNT:

- Show up.
- Find support.
- Take control.
- Be prepared.
- Get involved.
- Be persistent.

To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to succeed.unt.edu.

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Course Objectives

The objectives of BLAW 3430 are:

1. To enable students to understand the basic nature, classifications, and sources of law.
2. To enable students to understand basic ethical theories, ethical standards in business, and the ethical responsibilities of business.
3. 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.
4. To enable students to understand the basic principles of constitutional government, including the powers of government and the limitations on government.
5. To enable students to understand principles relating to the operation of and limitations on administrative agencies.
6. To enable students to understand the basic principles of torts, negligence and strict liability.
7. To enable students to understand the basic requirements of contract formation and performance and contract remedies.
8. To enable students to understand basic difference between the common law and UCC contracts.
9. To enable students to understand the basic principles of labor regulation, employment discrimination, and employee protection.
10. To enable students to understand the basic responsibilities of business under federal antitrust statutes.
11. To enable students to understand the basic responsibilities of United States businesses when transacting business in the international environment.
12. To improve oral and written communication skills.

Text Book

Text: Business Law and the Regulation of Business, 11th edition, by Richard A. Mann and Barry S. Roberts (2014).

Two copies of the text are on reserve at the UNT Eagle Commons Library

There are at least **four** options for obtaining the text.

First, students can buy a copy of the textbook (from the UNT book store, any other text book seller or on line).

Second, students can buy the Ebook on line from the publisher.

Third, students can buy the chapters that will be used in the course (the first chapter is free!).

Follow this link to view the options provided by the publisher:

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<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ISBN/9781133587576?cid=APL1>

The Chapters you need (in the order we are going to use them): Chapter 1-5, 43, 7-17, 19, 22, 42, and 47. You can get the first chapter and the Table of Contents FREE!

Fourth, students can rent the text from a wide variety of sources.

Handouts and Supplementary Materials

During the semester, a variety of handouts will be distributed. These handouts are intended to supplement the material in the text and to assist students with organizing the material. They are not intended to be class notes or to substitute for class attendance.

Taking Notes

It is imperative that students attend class and take notes. While the professor will provide handouts, these are only a sketchy outline of the material. See note above.

Exams

Four exams will be administered during the semester as specified on the syllabus. On occasion we may fall behind on topics scheduled on the syllabus 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 will be shifted to another week/date only in rare cases such as unscheduled holidays due to the weather or other events deemed notable by the UNT administration.

The first two exams will cover only topics discussed in class prior to the exams. Exams three and four will be cumulative with questions from topics covered on earlier exams as well as on topics covered since the previous exams.

The exam will begin at precisely 5 p.m. Students who arrive late will be allowed to take the exam until the time that a student who has completed the exam leaves the room. After one student completes the exam and the leaves the room, the exam has been administered. No one arriving after that time will be allowed to take the exam.

Make up Exams

In exceptional circumstances, a student who must miss an exam will be allowed to take the examination early. No make up examinations will be given after the class has taken the examination. Students who miss an examination for exceptional, legitimate, documented reasons will be allowed to have their score on examination 4 (the cumulative final examination) count as the missing examination grade.

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Course Grade

Exam One	20%
Exam Two	20%
Exam Three (cumulative)	20%
Exam Four (cumulative)	20%
Exercises/homework/quizzes	20%
Total	100%

Class Participation/Exercises/Homework

Twenty percent of your grade in this class will come from homework, quizzes and exercises.

There will be no make up work for homework, quizzes and exercises. One (the lowest) grade from the homework, quizzes and exercises will be dropped.

Seating Chart & Your Number

You will sign for the seat where you are sitting on the day the chart is passed out on the second day of class. Exercise your right of choice and choose your seat early. Please take note of the number for your seat as listed on the chart when you sign. Since you are not seated alphabetically, quizzes and exams can be readily returned by number.

The use of numbers also facilitates the process of recording and speeds the return of materials to you. I also reserve the right to take roll using the seating chart to take note of early departures.

I will take attendance each class meeting. **It is your responsibility to sign the roll.**

Your record of class attendance will be used as a factor in determining your final course grade when your numerical score is on the borderline of two letter grades. The borderline is defined as one (1) point.

Classroom Behavior

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

Do be respectful of your peers during class.

Do attend class regularly and punctually.

Do read the assigned reading material in advance of the scheduled class.

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Do consult with me with any questions or concerns.

Do not leave class early unless you have arranged in advance with the professor.

Do not eat during class.

Do not read any material during class other than the text, your notes or your handouts.

Do turn off all pagers, cell phones, etc.

Do not use cell phones, pagers, PDAs, lap tops or any other device during this class.

Do not surf the web, **text message**, etc.

Do not talk to your fellow students during class.

If you must come in late, do so quietly.

If you violate any of the rules and/or norms set forth above you will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to: being counted absent (even though you were physically present) and being removed from the class.

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READING ASSIGNMENTS IN TEXT & EXAM SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Introduction to the course, instructor and course material.
Aug. 27	Chapter 1 Introduction to Law
Sept. 1	Labor Day – no class
Sept. 3 & 8	Chapter 2 Business Ethics
Sept. 10 & 15	Chapter 3 Civil Dispute Resolution Chapter 4 Constitutional Law
Sept. 17	Chapter 5 Administrative Law
Sept. 22	FIRST EXAM
Sept. 24 & 29	Chapter 42 Antitrust
Oct. 1 & 6	Chapter 7 Intentional Torts
Oct. 8 & 13	Chapter 8 Negligence and Strict Liability
Oct. 15	Chapter 9 Introduction to Contracts
Oct. 20	SECOND EXAM
Oct. 22 & 27	Chapter 10 Mutual Assent Chapter 11 Conduct Invalidating Assent
Oct. 29 & Nov. 3	Chapter 12 Consideration Chapter 13 Illegal Bargains Chapter 14 Contractual Capacity
Nov. 5 & 10	Chapter 15 Contracts in Writing Chapter 16 Rights of Third Parties
Nov. 12	THIRD EXAM
Nov. 17 & 19	Chapter 17 Performance, Breach & Discharge Chapter 18 Contract Remedies

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Nov. 24	Chapter 19 Sales and Leases
Nov. 26	Chapter 22 Products Liability: Warranties & Strict Liability ON LINE LESSON – NO IN CLASS MEETING
Dec. 1	Chapter 41 Employment Law
Dec. 3	Chapter 46 International Business Law plus a review
Dec. 8	Monday FOURTH EXAM 5 to 6:20 p.m. Same room

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