Course Syllabus – Spring 2013

Course Number/Section/Name: BUSI 3312-01, Business Law

Prerequisites (if any): Junior Standing

Professor: Gary Rider, J.D.

Class Days/Times/Location or Other Format: Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Room 1102 at the Amarillo Center.

Office Location: CC 213J

Office Hours: Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. CT to 2:30 p.m. CT and Thursday 10:00 a.m. CT to 2:00 p.m. CT and Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. CT to 6:30 p.m. CT at the Amarillo Center (Office # 714) or by appointment. The best way to contact me is by course mail.

Office Phone: 806-651-2549
E-Mail: grider@wtamu.edu (please use course mail to communicate with me.)

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
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 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 web-site: www.mhhe.com/reed15e

The student is responsible for obtaining any necessary books, software or hardware for the class.

The textbook is required.

Learning Goals of the BBA Program

The College of Business at West Texas A&M University seeks to prepare students in the BBA degree program for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement.
via the key learning goals. Each learning goal is accompanied by an operational definition for the goal.

- **Goal 1: Communication**: Graduates of the BBA program will be effective communicators.

- **Goal 2: Critical Thinking**: Graduates of the BBA program will be critical thinkers.

- **Goal 3: Business Environment**: Graduates of the BBA program will be knowledgeable of ethical, global, and social environmental factors and how they relate to business decisions.

- **Goal 4: Functional Business Analyses and Applications**: Graduates of the BBA program will be knowledgeable in the functional areas of business and their integration.

**Course Objectives**

The student upon completion of the course should be able to:

Recognize and analyze ethical and legal issues relating to business and that law is the foundation of business. (Maps to BBA Learning Goals 2 and 3)

Demonstrate knowledge of the dispute resolution process and the court system. (Maps to BBA Learning Goal 4)

Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and concepts of various laws that affect business, including contracts, torts, property law, and business organizations (Maps to BBA Learning Goal 4)

**Map from COB Learning Goals to Objectives for this course**

See Course Objectives above.

**Course Grading Policies**

**COMPOSITION OF THE GRADE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3 (comprehensive)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Case Brief 15%

TOTAL 100%

GRADE SCALE:

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

Course Assignments and Examinations

READING 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. Chapter 5, Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems
6. Exam #1
7. Chapter 7, The Property-Based Legal System
8. Chapter 8, Introduction to Contracts
9. Chapter 9, Contractual Issues
10. Chapter 10, Torts in the Business Environment
11. Chapter 14, Formation and Operation of Business Organizations
12. Exam #2
13. Optional chapters to cover after Exam #2: Chapters 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19.
14. Exam #3 (Comprehensive Final) – Includes chapters covered in Exam #1 and Exam #2 (Assessment Questions) in addition to any chapters covered after Exam #2. The final exam may be in multiple parts to distinguish the assessment questions from the other exam questions.

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

This course is on WTClass and there will be information for each chapter, including PowerPoint presentations. Also, grades will be posted in the course in WTClass.
TESTS:

1. There will be 3 exams including the final.
2. Each of the first two exams is worth 25% of your grade.
3. The final exam is comprehensive and worth 35% of your grade.
4. All exams must be taken.
5. No make-up exams or early 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 must be taken as promptly as possible.
6. Test questions may come from the book, lecture notes, cases and other assigned material. The exams will each consist of multiple choice questions. (The instructor reserves the right to use other evaluation methods.) The first two exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and the final will tentatively consist of 50 to 100 multiple choice questions.
7. The exams will be given during class period. Dates and times of the exams will be given in class.
8. Answer all the questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer.

No extra credit is available and there are no incompletes for the class.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Each student (or group of students) will be assigned at least one case from the textbook to present a written case brief. Depending on the number of students in class, the case assignments may be altered to accommodate time constraints.

Cases will be assigned as soon as possible after the start of the semester. All case briefs are due on or before Tuesday, April 2, 2013 by 9:15 p.m. CT.

The format for briefing cases is given in this syllabus and will be discussed in class.

The case presentation counts as 15% of your total grade.

Student(s) must present their written case on or before the due date. In the case brief, student(s) must also answer the questions that appear at the end of the assigned case. You must address all the points in the grading rubric in the case brief. The student(s) will receive a grade no higher than a 70 for the assignment if it is not given timely, unless the student(s) has made previous arrangements with the instructor. The written brief can be based on the case brief template provided. In the event multiple students are assigned a case to prepare as a team, all members of the team must prepare and work on the written case. A grade will be given to the team for their written presentation.
If a student who is a member of a team does not participate in the written case brief, he will receive a zero. The instructor will rely on the other students on the team regarding their partner’s participation. If any other situations arise, they will be dealt with accordingly.

The full text of the case and other information regarding your assigned case may be found on the LexisNexis Academic or Westlaw web sites. These are available in the Cornette Library or may be accessed through the WTAMU web site under library resources. They are subscription web sites and cannot be accessed otherwise. The research librarians will be able to help you with use of the sites. The extra research may prove helpful in understanding the case, bringing it up to date and answering the questions, essays, etc.

There is a Case Brief Materials Folder which can be accessed online. The folder provides a Library References Help File, Case Brief Template and an example of a Grading Rubric.

Case Briefs:

The following is a good method of understanding the cases you will be required to read and present. 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 and which party is appealing? (See Prior history)
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 a concurring opinion or a dissenting opinion and what is the basis of each?
8. Update the case and summarize it. (See Subsequent History, if any.)
9. The written presentation should be detailed and explain why the case is important. The questions at the end of each case should also be answered in the case brief. Address all the points in the grading rubric.
10. Appendix 1 in the textbook provides information for briefing a case.
11. Chapters 3 and 4 should be reviewed for terminology, the litigation process, and the appeals process.
12. There is a Course Guide for Business Law, BUSI 3312 which can be accessed through the Cornette Library website.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

PARTICIPATION:

Exhibiting proper class behavior, participating in class discussion and attending class are considered to be part of class participation. (See “Attendance” and “Class Behavior”)

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ATTENDANCE:

There is a strong relationship between attendance and grade. It is the student’s responsibility to attend class. Once class starts, please do not leave class except in an emergency situation. Leaving early or arriving late is disruptive to the class.

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

Students can miss no more than two classes to be considered for any grade adjustments.

CLASS BEHAVIOR:

The instructor expects the students to be on time for class and remain in class for the time period designated for the class. Each student is expected to be respectful to the instructor and other students in the class. Also, students are expected to participate in class activities and not be a disruptive influence in class. Late attendance, disrespectful or disruptive behavior may affect a student’s grade negatively by as much as a letter grade. A student may be asked to leave class and the student will not be allowed to attend future classes without the instructor’s consent.

Recording lectures or using laptop computers in class is forbidden unless there are extenuating circumstances. The student must discuss the situation and receive permission from the instructor.

Cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices must be turned off during the class period. Texting, using a cell phone or other electronic devices in class will be considered disruptive behavior and the student may be asked to leave class.

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.

Copyright

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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

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 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.

Repeating Course Work

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.

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: 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 ECON 4370 (Economics of Biotechnology and Healthcare). 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.

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 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 the following:

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• Participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB.
• Recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

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 with broadband internet connection 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 WTClass (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 WTClass. Students must contact WTClass if they have problems accessing and/or using Angel.

Viewpoints 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.

External Websites Disclaimer

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.

Physical or Educational Access

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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.

Chemical and Equipment Safety Statement

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are provided for all chemicals used in this class. MSDSs provide information about physical properties, health risks, fire explosion data, and other important information associated with these chemicals. Before handling or using a chemical, you should refer to the MSDS for that chemical. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in writing of any health conditions that may prevent you from safely using a chemical (pregnancy, auto immune deficiency, etc.). It is also the responsibility of the student to report any spill or problems found while storing or using a chemical. If you are unsure about a chemical, always ask. If you see any unsafe condition, notify your instructor immediately. If you are unsure about the proper and safe operation of any piece of equipment, ask your instructor for proper instruction. All injuries, spill of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately.

The Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus if circumstances warrant.

*Syllabus template approved by COB Curriculum Committee 5-1-2012. Annual review of the syllabus is a formal part of the COB continuous improvement process.*

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