

**Texas A & M University - Commerce**  
**College of Business and Entrepreneurship**  
**Department of Accounting**  
**Accounting 568**  
***Business Law for Accountants***  
**UCD**  
**Spring 2016**

**Professor:** Jennifer Smith, CPA, JD, CFE, CFF

**Office:** BA 119 (in the first floor accounting department suite); UCD

**Email:** [Jennifer.Smith@tamuc.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Smith@tamuc.edu)

**Office Hours:** UCD, Mondays and Thursdays 4-6 p.m. and by appointment; Commerce office TBD

***Course Description***

This course

- Business Law for Accountants is the study of professional and legal responsibilities and legal implications of business transactions. The course requires application of this knowledge to common business situations and transactions.
- This course provides knowledge of the general business environment and general business concepts needed to understand the underlying legal reasons applicable to particular situations and transactions.
- Although the focus of the course is on domestic United States law, the course covers international business law topics as appropriate.
- Professional responsibility and ethics issues are considered throughout the course.

***Course Embedded Assessment Objectives***

Your achievement level for each objective will be measured by your ability to perform the following tasks:

- Rights and liabilities of parties to common business transactions, including improving skills in recognizing and managing legal and ethical risks in business decision-making.
- Enhanced understanding of legal processes for using such processes more efficiently in making business decisions;
- Rights and liabilities of stockholders and managers of corporations;
- Government regulations protecting public interests in corporations and markets;
- Other topics as deemed appropriate.

***Textbooks and Materials***

**Required Textbook:**

Mallor, Jane, et al. (2016). *Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment (16<sup>th</sup> ed.)* New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education. (ISBN 978-1-07-773371-1).

You may make your own decision about which edition of the textbook to use. If you select an edition other than the 16<sup>th</sup>, you are responsible for finding out the changes and differences.

You do not need to purchase online access to this course.

**Suggested Resources:** Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

The Khan Academy at <http://www.khanacademy.org>

**Access to Internet, eCollege and the TAMUC Library's database:** Connectivity, hardware and software are your responsibility. Completing the Student Tutorial in eCollege is highly recommended.

### ***Student Responsibilities***

Learning is every student's responsibility. My role as your professor is to facilitate your learning process. Each student is required to:

- Read assigned material on schedule.
- Review other published material each week.
- Attend and participate in class sessions.
- Complete assignments within the posted time frames.
- Participate in the class.
- Prepare diligently for weekly assignments.
- Respect the learning environment by being prepared and observing classroom etiquette.

### ***Graduate level expectations***

- Writing – Graduate students should be able to demonstrate critical thinking skills. Graduate- level writing must demonstrate an ability to evaluate arguments from various perspectives, be able to formulate well-articulated conclusions based on facts and deductive reasoning, and be able to provide a well-reasoned discussion that reflects comprehension beyond an undergraduate level.
- Responsibility – Graduate students should demonstrate self-motivation, organization, time management skills, and discipline. It is your responsibility to know when assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. are due. Due dates are communicated on the syllabus. If changes are made, the changes are provided via email. I will NOT provide daily or weekly reminders for you. You are responsible for submitting the appropriate files on time and in the required format.
- Learning – Graduate studies are designed for more discipline-specific focused learning. I assume you want to learn. My goal is not to solely teach you information that is covered on my exam, but to teach you accounting concepts and the application of accounting concepts. If you only want to know what is on the exam, you are robbing yourself of the value of learning.
- Tests– The content and format of the tests will vary, but may include any of the following: multiple choice questions, problems, matching, or essays. The exams will be administered on the date outlined in our course. You must plan to take the exams on their indicated lecture dates.
- Cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty – Academic integrity is a serious issue. If any portion of your work (exam, quiz, research assignment, homework, etc.) is copied, plagiarized, purchased, stolen or lacks authenticity, the ENTIRE body of work will receive a zero. The Dean will be notified of any breach in academic integrity. Additional academic sanctions may include failure of the course, dismissal from the program and/or dismissal from the university.

- Graded work – There are several issues regarding grading/scoring: 1) I do NOT re-grade work. Once an assignment is returned with a grade/score it cannot be resubmitted. 2) If you disagree with the posted grade/score on an assignment, you must email me with the specific discrepancy no more than three (3) days after the grade/score is posted. 3) You are NOT permitted to submit an assignment used in a previous course.

***Evaluation: 568 Live***

Grades are based upon total points received.

See final page of syllabus for detail.

The levels of mastery are:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
<60%	F

## Course Grading Rubric

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>3 (Exceeds Expectations)</b>	<b>2 (Meets Expectations)</b>	<b>1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)</b>
Demonstrate an understanding of basic legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates excellent understanding of legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates an understanding of the basic principles of legal rules and principles	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding legal rules and principles
Analyze legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates excellence in the ability to analyze legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates an ability to analyze legal rules and principles	Student is not able to analyze legal rules and principles
Understand and utilize legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates excellent ability to understand and utilize legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates an ability to understand and utilize legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates no clear ability to understand and utilize legal rules and principles
Analyze and interpret legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates excellent ability to analyze and interpret legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates an ability to analyze and interpret legal rules and principles	Student demonstrates no clear ability to analyze and interpret legal rules and principles

### *Email*

Emails are typically the best way to contact me. I will try to respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week. Emails received Friday evening or during the weekend may not receive a response until Monday. If you do not receive a response in that timeframe, please re-send the email.

### *Attendance/Participation*

You are expected to attend class regularly and to participate. Assignments will be given in class.

### *Assignments*

**Tests:** There are three tests in this course. These exams will test your understanding of the material covered. Details of test coverage are provided on the final page of this syllabus. Exams will be given during scheduled class periods.

**Make-up / replacement exams:** at the end of the course, if you *missed* an exam, you will have the opportunity to take a make-up exam. It's not recommended to rely on this option. See final page of this syllabus for coverage. Note that the make-up exam covers material not otherwise tested. Grades on the make-up tend to be lower than grades on the other exams in the course. ***This system applies regardless of the reason for missing the exam.***

**Homework assignments:** There is one homework assignment due each week in which there is no exam. Each homework assignment requires you to brief two cases. The maximum length for a case brief is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page. We will cover format during the first week of class. Your assigned cases will be posted very early in the course. Late homework submissions will not be accepted, regardless of the reason.

### ***Technology Requirements***

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/microphone
- Computer Camera
- Word Processor (e.g. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (8.0 or higher).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the “myCourses” tab and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

### ***Communication and Support***

Texas A&M University – Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat Support: Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 to speak with an eCollege Technical Support Representative
- Email: [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with an eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Help: Click on the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege.

### ***Ethics***

Integrity is the hallmark of the accounting profession and will be stressed throughout the course. Any type of student breach of ethics, including, but not limited to: illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in failure on the assignment and/or further academic sanctions (i.e. failure of the course, dismissal from class and/or referral to the Dean of the College of Business). You will be required to sign the Academic Honesty Policy and submit it within the first week of class. **Failure to submit a signed Academic Honesty Policy will cause a 50 point deduction from your overall score for the class.**

### *Academic Dishonesty Policy*

The College of Business at Texas A & M University-Commerce will strive to be recognized as a community with legal, ethical, and moral principles and to practice professionalism in all that we do. Failure to abide by these principles will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal. Five different types of activities that will bring sanctions are as follows:

- **Illegal activity** – Violation of any local, state, or federal laws that prohibit the offender from performance of his or her duty.
- **Dishonest Conduct:** Seeking or obtaining unfair advantage by stealing or receiving copies of tests or intentionally preventing others from completing their work. In addition, falsifying of records to enter or complete a program will also be considered dishonest conduct.
- **Cheating:** The unauthorized use of another's work and reporting it as your own.
- **Plagiarism:** Using someone else's ideas and not giving proper credit.
- **Collusion:** Acting with others to perpetrate any of the above actions regardless of personal gain.

You must sign and return the Academic Dishonesty Policy by February 1<sup>st</sup> or have 10 points deducted from your final score. If you do not submit this form before the end of the course, your grade will not be released.

### *Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### *Students with Disabilities*

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University – Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

### *Other*

University policy will be followed in regards to withdrawals during the semester. *It is the student's responsibility to conform with the university rules relating to dropping or withdrawing from the course.*

***NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change as needed to meet the objectives or administration of the course at the discretion of the professor. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantive changes.***

CLASS	CHAPTERS	SUBJECT MATTER	DUE	Chapters	Points
21-Jan	CH01	Foundations of American Law	HW1	1	30
	CH02	Resolution of Private Disputes			
	CH03	Constitutional Law			
28-Jan	CH05	Criminal Law	HW2	2-7	30
	CH06	Intentional Torts			
	CH07	Negligence			
4-Feb	CH20	Product Liability	HW3	20, 48, 8	30
	CH48	FTC and Consumer Protection Laws			
	CH08	Intellectual Property and Unfair Competition			
11-Feb	CH09	Introduction to Contracts	HW4	9-13	30
	CH10	The Agreement: Offer			
	CH11	The Agreement: Acceptance			
	CH12	Consideration			
	CH13	Reality of Consent			
18-Feb	CH14	Capacity to Contract	HW5	14-16, 18	30
	CH15	Illegality			
	CH16	Writing			
	CH18	Performance and Remedies			
<b>25-Feb</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Chapters 7, 20, 9-18</b>			<b>150</b>
3-Mar	CH19	Formation and Terms of Sales Contracts	HW6	19, 21-22	30
	CH21	Performance of Sales Contracts			
	CH22	Remedies for Breach of Sales Contracts			
10-Mar	CH51	Employment Law	HW7	51, 46	30
	CH46	Legal and Professional Responsibilities			
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>					
24-Mar	CH31	Negotiable Instruments	HW8	31-33	30
	CH32	Negotiation and Holder in Due Course			
	CH33	Liability of Parties			
31-Mar	CH28	Introduction to Credit and Secured Transactions	HW9	28-29	30
	CH29	Security Interests in Personal Property			
<b>7-Apr</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Chapters 19-22, 51, 46</b>			<b>150</b>
14-Apr	CH35	The Agency Relationship	HW10	35-37	30
	CH36	Third-Party Relations of the Principal and Agent			
	CH37	Forms of Business and Formation of Partnerships			
21-Apr	CH38	Operation of Partnerships and Related Forms	HW11	38, 39, 41	30
	CH39	Partners' Dissociation; Partnerships' Dissolution & Winding Up			
	CH41	History and Nature of Corporations			
28-Apr	CH42	Organization and Financial Structure of Corporations	HW12	42-43	30
	CH43	Management of Corporations			
5-May	CH44	Shareholders' Rights and Liabilities	HW13	44, 4	30
	CH04	Business Ethics, Corporate Governance			
<b>12-May</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>Chapters 35-44</b>			<b>150</b>
		Points available for scheduled assignments and tests		BASE	840
		Points available for in-class exercises: UP TO			160
				UP TO	1000
		Make-up exam (chapters 28-29, 31-33, 1-3, 5-6)			
		Make-up assignments (2): specific case briefs, TBD			