



Texas A & M University - Commerce
College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Department of Accounting
Accounting 568
Business Law for Accountants
Online
Summer I, 2016
40297

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

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Location: Online (ecollege)

Please note: This is an accelerated version (5 weeks) of the 15-week ACCT 568 course. *We cover the same amount of material* and have the same assignments, as required by the TSBPA and other agencies. Be sure you are prepared to commit the same total amount of time and effort during the five weeks as you would during a 15-week course. It is not a “weekend course.” If you are not prepared to commit to the workload, I recommend the long-semester version of this course. It is a very demanding course.

Graduate Comprehensive Exam: The content of this course is included on the comprehensive exam for the MS in Accounting program. The exam is administered during your final semester of the program. You must pass the exam to earn an MS degree in Accounting from Texas A&M University - Commerce.

Your first assignment: Your first assignment can be completed without the textbook, but it is highly recommended that you obtain the textbook before class begins. Not having the textbook “yet” is not an acceptable reason for late work.

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 (16th 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 16th, 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.
- Complete assignments within the posted time frames.
- Participate in the class online forum – DISCUSSION THREADS – according to due dates for specific questions.
- Prepare diligently for weekly assignments.
- Respect the learning environment by being prepared and observing online 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.
- Late work – Due dates are posted on our syllabus and in our eCollege course. Assignments, exams, quizzes, etc. must be submitted no later than the date outlined in our course. Absent extenuating circumstances, late work is not accepted. Extenuating circumstances do NOT include forgetting, technical difficulties or running out of time. The evaluation of an extenuating circumstance is judged on a case-by-case basis. Documentation MUST be provided in a timely manner. A 30% late penalty may apply even if an extenuating circumstance exists. You cannot get behind in this course and expect to succeed. Any late work that I agree to accept must be turned in within 72 hours of end of extenuating circumstance. In no event will late work be accepted later than 11:59 p.m. on June 30.
- Exams – The content and format of the exams 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 or before their due dates. Make-up exams/quizzes are given ONLY under extenuating conditions.

The following are considered extenuating conditions: hospitalization, medical emergency, physical injury, or death of an immediate family member. You MUST bring proof of the extenuating circumstance in order to facilitate an exam/quiz make-up. Proof of the extenuating circumstance must be received in a timely manner. For extenuating conditions make-up exams must be taken within three days of release or recovery. A 30% late penalty may apply even if an extenuating circumstance exists. Students attending university sponsored events must provide necessary documentation in order to accommodate any make-up exam or assignment.

- 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. Aiding another in commission of academic dishonesty will be treated the same as the underlying dishonesty. Using an assignment previously used for this or another course is considered cheating.

- 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 or in a previous attempt at this course.

Evaluation: 568 Online

Grades are based upon total points received.

Exam 1	225
Exam 2	225
26 Discussion Posts (15 each)	390
<u>27 Case briefs (5 each)</u>	<u>140</u>
Total	1,000

The levels of mastery are:

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

Course Grading Rubric

Criterion	3 (Exceeds Expectations)	2 (Meets Expectations)	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
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.

Jennifer.Smith@tamuc.edu.

Assignments

Exams: There are two examinations in this course. These exams will test your understanding of the material covered. The final exam is not cumulative. Details of the exam coverage are provided during the course.

Discussion posts: There are 26 discussion questions. You are to answer each one.

Homework assignments and quizzes: There are 27 case briefs assigned (your first one can be done without the textbook – it is designed to teach you how to brief a case).

Professor lectures: to cover some of the more challenging materials, I will post audio and/or video to help you. I won't do a "textbook dump."

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)
- Microsoft Word

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 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 1st 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

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.

Course Coverage

Module 1: Introduction
Chapters 1-2

Module 2: Torts
Chapter 7 (Negligence)

Module 3: Contracts
Chapters 9-16, 18

Module 4: UCC Sales
Chapters 19-22

Exam 1

Module 5: Agency
Chapters 35-36

Module 6: Business Organization
Chapters 37-39, 41-44

Module 7: Business Regulation
Chapters 48, 46, 51

Exam 2

Detailed Schedule

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Read/ Discussion Thread</u>	<u>Case to Brief</u>
9-Jun	Intro Case	Intro
9-Jun	Ch. 01	
11-Jun	Ch. 02	
11-Jun	Ch. 07	Dick's Sporting Goods
13-Jun	Ch. 09	Lambert
13-Jun	Ch. 10	Meram
15-Jun	CH. 11	Price
15-Jun	Ch. 12	Franchise
15-Jun	Ch. 13	Timothy v. Keetch
17-Jun	Ch. 14	Galloway
17-Jun	Ch. 15	Moore
17-Jun	Ch. 16	Jacco
19-Jun	Ch. 18	Harrison
19-Jun	Ch. 19	Noble
19-Jun	Ch. 20	Moss
21-Jun	Ch. 21	Grace
21-Jun	Ch. 22	Jewish
22-23 Jun	EXAM 1	
25-Jun	Ch. 35	CBS
25-Jun	Ch. 36	Millan
25-Jun	Ch. 37	Rasmussen
27-Jun	Ch. 38	Ederer
27-Jun	Ch. 39	Schwartz
29-Jun	Ch. 41	Ryan v. Cerullo
29-Jun	Ch. 42	Smithstearn
1-Jul	Ch. 43	Guth
1-Jul	Ch. 44	Zapata
3-Jul	Ch. 48	Kraft
3-Jul	Ch. 46	Ferris
5-Jul	Ch. 51	Darco
6-7 Jul	EXAM 2	

Some chapters will be covered only partially.

There will be approximately one discussion question (the introductory question to a chapter) and one case brief (case selected by me) per chapter. Chapters tend to be short, and we cover approximately one per day.

I am invested in your success and if you are too, this course can be an educationally rewarding experience. I have many students tell me they immediately put to use the information learned in this course.