

MGT 301.W – The Legal Environment of Business

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER II 2026

Session Dates: July 6, 2026 – August 6, 2026
East Texas A&M University | College of Business

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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)

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.

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.

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.
- 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.

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).

SUMMER II INTENSIVE FORMAT – IMPORTANT NOTICE

This course is offered in a compressed five-week Summer II format (July 6 – August 6, 2026). The pace is significantly faster than a standard 15-week semester. Students should expect to spend approximately 12–15 hours per week on readings, assignments, and assessments. It is strongly recommended that students complete readings before each week begins and stay current with the D2L course calendar at all times.

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.
- Given the compressed five-week format, begin each week's readings on the first day of that week. Check Announcements daily for new course information.

GRADING

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

A = 90%–100%

B = 80%–89%

C = 70%–79%

D = 60%–69%

F = 59% or Below

Component	Percentage	Description
Participation and Discussions	15%	Active engagement in weekly discussion forums; at least one substantive post and one reply per week.
Quizzes (Multiple-Choice)	20%	Four chapter quizzes distributed across the five weeks, covering assigned readings.
Writing Assignments	25%	Two short essays or case analyses applying legal concepts to real-world business scenarios.
Midterm Exam	20%	Comprehensive multiple-choice and short-answer exam covering Chapters 1–4 and 6 (end of Week 3).
Final Exam	20%	Comprehensive multiple-choice exam covering all assigned chapters, with emphasis on Chapters 7–12 (end of Week 5).

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.

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>

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 session. 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:

<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](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Student Disability Services: https://www.tamuc.edu/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.

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:

<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:

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

AI Use Policy

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

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 discussions, and in lecture notes preceding each exam.

Five-Week 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. All deadlines are 11:59 PM Central Time unless otherwise noted.

Week / Dates	Topics	Readings	Assessments / Activities
Week 1 July 6–12	Course Introduction & Overview American Law, Legal Reasoning, and the Legal System (sources of law, key regulations, courts) Dispute Resolution (negotiation, mediation, arbitration) Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	Preface; Ch. 1, 2, 3	Syllabus review; Introductory discussion post. Quiz on Chapter 1. Writing Prompt #1: Ethical dilemma analysis (due Sunday 11:59 PM).
Week 2 July 13–19	Business and the United States Constitution (Commerce Clause, First Amendment, due process, regulatory protections) The Tort System (intentional torts, negligence, strict liability, product liability)	Ch. 4, 6	Quiz on Chapters 2–3. Discussion: constitutional cases and their business impact.
Week 3 July 20–26	Contract Law (offer, acceptance, consideration, capacity, legality, remedies) MIDTERM EXAM — covers Chapters 1–4 and 6	Ch. 7; Review Ch. 1–4, 6	Quiz on Chapters 4 and 6. MIDTERM EXAM (multiple-choice and short answer) — due by Sunday 11:59 PM.
Week 4 July 27–Aug. 2	Sales Contracts and the UCC (Article 2, warranties, perfect tender rule) Employment and Labor Law (at-will employment, Title VII, FLSA, OSHA) Government Regulation and Administrative Law (rulemaking, agency authority)	Ch. 8, 9, 10	Writing Prompt #2: Contract scenario analysis (due Wednesday 11:59 PM). Quiz on Chapters 7–8. Discussion: labor rights and regulatory compliance.
Week 5 Aug. 3–6	Antitrust Law (Sherman Act, Clayton Act, per se violations) Unfair Trade Practices and the FTC (deceptive advertising,	Ch. 11, 12; Review all chapters	Quiz on Chapters 9–10. Final comprehensive case analysis discussion. FINAL EXAM (multiple-choice) — due by Thursday, Aug. 6 at 11:59 PM.

consumer protection) Course Review and Integration of Topics FINAL EXAM		
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There are assignments due every week in this course. Pay attention to the course calendar and D2L announcements.

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.

Given the compressed five-week format, there is very limited flexibility for late or missed work. Please plan accordingly and reach out early if you anticipate a conflict.

COURSE GRADING RUBRIC

Criteria (Course Objectives)	3 – Exceeds Expectations	2 – Meets Expectations	1 – Does Not Meet Expectations
Demonstrate knowledge of the legal environment of business: role, nature, and sources of law; courts and dispute resolution; and 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 understanding of federal and state regulatory laws affecting business, including administrative law, the Commerce Clause, consumer protection laws, employment laws, and business competition laws.	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 understanding of the elements of contracts, breach of performance and remedies, and sales law under the UCC.	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 ability to define tort law, 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 is governed by the following university procedures:

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

Actionable Conduct:

CHEATING: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

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

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

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

MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS: Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

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. The most common penalty imposed by a faculty member for a first violation is an "F" in the course. A second offense may result in separation (suspension or expulsion) from the University.

I have read and understand the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

Print Name _____

Signed _____ Date _____

**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 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 within six (6) months of the last day of the semester in which the grade was awarded.
4. If the case has merit, the Department Head will secure written statements and other information and will issue findings and remedies, if any. The Department Head will be guided by the principle that the burden of proof lies with the student.
5. The instructor or the student may appeal the Department Head's decision to the Dean of the College within 30 days.
6. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Dean will appoint a three-person advisory committee of faculty to hear the case. The committee will review all written materials and communicate their findings to the Dean.
7. The Dean is the final authority on issues of fairness in course evaluation.
8. The Dean is responsible for notifying the Office of the Registrar of any decision requiring a change in records.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

CONTACT FOR INTERPRETATION: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs