BLAW 3310  Mara Schechter Butler, M.B.A, J.D.
Thurs. 7-9:30 p.m.
OCNR  TBA
Spring 2018
Office: OCNR 378
E-mail: mschechterbutler@tamucc.edu
Phone: 361-825-2493 (do not leave message)
Emergency: 361-334-0695

Office Hours:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>OFFICE HOURS:</th>
<th>You may contact me via E-mail to set up an appointment.</th>
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<td>By appointment; Thurs. 6-7 p.m.</td>
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Legal Environment of Business

Required Materials: The Legal Environment of Business: Cross & Miller; 9th ed., 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: There will be six graded exams, including a comprehensive final exam. The lowest grade on these six exams will be dropped; therefore, grades will be based on your average of the highest five exams. Discussion Forum participation may be taken into account and may raise a borderline grade to the next higher grade. As well, outstanding scholarship on the quizzes may raise a borderline grade to the next higher grade. Both types of credit 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: Five regular exams, and a comprehensive Final Exam worth 100 points each, based on text, handouts, assignments, online videos and online discussions. The five regular exams will contain 40-60 multiple choice questions. 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.

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

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. April 6, 2018 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

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.tamu.edu](http://www.cob.tamu.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.tamu.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamu.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s Office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMODATIONS:**
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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**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-18</td>
<td>Introduction, Directions&lt;br&gt;Chapters 1 -2&lt;br&gt;Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System; Marbury v. Madison Case Explanation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-25</td>
<td>Chapters 3 &amp; 5&lt;br&gt;Exam Review&lt;br&gt;Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System; Marbury v. Madison Case Explanation; Alternative and Online Dispute Resolution Business and the Constitution; U.S. Constitution</td>
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<td>2-1</td>
<td><strong>EXAM I</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chapters 1-2, 3 &amp; 5&lt;br&gt;Introduction, Directions&lt;br&gt;Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System; Marbury v. Madison Case Explanation</td>
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<td>Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>2-15</td>
<td>Chapters 7, 12, 13 (cont.)&lt;br&gt;Exam Review&lt;br&gt;Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>2-22</td>
<td><strong>EXAM II</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Exams Review&lt;br&gt;Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>3-1</td>
<td>Chapters 9 &amp; 10, Scan Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;Maybe switched w/online assignement&lt;br&gt;Formation of Traditional &amp; E-Contracts, including Consideration, Capacity and Legality; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; U.C.C.</td>
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<td>3-8</td>
<td>Online Assignment&lt;br&gt;Maybe switched to Chaps.9-11&lt;br&gt;Exam Review for Exam III&lt;br&gt;Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>3-15</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK&lt;br&gt;Chapters 7, 12, 13&lt;br&gt;Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
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<td>3-22</td>
<td><strong>EXAM III</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chapters 9-10 &amp; UCC&lt;br&gt;Formation of Traditional &amp; E-Contracts, including Consideration, Capacity and Legality; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; U.C.C.</td>
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<td>4-12</td>
<td><strong>EXAM IV</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chapters 9-10 &amp; UCC&lt;br&gt;Formation of Traditional &amp; E-Contracts, including Consideration, Capacity and Legality; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; U.C.C.</td>
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<td>4-19</td>
<td>Chapters 4, 14-15&lt;br&gt;Exam Review&lt;br&gt;Business Ethics; Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media &amp; Privacy; Sarbanes‘-Oxely Act PDF &amp; Textbook pp. A-53-A-66; Exxon Valdez Case</td>
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<td>4-26</td>
<td><strong>EXAM V</strong>&lt;br&gt;Final Review&lt;br&gt;Chapters 4, 14-15, Sarbane’s-Oxely Act, Exxon Valdez Case&lt;br&gt;Business Ethics; Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media &amp; Privacy; Sarbanes‘-Oxely Act PDF &amp; Textbook pp. A-53-A-66; Exxon Valdez Case</td>
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<td>5-3</td>
<td>NO CLASS - Reading Day&lt;br&gt;Chapters 9-10 &amp; UCC&lt;br&gt;Formation of Traditional &amp; E-Contracts, including Consideration, Capacity and Legality; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies, Sales and Lease Contracts; U.C.C.</td>
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<td>5-10</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cumulative, Weighted toward material in Chapters 4, 9, 10, 17-22&lt;br&gt;Business Ethics; Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media &amp; Privacy; Sarbanes‘-Oxely Act PDF &amp; Textbook pp. A-53-A-66; Exxon Valdez Case</td>
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**ASSIGNMENTS**

Assigned Chapters must be READ before each week’s class.<br>*(These are tentative dates and will be modified as class progresses.)*