BUSI 3312-72 Course Syllabus
Business Law Fall 2013
Professor: Robin R. Patterson

Class Days/Times/Location or Other Format: Online
Office Location: Classroom Center 213N
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1 pm – 4 pm and Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 am – 11 am
Office Phone: (806) 651-2497 or (806) 517-0820
Email: rpatterson@wtamu.edu
Social Media: Keep up with the latest happenings of your COB on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wtamucob and Twitter, #WTAMUCOB
Other: Prerequisite – Junior Standing

Terms of Use
A student's continued enrollment in this course signifies acknowledgment of and agreement with the statements, disclaimers, policies, and procedures outlined within this syllabus and elsewhere in the WTClass environment. This Syllabus is a dynamic document. Elements of the course structure (e.g., dates and topics covered, but not policies) may be changed at the discretion of the professor.

WTAMU College of Business Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.

Learning Objectives of the WTAMU College of Business Programs

The College of Business (COB) at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) seeks to prepare students in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Professional Accounting (MPA), and the Master of Science, Finance and Economics (MSFE) degree programs for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement via key learning goals and objectives.

The learning objectives of the College of Business are as follows:

- Leadership
• Communication
• Critical Thinking
• Business Integration
• Core Business Knowledge
• Global Business Environment
• Business Ethics and Corporate Governance

Course Description

The course is designed to introduce students to the legal and regulatory environment affecting business with special emphasis on the development of identifying, analyzing and solving problems.

Course Objectives

1. To recognize and analyze ethical and legal issues relating to business and to understand that law is the foundation of business; {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Business Ethics and Corporate Governance}
2. To demonstrate knowledge of the dispute resolution process and the court system; {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Core Business Knowledge}
3. To demonstrate knowledge of the principles and concepts of various laws that affect business including contracts, torts, property law; and business organizations {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Core Business Knowledge}

Course Materials (Text, calculator, etc.)

The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 15th Edition

O. Lee Reed, Peter J. Shedd, Jere W. Morehead, and Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

McGraw-Hill Irwin

ISBN: 978-0-07-337766-7

Student textbook companion website: www mhhe com reed15e

The textbook is required.

Map from COB Learning Objectives to Specific Course Objectives

See Course Objectives

Course Grading Policies

COMPOSITION OF THE GRADE:
Test #1    15%
Test #2    15%
Test #3    15%
Chapter Assignments 30%
Comprehensive Final 25%
TOTAL 100%

GRADE SCALE:
A = 90 and above
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 59

**Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies**

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. Chapter 1, Law as the Foundation of Business
2. Chapter 2, Ethical Basis of Law and Business Management
3. Chapter 3, The Court Systems
4. Chapter 4, Litigation
5. Exam #1
6. Chapter 5, Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems
7. Chapter 6, The Constitution and Regulation of Business
8. Chapter 7, The Property-Based Legal System
9. Chapter 8, Introduction to Contracts
10. Exam #2
11. Chapter 9, Contractual Issues
12. Chapter 10, Torts in the Business Environment
13. Chapter 11, Intellectual Property in the Property System
14. Chapter 12, Criminal Law and Business
15. Exam #3
16. Chapter 14, Formation and Operation of Business Organizations

17. Chapter 15, Sarbanes-Oxley and Securities Regulation

18. Chapter 16, Antitrust Laws, Regulating Competition

19. Chapter 19, Agency and Employment Laws

20. Exam #4 (Comprehensive Final)

The reading assignments may be adjusted due to time constraints. Students are responsible for material assigned.

EXAMS:

1. There will be 4 exams including the final.

2. Each of the first three exams is worth 15% of your grade.

3. The final exam is comprehensive and worth 25% of your grade.

4. All exams must be taken.

5. No make-up exams will be permitted except in emergency situations, and the instructor must be notified as soon as possible. In the event a make-up exam is allowed, it should be taken as promptly as possible.

6. Exam questions may come from the book, lecture notes, cases and other assigned material. The first three exams will each consist of 50 randomly selected questions from a test bank and you will have 65 minutes to complete the exam. The final exam is comprehensive with 100 questions and you will have two hours (120 minutes) to complete the exam. **The final exam will consist of 50 randomly selected questions covering chapters 14-16, and 19 and 50 Assessment Questions covering chapters 1-5, 7-10 and 14.**

7. You need to know the material as you will not have time to look up the answers. It is suggested that you not take the exams on a computer with a dial-up connection as past experience indicates there could be technical problems. Technical problems should be directed to the WTAMU “HELP” Desk, 806-651-4357.

8. Answer all the questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer.

9. Assignment Due Date and Exam Time and Dates are provided in the Course Schedule in WTClass.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

1. There is an assignment for each chapter that is to be submitted timely to the instructor. Assignments may be turned in early but must be done by the due date for credit. Due dates are assigned to each chapter and no assignments will be accepted past the due date unless previously arranged with the instructor (See
You may turn in assignments prior to the due dates and are encouraged to do so.
Assignments not turned in by the due dates will receive a zero for the grade. The assignments consist of
answering selected chapter review questions. Each chapter assignment will be graded on a 100 point
basis. The chapter assignments count as 30% of your total grade. The average grade of all the chapter
assignments will be used to calculate the 30% portion for the chapter assignments. Grades for chapter
assignments will be posted as soon as possible. In the event of an emergency, you may send course work
to me by fax at 806-651-2488. I need to be notified timely. You may contact me at 806-517-0820 if you
cannot reach me any other way and it is an emergency.

2. The instructor has assigned Chapter Discussion Questions and may assign additional reading
assignments. Your posts will not be graded, but will be treated as class participation. Each student is
expected to make at least 1 quality post to each Discussion Question for class participation purposes. You
may also respond to other students’ posts, but you must submit your own timely response to the
Discussion Question to receive credit. Responses must be submitted by the due dates/times. Be respectful
with your posts and responses. (See Participation).

3. There are cases in the textbook that are important to your understanding of the material. You should
read and understand the cases as questions about the cases may be on the exams. Below is a case brief
format for your use in reading the cases. There is a “Case Brief Help File” under “Lessons” in this course.

4. No extra credit is available and there are no incompletes for this course.

5. YOU ARE TO DO YOUR OWN WORK. YOU MUST PREPARE YOUR OWN
ASSIGNMENTS AND TAKE YOUR OWN EXAMS WITHOUT HELP FROM OUTSIDE
SOURCES! THERE IS NO TEAM OR GROUP WORK IN THIS COURSE.

Course Topics - Tentative Calendar of Readings, Topics, and Due Dates

See the Course Schedule for Due Dates.

CASE BRIEFS:

The following is a good method of understanding the cases you will be required to read in the textbook.
After reading the case, answer the following:

1. Who are the plaintiff and the defendant?
2. Facts of the Case (who did what to whom)?
3. Who won in the lower court (District court) and which party is appealing?
4. What are the legal issues appealed?
5. Who wins on appeal and why?
6. What rules of law and reasoning does the court use?
7. Are there concurring opinions or a dissenting opinion and what is the basis of each?
8. Appendix 1 in the textbook also provides information for briefing a case.
9. Chapters 3 and 4 in the textbook should be reviewed for terminology, the litigation process and the
appeals process.
10. The case citations are given and you can access the complete case through LexisNexis Academic
through the Cornette Library on the WT website. Ms. Carolyn Ottoson is your contact at the Cornette
Library (806-651-2004).
11. NOTE: Case briefs are not to be submitted to me unless requested. Case briefs are to assist you in understanding the case and they are not graded.

12. There is a Course Guide for Business Law, BUSI 3312, which can be accessed through the Cornette Library website that provides information about legal research.

Additional Course Policies

YOU ARE TO DO YOUR OWN WORK. YOU MUST PREPARE YOUR OWN ASSIGNMENTS AND TAKE YOUR OWN EXAMS WITHOUT HELP FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES! THERE IS NO TEAM OR GROUP WORK IN THIS COURSE.

PARTICIPATION:

Responding to Discussion Questions or additional assignments requiring student responses is considered to be part of class participation. Students must make at least one quality response to each Discussion Question to be eligible for any grade adjustment.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust individual grades in borderline situations based on participation. A borderline situation is when a student has a 59, 69, 79 or 89 final average.

LEGAL ADVICE:

No aspect of this course is intended as legal advice. This course, including the text, handouts, lectures and instructor information and responses is intended for academic purposes only. Students with legal issues should seek legal advice from an attorney engaged in the private practice of law.

SAFEGUARDS:

Back up every piece of work you do on disk, and make a hard copy. If you experience computer difficulties, you are responsible for solving your own technical problems. Heavy Internet usage occurs during the evening hours of 8-10 PM. You might want to consider logging on at other times if possible.

DEADLINES:

Odd things happen in cyberspace: emails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, logins are impossible, etc. Do not wait for the last moments to complete your assignments. Allow time to meet deadlines. Reply and check for replies on every email sent and received. Be sure to check the message centers each time you logon, for important messages.

NETIQUETTE:

Netiquette is basically using good manners in cyberspace. Since most of the communication over the net is by way of text, be sure your written words are not offensive to the receiver. Remember email is a document, and can be read by others than the intended audience. Flaming, or making personal attacks on a person, is also unacceptable. Whether you are in a chat room, writing an email or posting to a discussion area, remember to use proper etiquette in consideration of others. If you would like to read more on the subject of netiquette, use the link below:
WTAMU COB Student Code of Ethics

Each student enrolled in COB courses accepts personal responsibility to uphold and defend academic integrity and to promote an atmosphere in which all individuals may flourish. The COB Student Code of Ethics strives to set a standard of honest behavior that reflects well on students, the COB and West Texas A&M University. All students enrolled in business courses are expected to follow the explicit behaviors detailed in the Student Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics

- Do not use notes, texts, solution manuals, or other aids for a quiz or exam without instructor authorization.
- Do not copy the work of others and/or allow others to view your answers or copy your work during a quiz, exam, or on homework assignments.
- Do not allow other parties to assist in the completion of your quiz, exam, homework, paper, or project when not permitted.
- Do not work with other students on projects or assignments without authorization from the course instructor.
- Properly cite and specifically credit the source of text, graphic, and web materials in papers, projects, or other assignments.
- Do not forge the signature of an instructor, advisor, dean, or another student.
- Provide truthful information for class absences when asking faculty for excused absences or for a make-up for a quiz, exam, or homework.
- Provide truthful information on your resume including work history, academic performance, leadership activities, and membership in student organizations.
- Respect the property, personal rights, and learning environment of all members of the academic community.
- Live up to the highest ethical standards in all academic and professional endeavors.

Students violating the Student Code of Ethics will be reported to the Dean’s office and are subject to penalties described in the West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life, which may include suspension from the University. In addition, a violator of the Student Code of Ethics may become ineligible for participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB and for recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

COB Student Resources Link

The COB has developed a Student Resources repository (e.g., APA writing style information, business core reviews, facilities, and other helpful supplements), which can be found on the COB Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-business-facilities-and-resources.aspx. Additionally, WTAMU has developed an Academic Study Skills information site to assist students (e.g., study habits, supplemental instruction, tutoring, writing and math skills), which can be found on the WTAMU Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/academic-study-skills.aspx. For WTAMU Writing Center information (for students needing writing assistance, guidance, and feedback), please visit: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/writing-center.aspx.
COB Writing Component

Students earning a BBA degree must complete at least one course with a writing component outside of their major as part of the business core requirements. The COB writing component is a requirement in the following courses: BUSI 1304 (Business Communication), CIDM 3320 (Digital Collaboration and Communication), MGT 3335 (Organizational Behavior), FIN 3350 (Personal Financial Planning), FIN 4320 (Investments), FIN 4321 (Portfolio Theory), ECON 4342 (Economic Development), and BUSI 4380 (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation). Students in a writing component course are explicitly required to demonstrate knowledge of communication skills. Specific objectives may include but are not limited to the following concepts put forth by the National Business Education Association: (1) ability to organize a written and an oral message coherently and effectively, (2) ability to use technology for communication, (3) ability to research a topic, prepare a report, and present the findings to all organizational levels, and (4) ability to demonstrate critical-thinking skills. Specific course requirements and the role of the writing component with respect to student grading policy are at the discretion of the course instructor of record.

Student Travel Opportunities

In multiple business courses, there may be opportunities for student travel supplemented by student fees. If you have an interest in such opportunities as they become available, please notify a faculty member.

Dropping/Repeating the Course

Should a student decide to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the final drop dates and adhere to the WTAMU Add/Drop policy. Any student participating in the course after the WTAMU posted drop date will be considered active and a grade will be administered at the end of the course for that student. Students are charged a fee for any course attempted for a third or subsequent time at WTAMU other than a non-degree credit developmental course or exempted courses.

Scholastic Dishonesty

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper or project prepared by another student as your own. You are responsible for being familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Code, as well as the COB Student Code of Ethics listed in this document.

Viewpoints/External Websites Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document, web-based course materials, and/or classroom presentations and discussions are those of the professor and do not necessarily represent the views of West Texas A&M University, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the
person making such statements. It is understood and expected that each individual within this course will respect and allow individual difference of opinion.

Neither the professor, the COB, nor WTAMU are responsible for the content of external websites discussed in the classroom and/or linked to via online course materials, emails, message boards, or other means. Referred websites are for illustrative purposes only, and are neither warranted nor endorsed by the professor, COB, or WTAMU. Web pages change frequently, as does domain name ownership. While every effort is made to ensure proper referencing, it is possible that students may on occasion find materials to be objectionable for reasons beyond our control.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University’s Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Technology Requirements

All technological requirements for the successful completion of this course are the responsibility of the student, including access to a working computer and or to a device with secure broadband Internet connection, data storage and retrieval, and state-of-the-art security. The student is responsible for all technological problems not related to WTAMU, including but not limited to equipment failures, power outages, and Internet breakdowns. Furthermore, students are responsible for all necessary technical and operational skills for completing this course, and for being familiar with WTC (the Angel Learning System) both in a general sense and in a specific sense as pertaining to this course and any materials stored within. The professor is not responsible for any technical matters related to WTC. Students must contact WTC if they have problems accessing and/or using the WTC environment.

Physical or Educational Access - ADA Statement

West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; www.wtamu.edu/disability; phone 806-651-2335.

Evacuation Statement

If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary: evacuate immediately do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester. to request additional information, please contact the Vice President for Student Affairs.
Copyright

All original content in this document, all web-based course materials (be they text, audio, and/or video), and/or classroom presentations are subject to copyright provisions. No distribution without the express written consent of the author. Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this course to or by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor.

* Syllabus template approved by COB Curriculum Committee May 2013. Annual review of the syllabus is a formal part of the COB continuous improvement process.