Legal Environment of Business

THIS COURSE IS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
NO LEGAL ADVICE IS GIVEN.

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: I encourage you to make an appointment to talk to me about any materials about which you may have a particular interest or with which you may be having trouble. If you do not do well on the first exam (that is a “C” or below), you should make an appointment to see me. The appointment may be telephonic or by Skype. It is your obligation to do so. I am always willing to help, but I will not seek you out.

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. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ME AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER REGARDING YOUR AVERAGE OR ABOUT RAISING YOUR GRADE. Your average is calculated by deleting your lowest exam grade and averaging the rest of them. (Self-Assessment Quiz grades are NOT averaged in.) 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 self-assessment 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%;
**Exams:** Be sure that you have a quiet place with a hard-wired internet connection to take exams. Your internet connection must be strong and uninterrupted. YOU MAY NOT TAKE EXAMS ON YOUR TELEPHONE!! If there is a problem with your exam, please email me immediately. Time is an important factor in online classes, so if you wait to contact me, we may not be able to correct the problem.

Due to changes in Blackboard during Spring 2018, some of the Blackboard notifications and calendaring may work sporadically. DO NOT rely on Blackboard reminders to let you know when exams are available or due. You must calendar them yourself and set reminders. *As well, if an exam or assignment does not appear when it should, please call my emergency numbers, so that the problem may be fixed manually.*

There will be five regular exams, and a sixth, comprehensive Final Exam each worth 100 points.

All exams will be based on text, handouts, assignments, online videos and online discussions. The exact number and type of questions will vary from class to class. Generally, the five regular exams will contain 30-90 multiple choice questions, and the Final Exam will contain 40-75 multiple choice questions. The exact number and type of questions, again, will vary from class to class.

The Final Exam will be given on AUGUST 20 at 8:00 p.m. and will conclude at 9:15 p.m. Everyone will take the Final Exam on the same day and at the same time.

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.** For expected or planned absences involving an exam, you must contact the professor substantially in advance of the absence to discuss whether the exam may be taken at another time prior to the exam date. This accommodation is at the professor’s discretion. Extraordinary circumstances (defined by professor) *may* warrant a make-up exam, but that is in the professor’s discretion.

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.*

**Self-Assessment Quizzes:** There will be a Self-Assessment Quiz each week covering the material that was to be read for that week. *They are to be used to assess your strengths and weaknesses in order to prepare for the exams.* The Weekly Self-Assessment Quizzes contain true/false questions. Students are required to take the Self-Assessment Quizzes, and the professor will receive the scores. However, these Self-Assessment Quizzes will not be included in the final class grade. Self-Assessment Quizzes will be posted on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and will be due on the Monday of the next week by 11:00 p.m. *Please check Weekly Assignment Schedule on Blackboard for schedule and exceptions.*

**Exam Reviews:** Reviews will appear in your Weekly Assignments and in the Blue Box to the left of your screen. Be sure to use them to study for your exams. You will be able to access them up until two hours prior to the exam.

**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.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Attendance in this online class is a bit different than a face-to-face class. Your review and completion of weekly assignments is considered your attendance and is monitored by the professor. Completing your weekly assignments is vital to learning the material.

**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. The drop date for this semester may be July 23, 2018, and it may be the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term. CHECK ADD/DROP DATES for this semester as they may have changed or may not appear accurately here.

**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.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 Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.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 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Syst.</th>
<th>7.0</th>
<th>Sales/Consumer</th>
<th>4.5</th>
<th>Intern’l Law</th>
<th>1.0</th>
<th>Environ. Law</th>
<th>1.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Business Org.</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crim. Law</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Ethics/Corporate</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>Assignment Details</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7-2</td>
<td>Introduction, Directions, Start Here-blue box Read Chapters 1-3 &amp; 5 &amp; associated Powerpoints (“PP”)</td>
<td>Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System; Marbury v. Madison Case Explanation; Constitution Alternative and Online Dispute Resolution Business and the Constitution; U.S. Constitution The first Self-Assessment Quiz will be available today at 6:00 p.m. as July 4 is a holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available today at 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 7-6, by 11:30 p.m.*</td>
<td>Exam Review I - located in blue box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td><strong>EXAM I: Chapters 1-2, 3 &amp; 5</strong> Read Chapters 7, 12, 13 &amp; Associated PP’s</td>
<td>Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow Torts; Strict Liability &amp; Product Liability; Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault &amp; Battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available Wednesday, 7-11@ 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 7-13, by 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exam Review II - located in blue box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-16</td>
<td><strong>EXAM II: Chapters 7, 12, 13</strong> Read Chapters 9-10 &amp; Associated PP’s Scan Chapter 11</td>
<td>Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow Formulation 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available Wednesday, 7-18@ 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 7-20, by 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exam Review III - located in blue box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-23</td>
<td><strong>EXAM III: Chapters 9-10 &amp; UCC</strong> Read Chapters 20-22 &amp; Associated PP’s</td>
<td>Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow Agency (Formation and Duties; Agency Liability to Third Parties and Termination); Employment Relationships; Employment Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available Wednesday, 7-25@ 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 7-27, by 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exam IV will be a longer exam covering a larger amount of material. Begin studying now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-30</td>
<td>Read Chapters 17-19 &amp; Associated PP’s</td>
<td>Exam IV is a longer exam covering a larger amount of material. Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow Small Business Organizations; Limited Liability Business Forms; Corporations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available Wednesday, 8-1 @ 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 8-3, by 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exam Review IV- located in blue box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-6</td>
<td><strong>EXAM IV: Chapters 17-22</strong> Read Chapters 4, 14-15 &amp; Associated PP’s</td>
<td>Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow Business Ethics; Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media &amp; Privacy Sarbane’s-Oxely Act PDF &amp; Textbook pp. A-53-A-66; Exxon Valdez Case Sarbane’s-Oxely Act, Exxon Valdez Case located in blue box and weekly assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self-Assessment Quiz Available Wednesday, 8-8 @ 6:00 p.m. &amp; Due Friday, 8-10, by 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Exam Review V- located in blue box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-13</td>
<td><strong>EXAM V: Chapters 4, 14-15</strong> Begin FINAL EXAM REVIEW for Final Exam scheduled on August 20</td>
<td>Exam available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow All Exams Reviews will be available again and found in the Blue Box.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SELF-ASSESSMENT QUIZZES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 P.M. UNTIL FRIDAY AT 11:30 P.M.**

**EXAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A WINDOW OF TIME ONLY—FROM 6:00 P.M. THE DAY OF THE EXAM UNTIL 11:30 P.M. THE NEXT DAY. ONCE YOU HAVE BEGUN THE EXAM, YOU WILL HAVE THE INDICATED TIME IN WHICH TO COMPLETE IT. After the indicated time allotment, the Exam will automatically submit.**

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