

FALL 2025
COURSE SYLLABUS
POLITICAL SCIENCE 323: BUSINESS LAW FOR PARALEGALS
(3 semester hours)
Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
This course is web-based w/ live lectures.

Instructor: W. Skyler Dooley

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Required Texts

Miller, “Business Law Today-The Essentials,” 13th Edition. ISBN: 9780357635223

Course Description

This course focuses on the issues facing companies in the corporate legal world. Students should gain at least a cursory understanding of business law and how the everchanging environment of technology impacts a company’s ability to shield itself from liability. Further, students should learn how business law shapes the internal structure and operations of companies.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to enable the student to:

- Identify the primary sources of Business Law and how they apply to company operations and liability;
- Understand what rights a company has and tools available to protect its goods and intellectual property;
- Understand the principles of Agency and how they apply to corporations; and
- Understand the role of contract law in business.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to know how to navigate and use the D2L platform by utilizing the trainings made available to you by the University. Additionally, you are expected to navigate, and use ZOOM to participate in live lectures and/or review recorded live lectures. You are expected to attend and participate in the online live lectures each week. In addition, you are required to participate in the discussion each week you have assigned readings. You must prepare for the discussion by reading ALL the material assigned. Questions may be posted related to each topic the week readings are assigned. You must thoughtfully respond to any posted questions. Short posts unsupported by information in the readings may be given ZERO points.

Grading Policy

Lectures and Discussion: This class will be taught using the Socratic Method as well as lecture. You may be called on at any time and are expected to be fully prepared to discuss the assigned reading material during the live lectures and in the online discussions. This is a cumulative grade over the course of the semester.

Assignments: You are also responsible for completing the assignments listed in this syllabus. The assignments may be found within the chapters of the textbook and in handouts I may provide to you. All assignments must have a cover page indicating the following: your name, class, chapter, and name of the assignment (as it appears in the syllabus), and date the assignment is due. A deduction of 2 points will be assessed to all assignments turned in without a cover page. You will submit your assignments in the dropbox provided to you in the D2L platform. All written work will be graded not only on content, but also on writing style, including punctuation and grammar.

Late work: You are expected to submit assignments on time. Written work turned in late will receive a deduction of 1 point for each day it is late. Exceptions will be granted only under the most extreme, verifiable circumstances after receiving approval from the Instructor.

Exams: The examinations will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, definition, and short answer questions and essay. Any collaboration with other students with regards to the substance of the exams will result in a failing grade.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

Attendance/Participation	15 points
Assignments	25 points
Test 1	30 points
Test 2	30 points
TOTAL	100 Points

Grade Distribution is as follows:

A = 90-99

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 65-69

F = 64 and below

(No individual extra credit work will be allowed.)

Student Conduct and Etiquette

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.) You are expected to exhibit respect for the instructor and fellow students at all times. All electronic devices (except laptops) must be turned off during class. Laptop use is limited to reading notes made for class and taking notes during class. In the event you choose to use a laptop, sound features must be disabled. Surfing the internet and playing games on your laptop during class time are strictly prohibited. Failure to adhere to these policies may result in removal from class.

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 accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services East Texas A&M University Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

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

Fax: (903)468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-discrimination notice

East Texas A&M 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 discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

What is Plagiarism

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense: According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source to commit literary theft
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

Can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work,
- whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules.)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized.”

If you plagiarize, you will receive a grade of ZERO (0) for the assignment or exam in question, and the matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Additionally, the Instructor reserves the right to give you an F in the course.

As Instructor, I reserve the right to amend, modify, or alter this syllabus as the situation may require.

Tentative Course Readings, Assignments and Testing Dates

**** The Chapters listed for each week are to be read before class that day****

Assignments, however, are assigned at the end of that class where they are found on the syllabus and are due at the beginning of class the following week

Week 1

08/26 NO CLASS

Review Syllabus

Email any questions or concerns about the class and schedule

Introduction post is due by Sep 1st, 2025

Week 2

09/02 Chapter 1: Legal and Constitutional Foundations of Business Resolution

Chapter 2: Courts and Alternative Dispute

Week 3

09/09 Chapter 3: Ethics in Business

Assignment 1: Draft an Essay – Ethics & Artificial Intelligence

Week 4

09/16 Chapter 8: Agreement and Consideration in Contracts

Chapter 9: Capacity, Legality, and Enforceability

Week 5

09/23 Chapter 10: Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies

Week 6

9/30 Chapter 11: Sales and Lease Contracts

Chapter 12: Performance and Breach of Sales and Lease Contracts

Week 7

10/07 Chapter 13: Negotiable Instruments

Week 8

10/14 **Test 1** – Midterm Examination

Week 9

10/21 Chapter 14: Banking

Week 10

10/28 Chapter 16: Agency Relationships in Business

Week 11

11/04 Chapter 18: The Entrepreneur's Options

Assignment 4: Draft a Business Letter

Week 12

11/11 Chapter 19: Corporations

Assignment 2: Draft a Contract

Week 13

11/18 Chapter 21: Antitrust Law and Promoting Competition

Week 14

11/25 Chapter 23: Personal Property, Bailments, and Insurance

Assignment 5: Draft a Certificate of Formation for an LLC

Week 15

12/02 Chapter 24: Real Property and Environmental Law

Assignment 3: Draft an Annual Report for an LLP

Week 16

12/09 Final Exam