



MGT 301.01W and MGT 301.02W –
The Legal Environment of Business
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: JUSTIN HOCKING, J.D.
Office Location:
Office Hours: By Appointment Remote – email, text or call
Office Phone: (719) 602-6007 – cell (call, text, or leave a message)
Office Fax:
University Email Address: Justin.Hocking@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail
Communication Response Time: ASAP within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: *Business Law I Essentials*, (Rice University, 2019) ISBN. 978-1-947172-78-4 (179 pages) licensed by OpenStax under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Available at <https://openstax.org/details/books/business-law-i-essentials>

For identified topics we will also use Melissa Randall, *Fundamentals of Business Law* (2020) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Available at <https://pressbooks.pub/introductiontobusinesslaw/>

Will be noted in the syllabus and D2L as “ALT Text”.

Software Required: None

Optional Texts and/or Materials: None at outset; may be indicated as course unfolds.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a study of the legal environment of business including elements of tort and contract law, product liability, employment law and discrimination, consumer law, and the basics of the legal system, including ethics and foreign and international law.

B. COURSE MISSION:

1. To provide an overview and fundamental grasp of the basics of the legal system, both nationally and internationally.
2. To develop skills in working with legal materials and understanding the language of the law as it applies to business settings.
3. To provide a general understanding of the major legal issues that impact the business environment.
4. To provide knowledge of specific basic laws which affect business structure and finance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

EXPECTED STUDENT COMPETENCIES TO BE ACHIEVED IN THIS COURSE.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain foundational principles of the American legal system and their application to business.
- Analyze methods of dispute resolution and their advantages in business contexts.
- Evaluate ethical dilemmas and social responsibilities in business decision-making.
- Assess the impact of constitutional law, including the Commerce Clause, on business activities.
- Distinguish between criminal and civil liability in business-related cases.
- Identify key elements of torts, contracts, and sales agreements under common law and the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).
- Understand employment and labor laws, government regulations, antitrust principles, and unfair trade practices.
- Apply legal concepts to hypothetical business scenarios through writing and multiple-choice assessments.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

NOTE: Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the office of Advisement Services, BA 314, (903)886-5133.

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 Book, Policies and Procedures, conduct).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must be proficient with basic computer skills and with a word processor, presentation software and use of library database for legal research.

Instructional Methods

This course will use the D2L platform for dissemination of materials, lecture notes, presentations, class discussions, quizzes, exams and course assignments.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES and TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

To succeed in this course, consider the following suggestions:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Familiarize yourself with the D2L learning system environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with Web-based learning be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments.
- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Syllabus. The Syllabus provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and taking quizzes and examinations.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Component	Percentage	Description
Participation and Discussions	15%	Active engagement in class discussions and online forums.
Quizzes (Multiple-Choice)	20%	Weekly or bi-weekly quizzes on chapter content.
Writing Assignments	25%	Short essays or case analyses applying legal concepts.
Midterm Exam	20%	Comprehensive exam covering Chapters 1-6.
Final Exam	20%	Comprehensive exam covering all chapters, with emphasis on Chapters 7-12.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

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Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

OUTLINE OF COURSE. This outline as to dates and assignments is tentative. It assumes the material will be covered at maximum speed. Exams, however, will be given as scheduled, and will cover material that has been covered in the text, in class, in discussions, and in lecture notes preceding each exam.

Course Schedule

Adjustments may be made based on class progress. Each week includes assigned readings from the textbook, key topics, and assessments. Supplemental materials will be posted in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week	Topics	Readings	Assessments/Activities
1	Introduction to Course; American Law, Legal Reasoning, and the Legal System (Basic principles, sources of law, key regulations)	Preface; Chapter 1	Syllabus review; Introductory discussion post.
2	Disputes and Dispute Settlement (Negotiation, mediation, arbitration)	Chapter 2	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapter 1.
3	Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	Chapter 3	Writing prompt: Ethical dilemma analysis.
4	Business and the United States Constitution (Commerce Clause, protections)	Chapter 4	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapters 2-3.
5	Criminal Liability (Common crimes, civil vs. criminal)	Chapter 5	Class discussion on constitutional cases.
6	The Tort System (Intentional torts, negligence, product liability)	Chapter 6	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapters 4-5; Midterm review.
7	Midterm Exam Week	Review Chapters 1-6	Midterm Exam (multiple-choice and short answer).
8	Contract Law (Consideration, capacity, legality)	Chapter 7	Writing prompt: Contract scenario analysis.
9	Sales Contracts (UCC applications)	Chapter 8	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapter 7.
10	Employment and Labor Law	Chapter 9	Group discussion on labor rights.
11	Government Regulation	Chapter 10	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapters 8-9; Writing prompt: Regulatory compliance.
12	Antitrust Law	Chapter 11	Class activity: Antitrust case study.
13	Unfair Trade Practices and the Federal Trade Commission	Chapter 12	Multiple-choice quiz on Chapters 10-11.
14	Course Review and Integration of Topics	Review all chapters	Final writing assignment: Comprehensive case analysis.
15	Final Exam Week	N/A	Final Exam (multiple-choice).

There are assignments due each week in this course, pay attention to the course

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calendar.

Make-up, missed, or late work

Make-up exams or late assignments are generally NOT accepted in this course. In the event you will miss an exam or would need an extension on an assignment, you must contact me PRIOR to the scheduled due date. For extensions on assignments, you must submit by email, PRIOR to the due date, a request for the extension, a draft of your current work on the assignment (this component is not required for exams or quizzes), and a proposal for when the assignment will be completed. I will review the request and determine if an extension is warranted. Requests submitted after a due date will NOT be accepted. Make-up activities may differ from the original and will be developed at my discretion.

COURSE GRADING RUBRIC

Criteria (Course Objectives)	3 (Exceeds Expectations)	2 (Meets Expectations)	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
Demonstrate knowledge of legal environment of business by an understanding of the role, nature and sources of law; courts and alternatives for dispute resolution; international law; and the differentiation of civil and criminal law.	Student demonstrates mastery in knowledge and understanding of all aspects.	Student demonstrates knowledge of and understanding of most aspects.	Student does not demonstrate any knowledge or understanding.
Demonstrate an understanding of federal and state regulatory laws affecting business including administrative law, the commerce clause of the Constitution, intellectual property laws, consumer	Student demonstrates mastery in knowledge and understanding of all aspects.	Student demonstrates knowledge of and understanding of most aspects.	Student does not demonstrate any knowledge or understanding.

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protection laws, employment laws, environmental laws, business completion laws and discrimination laws.			
Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of contracts, breach of performance and remedies and E-Commerce issues.	Student demonstrates mastery in knowledge and understanding of all aspects.	Student demonstrates knowledge of and understanding of most aspects.	Student does not demonstrate any knowledge or understanding.
Demonstrate the ability to define tort law and understand common torts and explain liabilities and remedies.	Student demonstrates mastery in knowledge and understanding of all aspects.	Student demonstrates knowledge of and understanding of most aspects.	Student does not demonstrate any knowledge or understanding.
Demonstrate the process of researching and preparing a case brief	Student demonstrates mastery in knowledge and understanding of all aspects of the process.	Student demonstrates knowledge of and understanding of most aspects of the process.	Student does not demonstrate any knowledge or understanding of the process.

**East Texas A&M University
College of Business
Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Statement of Ethical and Professional Conduct:

The College of Business at East Texas A&M University faculty, staff and students will follow the highest level of ethical and professional behavior. We will strive to be recognized as a community with legal, ethical and moral principles and to teach and practice professionalism in all that we do.

In an academic environment we will endeavor to not only teach these values but also to live them in our daily lives and work. Faculty and staff will be held to the same standards and expectations as our students.

The Academic Dishonesty Policy of the Accounting Department is governed by the following university procedures:

- 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty and
- 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty.

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You may read the procedure in its entirety from the University's website.

Failure to abide by these principles will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal.

Actionable Conduct:

CHEATING: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise. Unauthorized materials may include anything or anyone that gives a student assistance, and has not been specifically approved in advance by the instructor.

COMPLICITY: Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

ABUSE AND MISUSE OF ACCESS AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS: Students may not abuse or misuse computer access or gain unauthorized access to information in any academic exercise.

FABRICATION: Making up data or results, and recording or reporting them; submitting fabricated documents.

FALSIFICATION: Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

FORGERY: Making a fictitious document, or altering an existing document, with the intent to deceive or gain advantage.

MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS: Submitting substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.

PLAGIARISM: The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING GROUP PROJECTS: If someone in a group commits academic misconduct, the entire group could be held responsible for it as well. It is important to document clearly who contributes what parts to the joint project, to know what group members are doing, and how they are acquiring the material they provide.

VIOLATION OF DEPARTMENTAL OR COLLEGE RULES: Students may not violate any departmental or college rule relating to academic matters.

Sanctions:

If a student is accused of academic dishonesty, the faculty or staff member making the allegation will use East Texas A&M University and/or Texas A&M University System Policy and Procedures as appropriate to guide sanctions.

First Offenses:

- The most common penalty imposed by a faculty member for a first violation is an "F" in the course. Less severe penalties may be imposed if the circumstances warrant.

Examples of lesser penalties include:

- A grade reduction for the course;

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- A zero on the assignment;
- A requirement to participate in extra requirements or training;
- Some combination of these.

A second offense may result in separation (suspension or expulsion) from the University.

Procedures:

Once a charge of academic dishonesty has been made, the student may not drop the class until the academic dishonesty process has been completed. If a student withdraws from the University while a charge of academic dishonesty is pending, he/she will be blocked from re-enrolling until the matter is resolved using this procedure.

If the Dean of Graduate Studies or Provost Office informs the faculty or staff member that the incident is a first offense, and the student accepts responsibility for the charge, and the student and faculty or staff member agree on the penalty, assessment of the penalty concludes the disciplinary action.

If the student disagrees with the charge or any of the above penalties for a first offense, he/she is entitled to appeal in writing to the Department Head/Director, and then to the Academic Dean/Director of School. The decision of the Academic Dean/Director of School regarding the student’s appeal of a first offense is final.

I have read and understand the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

Print Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. **Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center’s crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145.** For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

**East Texas A&M University
College of Business & Technology
Student Appeal of Course Grade**
(Refer to TAMU-C Procedure: 13.99.99.R0.05)

13.99.99. R0.05 Student’s Appeal of Instructor’s Evaluation Effective September 1, 1996 Revised December 15, 1999 Revised February 8, 2007 Supplements System Policy 13.02

1. The final grades awarded by faculty members are their expert judgment concerning

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student performance. Students challenging a final grade must show that the instructor's judgment was unfair based on: a) some basis other than performance, or b) standards different from those applied to other students in the same course section, or c) a substantial, unreasonable, and unannounced departure from previously articulated standards or the syllabus.

2. Students who believe their grade to be unfair **must first discuss the matter with the instructor.**

3. **If no satisfactory resolution is reached with the instructor, or if the instructor is unavailable, the student shall appeal to the Department Head.** A grade appeal must be initiated in writing with the Department Head (or Dean if the Department Head is the instructor) within six (6) months of the last day of the semester in which the grade was awarded. The Department Head will examine the student's appeal to determine whether the student has established an apparent case of unfair academic evaluation as described in section 1. If the student has not established a case that appears to have merit, the Department Head will so inform the student and the instructor without delay.

4. If the case has merit, the Department Head will secure, from all parties, written statements and other such information as he or she deems helpful and will issue his or her findings and remedies, if any. In so doing, the Department Head will be guided by the principle **the burden of proof lies with the student.**

5. The instructor or the student may appeal the Department Head's decision (with respect to findings and remedies) to the Dean of the College in which the course is offered within 30 days of the date on which the Department Head offered his or her judgment.

6. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Dean will appoint a three-person advisory committee of faculty to hear the case. The chair of the committee will be from a department other than the one offering the course in question. The two remaining committee members will be from the department offering the course. One of these faculty members may be suggested by the author of the appeal. The instructor and the student may file additional statements. The committee will review all written materials and may seek other information, as they deem appropriate. After reviewing all information, the committee will communicate their findings and suggested remedies, if any, to the Dean.

7. The Dean is the final authority on issues of fairness in course evaluation. He or she will consider the recommendations of the committee but has wide latitude in resolving the matter. The Dean too will be guided by the principle that the student must show the evaluation to have been unfair as identified in Section 1.

8. The Dean is responsible for notifying the Office of the Registrar of any decision requiring a change in records.

References: Prior ETSU Policies V C 1.1 and B-32 approved October 7, 1977; revised September 1, 1979, January 19, 1990, July 30, 1998, and December 15, 1999;

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Procedure A13.06

CONTACT FOR INTERPRETATION: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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