Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
College of Business
Course Syllabus – Summer II 2020 Online

BLAW 3310        Mara Schechter Butler, M.B.A, J.D.
Weekly                Office:     OCNR 378
Online              E-mail: mschechterbutler@tamucc.edu
Summer II 2020       Phone:     361- 825-2493 (do not leave message)
Final Exam: August 12, 2020 8:00 p.m.

Office Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICE HOURS</th>
<th>You may contact me via E-mail to set up an appointment: <a href="mailto:mschechterbutler@tamucc.edu">mschechterbutler@tamucc.edu</a>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By appointment</td>
<td>Please do not contact me by blackboard email.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Environment of Business

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


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, five during the course of class and one comprehensive final exam. Each is worth 100 points. The lowest grade of these six exams will be dropped; therefore, grades will be based on the average of your highest five exams. You may take your exam grades and average them to get your up-to-date average.

At the discretion of the professor, outstanding scholarship in class, attendance at office hours, and class participation may raise a borderline grade to the next higher grade. DO NOT EXPECT A RAISE IN A BORDERLINE GRADE WITHOUT READING OR LISTENING TO THE ONLINE MATERIALS AND WITHOUT TAKING THE SELF-ASSESSMENT QUIZZES. 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:** 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.

All exams will be based on the textbook chapters, assignments, online videos and any online discussions. The exact number and type of questions will vary from class to class. Generally, the five regular exams will contain 25-75 multiple choice questions, and the Final Exam will contain 20-50 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 12 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.**

**CAVEAT:** 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 exams yourself and set reminders. **As well, if an exam or assignment does not appear when it should, please call my emergency number, so that the problem may be fixed manually.**

**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 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 directly in the final class grade.

**Exam Reviews:** Reviews will appear in your Weekly Assignments. 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.**

No Make-up Exams: This class is designed with built-in flexibility, so there are no make-up exams, except in extraordinary circumstances (defined by professor).

**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** 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.

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 text proctoring.**

**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:
In this online class, so attendance is a bit different from a traditional face-to-face class. Your completion of weekly assignments, including viewing and listening to materials, and self-assessment quizzes is considered your attendance and is monitored by the professor. As well, 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. April 10, 2020 is probably the last day to drop a class. You are required to check this date yourself.

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 RulesWeb 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 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.
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.

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/UCC</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></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crim. Law</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Ethics/Corporate Governance</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>Employment Law</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Assignments

**BlackBoard contains the complete weekly assignments.**

All times are Central Standard Time. *(These are tentative dates and will be modified, if necessary, as class progresses.)*

Assigned Chapters, including Powerpoints, must be READ weekly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 6-29 | **WEBEX CLASS CALL TUESDAY, June 30**  
Introduction, Directions  
Read Chapters 1 & 3 & Associated Powerpoints  
**JOIN WEBEX MEETING**  
https://tamucc.webex.com/join/mschechterbutler  
807 307 838  
Start Here in side AU Box (Black Box to the left)  
Law and Legal Reasoning; The Court System;  
*Marbury v. Madison* Case Explanation; U.S. Constitution  
The first Self-Assessment Quiz will be available today at 6:00 p.m. |
| 6-29 | Read Chapters 2 & 4 & Associated Powerpoints  
Self-Assessment Quizzes Available today at 6:00 p.m. &  
Due Friday by 11:30 p.m.  
Exam I Reviews  
Alternative and Online Dispute Resolution  
Business and the Constitution; U.S. Constitution |
| 7-6 | **EXAM I- Chapters 1-4**  
Continue with Chapters 10 & Associated Powerpoints  
Exam I Review  
Criminal Law and Cyber Crimes; Difference between Assault & Battery |
| 7-6 | Read Chapters 6 & 7 & Associated Powerpoints  
Self-Assessment Quizzes Available today at 6:00 p.m. &  
Due Friday, 2-14, by 11:30 p.m.  
Exam II Review  
Torts; Strict Liability & Product Liability |
| 7-13 | **EXAM II- Chapters 6, 7, 10**  
Continue with Chapters 12-13 & Associated Powerpoints  
Scan Chapter 14  
U.C.C. Notes  
60 minute exam - available at 6:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. tomorrow  
Formation of Traditional & E-Contracts, including Consideration,  
Capacity and Legality; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies,  
Sales and Lease Contracts; Contract Performance, Breach and Remedies,  
and Lease Contracts; U.C.C.  
When studying pay particular attention to Chapters 12-13 & UCC Notes |
| 7-20 | **EXAM III- Chapters 12-13 & UCC**  
Continue with Chapter 19, 20-21 & Associated Powerpoints  
*Exam IV will be a longer exam covering Chapters 17-22.*  
60 minute 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  
Small Business Organizations; Limited Liability Business Forms; Corporations |
| 7-20 | Read Chapters 16-18 & Associated Powerpoints  
Self-Assessment Quiz Available today at 6:00 p.m. &  
Due Friday, 3-20, by 11:30 p.m.  
Exam IV Review  
*Exam IV will be a longer exam covering Chapters 16-21.* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7-27  | **EXAM IV - Chapters 16-21**                                         | Continue with Chapter 5, 8-9 & Associated Powerpoints  
Read additional materials                                                                                                             |
|       | **Self-Assessment Quiz for Chapters 5, 8-9**                         | Available today at 6:00 p.m. & Due Friday by 11:30 p.m.                                                                                     |
|       | **Exam V Reviews**                                                   | Business Ethics; Intellectual Property Rights; Internet Law, Social Media & Privacy                                                      |
| 8-3   | **EXAM V - Chapters 5, 8-9**                                         | Business Ethics; Sarbanes-Oxley Act PDF & Textbook pp. A-53-A-66; Exxon Valdez Case - located in Blue Box |
| 8-10  | **WEBEX CLASS CALL TUESDAY**                                         | **JOIN WEBEX MEETING**  
https://tamucc.webex.com/join/mschechterbutler 807 307 838                                                                 |
| 8-12  | **EXAM VI is the FINAL EXAM***                                       | **TIME 8:00 p.m.—9:15 p.m.**  
75 minute exam to be take at 8:00 p.m.  
Cumulative, Weighted toward material in Chapters 5, 8, 9, 13, 16-21                                                                 |

*SELF-ASSESSMENT QUIZZES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 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. THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL TAKE THE FINAL EXAM ON THE SAME DATE AT THE SAME TIME.