Course Number: BLAW 3310 W01/W02

Course Name: Legal Environment of Business

Instructor: Mara Schechter Butler
Office: OCNR 378  Phone: 361-825-2493 Emergency: 361-334-0695  
E-mail: mschechterbutler@tamucc.edu

Class Times: Online

Office Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE HOURS:</th>
<th>You may contact me via E-mail to set up an appointment.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>By appointment</td>
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Required Materials: Business Law Today, The Essentials; Cross & Miller; 9th ed., South-Western Cengage Learning, 2015. (The 2012 version will work, but you will have to check the chapter numbers, as they will be different, and the content will not be the same, particularly the newer cases are not included in the older edition.)

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the legal systems of government, business and society, including coverage of ethics, judicial process, basics of contracts law, constitutional issues, business torts and crimes, creditor/debtor relationships, business organizations, international law, environmental law, and various aspects of regulation of business.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSEWORK: This course provides an overview of American business law. Students will gain an understanding of the various legal and regulatory influences that affect businesses. The concepts will be useful as a basis for considering and applying information learned in later coursework. Please note that any content of this course is for educational purposes only and not to be taken as legal advice.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY: Instruction includes lecture, discussion, handouts, assignments, and videos. Emphasis will be placed on practical application of theories presented. Development of critical thinking skills is also important, and will be encouraged through class discussions. Recent cases, current events and student experiences will be used to demonstrate practicality and usefulness of course material.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the fundamental concepts and operations of the U.S. legal system and the four sources of law (constitutions, legislation, administrative agencies, and courts).
- Understand the basic principles and doctrines pertaining to key substantive topics in business law, including torts, criminal law, contracts, debtor/creditor relationships, negotiable instruments, business organizations, property, and the regulation of business.
- Recognize the role of law in relation to ethics, politics, and the social order.
- Use critical thinking skills to apply legal theories and doctrines to factual situations.
PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND GRADING:

**Grading:** Grades will be based on your average of four exams and a comprehensive final exam. The lowest grade on these five exams will be dropped. Discussion Forum participation may be taken into account and may raise a borderline grade to the next higher grade. As well, there may be class quizzes and the possibility of extra credit. Both are at the discretion of the professor. A letter grade will be determined based on the percentage earned as follows: A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: 0-59%. In some instances, a curve may be applied in determining letter grades.

**Exams:** Four regular exams, and a comprehensive Final Exam worth 100 points each, based on text, handouts, assignments, online videos and online discussions. The four regular exams will contain 40-50 multiple choice questions. Exams will be available for a window of time only—you will have from 6:00 p.m. the day of the exam until 11:45 p.m. the next day to access the exam. Once you have begun the exam, you will have 45 minutes in which to complete it. The Final Exam will contain 40-75 multiple choice questions with a possible essay. The exact number and type of questions will vary from class to class. The Final Exam will be given at 8:00 p.m. and will conclude at 9:15 p.m.

There will be a class quiz each week covering the material that was to be read for that week. You will find that weekly exams will contain fill in the blanks or short answer/essay questions to encourage writing and analytical skills. These exams will not be grade; however, students are required to take them, and I will receive the scores.

**Make-up Exams:** No make-up exams, except in extraordinary circumstances (defined by instructor)

Courses may require the use of exam-proctoring involving third party charges. Exam-proctoring charges may range from $1 - $50.00 per exam. Students may be required to schedule exams at least 24 hours in advance or incur late scheduling charges. All costs for exams are the responsibility of the student. Students may also be responsible for providing webcams to be used in test proctoring.

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION CONTENT:**
Law involves many difficult concepts, and class discussions will be a means of exploring problematic areas. Students are expected to be prepared to ask and answer questions. In addition, students are encouraged to share personal experiences and other issues that relate to class material in the Discussion Forum that is located in the Blue left column of your Blackboard screen.

**Discussion Forum (REQUIRED):** The Discussion Board is a place to interact with other online students in the class. It is for constructive comments and questions about course assignments or materials. The professor will be viewing your posts and/or posting discussion topics from time to time, so you must view that portion of the course once a week. There is the possibility that posts that are thoughtful and demonstrate particular insight will be assigned extra credit points. The instructions for Discussion Forum use are available when you click the “Forum Discussion” button located in the Blue box to the left of your screen.

**TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS:**
Students are encouraged to use electronic study aids provided by the text publisher, such as on-line quizzes and additional readings. E-mail is encouraged for communication. Substantively, the course covers technology topics, such as e-commerce, internet, and e-contract legal issues. However, recording lectures is not permitted.

**ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE:**
Ethics will be discussed continuously throughout the course, as ethics and law are closely intertwined. Cases, class discussion topics, and many of the legal issues paper assignments involve ethics. Exams will also include questions with ethical dimensions.

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:**
In addition to a chapter on International Law, the increasing globalization of business will be discussed in conjunction with various cases and discussion questions. As the focus is U.S. law, however, the global perspectives are peripheral to most of the substantive topics covered.

**DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE:**
Certain chapters cover discrimination and equal protection, and the text uses demographic diversity in
examples. However, demographic diversity is not a particular focus of this course.

**POLITICAL, SOCIAL, LEGAL, REGULATORY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES:**
The course is primarily focused on these issues. The political arena is central to the creation and operation of the legal system, from Constitutional provisions to local government ordinances. Laws emanate from social concerns, and these are discussed to explain the history and reasoning of legal concepts. The various sources of law and business regulation are covered extensively in each segment. Environmental issues receive attention through multiple chapter highlights, and a chapter on Environmental Law is included.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Attendance in class is expected, as it is important for many reasons. Class lectures and discussions are important for learning and integrating the material. For expected or planned absences involving an exam, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor and arrange to take the exam early or with another section of the class. In the event of an unexpected absence involving exams, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible after the absence. In extraordinary circumstances (as defined by the instructor) a student can make up the exam, as long as they do so before the next class session. Normally, a student must take the comprehensive final to substitute for the missed exam. **NOTE:** Rarely are absences deemed “excused”.

**DROPPING A CLASS:**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 11, 2016** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**MAJOR FIELD TEST:**
The Major Field Test (MFT) is required for all students pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration degree and will be administered in the MGMT 4388, Administrative Policy and Strategy course. To prepare for this test, business majors are advised to retain their class notes, textbooks and other relevant materials from this class and the other business core courses and to fine-tune their readiness for the MFT by completing the online MFT review available through the COB website at [www.cob.tamucc.edu](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a 0 on the assignment.

**STUDENT ETHICS CODE:**
This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (COB), requires all of its students to abide by the COB Student Code of Ethics (available online at [www.cob.tamucc.edu](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu)). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the COB.

**GRADE APPEALS:**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University RulesWeb site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**SUMMARY OF APPROXIMATE TOPICAL COVERAGE**: (1 hr. = one 50 min. class session)

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<td>Legal Syst.</td>
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<td>Intern’l Law</td>
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<td>Environ. Law</td>
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<td>Agency</td>
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<td>Ethics/Corporate Governance</td>
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<td>Employment Law</td>
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<td>Property</td>
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### READING ASSIGNMENTS

**Assigned Chapters must be READ**

NOTE: Each class includes an online QUIZ that will be administered and must be completed sometime between the assigned date and the MONDAY of the next week (11:45 p.m.—ALL times are Central Standard Time). *(These are tentative dates and will be modified in class as class progresses.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-30</td>
<td>Syllabus, Introduction, Chapters 1 -2</td>
<td>Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-5</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chapters 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-6</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Alternative and Online Dispute Resolution Business and the Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-13</td>
<td>Study for Exam I</td>
<td>Chapters 1-2, 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-20</td>
<td><strong>EXAM I</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>Chapters 1-2, 3 &amp; 5</strong> Torts, Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-26</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chap. 12 &amp; 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-27</td>
<td>Study for Exam II</td>
<td>Chapters 7, 12, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-4</td>
<td><strong>EXAM II</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>Chapters 7, 12, 13</strong> Formation of Traditional &amp; E-Contracts, including Consideration, Capacity and Legality</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-10</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Chapter 10, Scan Chapter 11</td>
<td>Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Scan Sales and Lease Contracts; <strong>UCC Assignment online</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10-18</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m. Study for Exam III</td>
<td>Chapter 10 &amp; UCC</td>
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<td>10-25</td>
<td><strong>EXAM III</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>Chapters 9-10 &amp; UCC</strong> Agency (Formation and Duties; Agency Liability to Third Parties an Termination); Employment Relationships; Employment Discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-31</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chap. 20-22</td>
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<td>11-1</td>
<td>Chapters 17-19</td>
<td>Small Business Organizations; Limited Liability Business Forms; Corporations</td>
</tr>
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<td>11-7</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chap. 17-19</td>
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<td>11-8</td>
<td>Study for EXAM IV*</td>
<td>Chapters 17-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-15</td>
<td><strong>EXAM IV</strong>*</td>
<td><strong>Chapters 17-22</strong> Business Ethics Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media &amp; Privacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-21</td>
<td>Online Quiz Due by 11:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Chapters 4, &amp; 14-15</td>
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<td>11-29</td>
<td>Unit Four Focus on Ethics-pp. 46 Sarbanes’-Oxely Act &amp; FINAL REVIEW</td>
<td>Sarbanes’-Oxely Act – see Final Review Hand-out on Black Board Professor to answer Discussion Forum Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-6</td>
<td>FINAL REVIEW</td>
<td>To Be Determined- Professor to answer Discussion Forum Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM**</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
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*EXAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A WINDOW OF TIME ONLY—YOU WILL HAVE FROM 6:00 P.M. THE DAY OF THE EXAM UNTIL 11:45 P.M. THE NEXT DAY TO ACCESS THE EXAM. ONCE YOU HAVE BEGUN THE EXAM, YOU WILL HAVE 45 MINUTES IN WHICH TO COMPLETE IT.*

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN AT 8:00 P.M. AND WILL CONCLUDE AT 9:15 P.M.**