

**BLAW 3430
FALL 2016**

Russell L. Welch
BLB 329H

Hours: T 4:00-6:00 pm
W 4:00-6:00 pm
Th 1:30-2:00 pm
5:30-6:30 pm
Other times by appointment

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THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COMPLIES WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT IN MAKING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR QUALIFIED STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY.

IF YOU HAVE AN ESTABLISHED DISABILITY AS DEFINED IN THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION, PLEASE SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

TEXT: BUSINESS LAW AND THE REGULATION OF BUSINESS; 12th Edition, Mann & Roberts; CENGAGE Learning, 2017.

We are using a loose-leaf version of the text with access to MindTap in Blackboard to provide you with an Electronic version of the Text and a variety of study guides. **Access to MindTap is not required – it is optional.**

ALTERNATIVES:

First: students can buy a copy of the textbook (from the UNT book store, any other text book seller or online) with the MindTap Access.

Second, students can buy the looseleaf text and the MindTap Access directly from the publisher (Cengage) for \$88.00. You will receive immediate access to MindTap and Cengage will mail the loose-leaf text to them for free. Here is the link - <http://www.cengagebrain.com/course/1226289>

Third, students can rent the text from a wide variety of sources. It is unknown whether MindTap access is available with rented texts.

Copies of the text will also be available at the Reserve Desk in Willis Library for use in the library.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Grades will be determined according to the following:

Exam I	25	%
Exam II	30	%
Exam III	25	%
Outside observation	05	%
Class participation	05	%
Ethics Reports 2/3@5%	<u>10</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	100	%

Exams may include both objective-type, short answer and essay questions but will likely be primarily objective. Essay questions will entail short case analyses necessitating recognition of determinative issues and application of appropriate legal concepts. Make-up exams will be permitted only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. flood, plague, tornado or pestilence) when prior permission has been obtained. All make-up exams will be entirely essay questions.

Outside observation can be accomplished by either of the following alternatives:

Court visit. PREFERRED. Attend and observe for at least an hour a contested proceeding in a state county or district court or federal district court (not a municipal or justice of the peace or small claims court nor an appellate court). Submit a one page typed summary indicating the name or number of the court, the judge, the date, the parties to the dispute, the general nature of the dispute and your observations as to the proceeding. You will probably have to inquire with a court coordinator or bailiff to find out some of the required information. These people are public employees, so it is perfectly acceptable for you to ask basic, informational questions. Sometimes this information is posted outside the courtroom door. Court proceedings are generally open to the public so you may go into a courtroom without asking permission unless there is a notice that the proceeding is closed to the public BUT you must be respectful of the court and the participants. Most courts will not allow shorts, wearing hats or caps, gum chewing, talking, reading newspapers, or cell phones which are not turned off. WARNING: In many courts, if your cell phone rings or vibrates audibly, the judge may hold you in contempt of court and confiscate your phone and/or impose other penalties including fines or incarceration! Turn your phone OFF. This report is due no later than November 29 (Tuesday class) or December 1 (Thursday class) at the beginning of class. DO NOT SUBMIT ON BLACKBOARD.

OR

Case report/Brief. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A LIVE COURT PROCEEDING DUE TO CONFLICTING WORK OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS, Review a real legal dispute from no earlier than 2013 which is reported in the public media or online and submit a typed summary of the case. The summary must be a minimum of 500 words. Your report should indicate the nature of the dispute, the parties, the trial court where the dispute was heard, the decision of the trial court, whether the case was appealed and, if so, the decision of any appellate court(s) along with citations to the sources of your information. Finally, include your observations as to the appropriateness of the decision with an explanation as to why you agree or disagree with the court's decision based on principles or concepts which we have discussed in class. This report is due no later than November 29 (Tuesday class) or December 1 (Thursday class) at the beginning of class. DO NOT SUBMIT ON BLACKBOARD.

Ethics reports: During the semester, three ethical issues will be presented. Two of these must be analyzed and a one page report submitted

CLASSROOM POLICIES: You are expected to come to class having read the assignment and prepared to discuss the topic(s). I WILL CALL ON STUDENTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS DURING CLASS. I do not expect anyone to answer perfectly every question I may ask but I do expect that you know what topic we are discussing. This is not law school. I am not a wannabe law school professor but I am convinced that understanding the concepts which we will discuss is best accomplished by your reading the text prior to class then discussing these topics in class.

I expect you to attend (**unexcused absences of three or more will result in no credit for class participation**), pay attention and participate. Use of electronic devices such as computers, cell phones, laptops, tablets or other devices is prohibited during class EXCEPT for a laptop or tablet or notebook used EXCLUSIVELY for taking notes or referring to the textbook. Texting, surfing the web, emailing, facebooking or other unauthorized uses during class will not be tolerated. It is rude, distracting to classmates and the professor and disruptive. If you cannot be out of touch during the hour and a half components of this class, this class is not for you. Either take another section or do not attend. **If you use your phone or other devices contrary to policy, you will receive no credit for class participation** and for subsequent violations, I will seek to administratively remove you from the class.

Leaving class prior to dismissal is also rude and distracting. If you have a bladder problem or other medical or physical condition which prohibits you from staying in the classroom for 75-90 minutes at a time, see me to explain it. Otherwise, I will consider leaving prior to the end of class an absence for the entire class. Arriving late may sometimes be unavoidable due to traffic or other circumstances beyond your control. I will check roll at the beginning of class. If you come in afterwards, it is your responsibility to see me after class to explain, or, you will be considered absent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of BLAW 3430 are:

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 To improve oral and written communication skills.

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 **near the end of the semester** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

I HAVE RECEIVED, READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CLASS SYLLABUS FOR
BLAW 3430

I EXPRESSLY UNDERSTAND THAT:

- 1) VIOLATION OF CLASSROOM POLICIES BY USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES INCLUDING CELL PHONES IN UNAUTHORIZED WAYS WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT MY GRADE IN THIS CLASS. IN OTHER WORDS I WILL BE PENALIZED FOR TEXTING WITH MY PHONE IN MY LAP OR EMAILING FROM MY NOTEBOOK/LAPTOP WHILE I AM PRETENDING TO TAKE NOTES OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT._____
- 2) THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR “EXTRA CREDIT”. MY GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON THE INFORMATION IN THE SYLLABUS._____
- 3) UNLESS I GET APPROVAL IN ADVANCE, ALL MAKEUP EXAMS WHICH I MAY BE ALLOWED TO TAKE WILL BE ESSAY EXAMS._____
- 4) THREE OR MORE ABSENCES OR INSTANCES OF LEAVING CLASS PRIOR TO DISMISSAL WILL RESULT IN NO CREDIT FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION WHICH COUNTS FOR 5% OF MY GRADE._____
- 5) NO GRADES WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD LEARN OR ELSEWHERE PRIOR TO THE END OF THE SEMESTER UNLESS I INITIAL AT THE END OF EACH ONE OF THE 5 (FIVE) PARAGRAPHS HEREIN, SIGN AND DATE BELOW, AND RETURN THE INITIALED, SIGNED AND DATED FORM TO RUSSELL WELCH IN CLASS OR BLB 329H._____

PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

**FALL 2016
BLAW 3430-009(Thursday)
SCHEDULE**

<u>Date</u>		<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
September	1	Introduction to Class	None
	8	Introduction to Law	Chapter 1, 3
	15	Continued, ETHICS #1 DUE	
	22	Constitutional law	Chapter 4
	29	Administrative law, Criminal law	Chapter 5, 6
October	6	Exam I	Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
October	13	Introduction to Contracts, Mutual Assent,	Chapters 9, 10,
	20	Conduct Invalidating Assent, Consideration ETHICS #2 DUE	Chapter 11, 12
	27	Illegal Bargains, Contractual Capacity, Contracts in Writing	Chapter 13, 14, 15
November	3	Third Parties, Contract Remedies	Chapters 16, 18
	10	EXAM II	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18
	17	Torts	Chapter 7, 8
	24	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
December	1	Torts (Continued) OUTSIDE OBSERVATION DUE	
December	8	Strict Liability and Product Liability, Warranties ETHICS #3 DUE	Chapter 22
	15	Exam III	Chapters 7, 8, 22,

I EXPRESSLY RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SCHEDULE BY GIVING YOU
REASONABLE NOTICE