

# **BLAW 2301.002 – FALL 2013**

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

### **PURPOSE**

I am outlining some of my expectations of you so you know up front what I expect of students in my classes. I am doing this so there is no confusion about the consequences to you and your grade for failing to meet these expectations. This also allows me to be fair to all students.

This is not a complete listing of the rules of the class. I reserve the right to alter, add to, or delete from these rules as I see fit.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

#### **Rules:**

1. Be on time
2. Pay attention and take notes
3. Do not disrupt class
4. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet in order to be counted present
5. Do not sign in others when they are not present or have them sign you in when you are not present

#### **Consequences:**

1. Class disruptions may lead to removal from class
2. Failure to sign the attendance sheet will result in you being counted absent
3. I reserve the right to make additional adjustments to your overall course letter grade based on your ATTENDANCE and ATTENTION in class. Just to warn you this may SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE your grade!!
4. Signing others in when they are not present or having others sign you in when you are not present is an act of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly

### **EXAMS**

#### **Makeup Exams**

A makeup exam may be given at my discretion, and only for very compelling reasons and with proper documentation. The makeup exam may be another format of exam (including a paper, essay questions, short answers, etc.).

Communication is the key in the event that you require a makeup exam. The sooner you can communicate with me the better. One of the first things that I will consider in making a determination about granting a makeup exam is your class attendance.

### Late to Exam

If you are late to an exam it is VERY disruptive to your classmates. I will deduct one point for each minute you are late to the exam. If one (1) student finishes the exam and leaves the classroom before you arrive, you will NOT be allowed to take the exam – this means you will receive a ZERO!!!

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. You MUST follow the assigned format of all assignments
2. Failure to follow the assigned format results in SUBSTANTIAL deductions. You may receive ZERO credit for these assignments if proper format is not followed
3. You WILL receive SUBSTANTIAL deductions for sloppy/unprofessional work. Sloppy/unprofessional work may result in a grade of ZERO
4. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED!!

## **CLASSROOM CITIZENSHIP**

I expect that students will act in a professional and courteous manner towards their classmates and towards me. Differing views should be respected. I reserve the right to have you removed from class if your behavior becomes dangerous, disruptive, or disrespectful.

## **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

*Scholastic Dishonesty:* Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on

plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of *turnitin.com*, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

My recommended sanctions if you are found responsible for an act of scholastic dishonesty in the following situations:

- Exam – Grade of F for the course
- Assignments – Grade of ZERO (0) for the assignment, the writing assignment grades of zero cannot be dropped or replaced
- Attendance – loss of all attendance points awarded for the semester
- Other graded assignments not addressed above will receive a zero on the assignment or an F for the course based on the weight of the assignment.

**Please Note: You must sign and return the last page of the syllabus acknowledging your receipt and comprehension of these rules by the third class day.**



**Course** BLAW 2301.002  
**Professor** Matt Polze  
**Term** Fall 2013  
**Meetings** Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 12:00– 12:50, JSOM 1.217

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**Professor's Contact Information**

**Office Phone** 972-883-4742  
**Office Location** SOM 4.233  
**Email Address** Use elearning for class emails  
**Office Hours** Monday-Thursday 1:00 – 4:00, Or by appointment  
**Other Information** My UTD email address is [polze@utdallas.edu](mailto:polze@utdallas.edu)  
**Please use elearning for class related emails**

**General Course Information****Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions**

NONE

**Course Description**

The law and the public policy behind our laws impact our everyday lives. Laws are a key component to an orderly functioning society. The business community is greatly impacted by laws, public policy, and legal regulation. As future members of the business community, and as future business leaders, it is critical to have an understanding of the ways in which laws, public policy, and legal regulation impact the business environment.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Enhancement of Communication Skills
  - Through class participation and discussion your communication skills will be developed and improved.
2. Use of Critical Thinking
  - You should be able to understand and apply legal concepts that influence the lives and decisions of individuals and businesses on a day-to-day basis.
  - The course will focus on the following areas:
    - Torts
    - Negligence
    - Contracts
    - Agency
    - Employment Discrimination
    - Choice of Entity
3. Understanding Ethical Considerations Involved in Legal Issues
  - You should have an understanding of the ethical issues involving legal topics that confront both individuals and businesses on a day-to-day basis.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Custom Textbook – Business Law and the Legal Environment  
Authors – Beatty and Samuelson  
\*\*\*\*The Textbook that we will be using in class is a custom version in which I have selected chapters that we will cover from a larger textbook\*\*\*\*

**Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials**

Anything that keeps you up-to-date on current events in the world

# ASSIGNMENTS AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR

CLASS	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
August 26	Introduction to Course and Syllabus	None
August 28	The Legal Environment	Chapter 1
August 30	The Legal Environment	Chapter 1
September 2	<b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>NO CLASS!!</b>
September 4	Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	Chapter 2
September 6	Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
September 9	Common Law, Statutory Law and Administrative Law	Chapter 4
September 11	Constitutional Law	Chapter 5
September 13	Constitutional Law	Chapter 5
September 16	Intentional Torts and Business Torts	Chapter 6
September 18	Intentional Torts and Business Torts	Chapter 6
September 20	Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapter 7
September 23	Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapter 7
September 25	Crime	Chapter 8
September 27	Crime	Chapter 8
September 30	<b>EXAM I</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 1-8</b>
October 2	Introduction to Contracts	Chapter 10
October 4	Introduction to Contracts	Chapter 10
October 7	Agreement	Chapter 11
October 9	Agreement	Chapter 11
October 11	Consideration	Chapter 12
October 14	Consideration	Chapter 12
October 16	Legality	Chapter 13
October 18	Capacity and Consent <b>WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>	Chapter 14 <b>Due in Class – No Late Assignments Accepted</b>
October 21	Written Contracts	Chapter 15
October 23	Written Contracts	Chapter 15
October 25	Third Parties	Chapter 16
October 28	Performance and Discharge	Chapter 17
October 30	Remedies	Chapter 18
November 1	Practical Contracts	Chapter 19
November 4	Practical Contracts	Chapter 19
November 6	<b>EXAM II</b>	<b>CHAPTERS 10-19</b>
November 8	Agency Law	Chapter 28
November 11	Agency Law	Chapter 28
November 13	Employment Law	Chapter 29
November 15	Employment Law	Chapter 29
November 18	Employment Law	Chapter 29

<b>November 20</b>	Starting a Business: LLCs and Other Options	Chapter 31
<b>November 22</b>	Starting a Business: LLCs and Other Options	Chapter 31
<b>November 25 – November 30</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>No Classes</b>
<b>December 2</b>	Starting a Business: LLCs and Other Options	Chapter 31
<b>December 4</b>	Consumer Law	Chapter 39
<b>December 6</b>	Consumer Law	Chapter 39
<b>December 9</b>	Environmental Law	Chapter 40
<b>December 11</b>	<b>EXAM III</b>	<b>Chapters 28, 29; 31; 39-40</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The pace at which a class will move is always difficult to judge. The chapters we cover, the dates of exams, assignment due dates, and other aspects of the course are subject to change. Please come to class and check your elearning regularly for any changes.

### **These Additional Topics May be Covered if Time Permits:**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>CHAPTERS</b>
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Cyberlaw	Chapter 41
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Cyberlaw	Chapter 41
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Intellectual Property	Chapter 42
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Intellectual Property	Chapter 42
<b>Time Permitting</b>	International Law	Chapter 9
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Partnerships	Chapter 32
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Life and Death of a Corporation	Chapter 33
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Corporate Management	Chapter 34
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Shareholders	Chapter 35
<b>Time Permitting</b>	Securities Regulation	Chapter 36

# GRADING

## Grading Scale

Percentage of Points Earned	Letter Equivalent
90-100	A
89	A-
86-88	B+
80-85	B
79	B-
76-78	C+
75	C
73-74	C-
72	D+
71	D
70	D-
Less than 70	F

## Class Participation/Attendance (15 Points)

You will lose 1 point for each day that you are absent or fail to sign the sign-in sheet.

You must sign in when the sign-in sheet is passed around in class in order to get credit for attendance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** I reserve the right to make additional positive or NEGATIVE overall grade adjustments based on class attendance/participation. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Signing in for another student or having a student sign in for you is an act of academic dishonesty.

## Exams (300 Points Total)

There will be 3 tests worth 100 points each. Each exam will have 50 questions, and the exam will be some combination of multiple choice and true/false questions.

### *Exam Dates (subject to change):*

Exam #1      September 30, 2013

Exam #2      November 6, 2013

Exam #3      December 11, 2013

**Makeup Exams:** If you miss an exam, a makeup exam may be given at my discretion and only for very compelling reasons with proper documentation. The makeup exam may be another format of exam (including a paper, essay questions, short answers, etc.).

**Late to Exam:** If you are late to an exam it is VERY disruptive to your classmates. I will deduct one point for each minute you are late to the exam. If one (1) student finishes the exam and leaves the classroom before you arrive you will NOT be allowed to take the exam – this means you will receive a ZERO!!!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The pace at which a class will move is always difficult to judge. The chapters we cover, the dates of exams, assignment due dates, and other aspects of the course are subject to change. Please come to class and check your elearning regularly for any changes.

## **Writing Assignment (20 Points)**

***Due Date (subject to change): October 18, 2013***

Assignment specifics to be discussed in class.

**You MUST follow the assigned format. If you decide not to follow the assigned format there will be SUBSTANTIAL point deductions. You may receive ZERO credit for this assignment if proper format is not followed. You WILL receive deductions for sloppy or unprofessional work.**

**NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED!! If the writing assignment is not turned in on time, in class (NOT EMAILED) you will receive a ZERO! The assignment must be turned in at the BEGINNING of class and in hardcopy format.**



## Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Three Tests (100 Points Each)	300
	Class Participation/Attendance	15
	Writing Assignment(s) (20 points)	<u>20</u>
	TOTAL POINTS (estimated)	335
Makeup Exams	<p><b><u>Makeup Exams: If you miss an exam, a makeup exam may be given at my discretion and only for very compelling reasons with proper documentation. The makeup exam may be another format of exam (including a paper, essay questions, short answers, etc.).</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Late to Exam: If you are late to an exam it is VERY disruptive to your classmates. I will deduct one point for each minute you are late to the exam. If one (1) student finishes the exam and leaves the classroom before you arrive you will NOT be allowed to take the exam – this means you will receive a ZERO!!!</u></b></p>	
Extra Credit	Not Available	
Late Work	<p>See Makeup Exams regarding late exams!</p> <p>Writing Assignments will not be accepted late. You will receive ZERO (0) credit if it is not turned in on time in hardcopy format.</p>	
Special Assignments	Not Available	
Class Attendance	<p>Class attendance is expected. You will be able to get the most out of this course if you do the assigned reading prior to coming to class. This way you will be able to follow the lecture, ask appropriate questions, and make contributions to class discussion.</p> <p>You will lose 1 point for each day that you are absent from class or fail to sign the sign-in sheet. You must sign-in when the sign in sheet is passed around in class in order to get credit for attendance.</p> <p><b><u>IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SIGN THE SIGN-IN SHEET!!!!</u></b></p>	
Classroom Citizenship	I expect that students will act in a professional and courteous manner towards their classmates and towards me. Differing views should be respected. I reserve the right to have you removed from class if your behavior becomes dangerous, disruptive, or disrespectful.	
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<p>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</p> <p>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</p>	

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

# **BLAW 2301.002 – FALL 2013 SYLLABUS CERTIFICATION**

**I have read and understand the material contained in this syllabus. I agree to follow the rules, policies, and procedures contained within the syllabus.**

**I understand that academic dishonesty is taken very seriously in this class, and I agree not to violate the academic honesty rules of the University of Texas at Dallas or this class. Suspected violations of these rules will be submitted to the Judicial Affairs Office. Behavioral issues will be submitted to the Dean of Students' Office.**

**I also understand that the schedule, exam dates, and due dates of assignments are subject to change at the professor's discretion.**

**You must sign and return this to me by the third class day. If you fail to do so, you will still be bound by the rules, policies, and procedures contained within the syllabus by remaining enrolled in the class.**

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**PRINT FIRST NAME (LEGIBLY)**

**PRINT LAST NAME (LEGIBLY)**

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**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**