

BLAW 2301.HON – FALL 2014

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

PURPOSE

I am outlining my class expectations 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.

ATTENDANCE

Rules:

1. Be on time
2. Be prepared each day
3. Pay attention and take notes
4. Be respectful
5. Failure to follow class rules may lead to removal from class

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 key in the event that you require a makeup exam. The sooner you communicate with me the better. One of the first things that I 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 OR LOWER!
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.”

[-http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies](http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies)

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
- 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. Failure to sign and return the last page will not excuse you from following the rules.



Course BLAW 2301.HON
Professor Matt Polze
Term Fall 2014
Meetings Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30– 12:45, JSOM 12.222

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone 972-883-4742

Office Location JSOM 4.233

Email Address Use elearning for class emails

Office Hours Monday and Wednesday: 11:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00
Tuesday and Thursday: 2:15-4:00
Or by appointment

Other Information My UTD email address is 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

Feel free to get the required texts from the sources listed below or from any other

& Materials

sources you can find.

1. 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 pulled from a larger textbook****

The book will be available at the bookstores on and near campus. Below are links to the on campus bookstore and one of the off campus bookstore options. There may be other off campus options as well.

<http://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-128404-1>

<http://www.offcampusbooks.com/pages.php?pageid=10>

You may also purchase the textbook (or an ebook version) directly from the publisher. Please note: you do NOT need the eversion and the text version. If you purchase from this site select one of the two versions.

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/1-1T8FIJV>

Books 2 through 6 are also available at the library.

2. Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand (required summer reading book)

<http://www.amazon.com/Unbroken-World-Survival-Resilience-Redemption/dp/1400064163>

3. Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?, Michael Sandel

http://www.amazon.com/Justice-Whats-Right-Thing-Do/dp/0374532508/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1401300736&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=Justice

4. A Civil Action, Jonathan Harr

<http://www.amazon.com/A-Civil-Action-Jonathan-Harr/dp/0679772677>

5. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

http://www.amazon.com/Kill-Mockingbird-Harper-Lee/dp/0446310786/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1401300594&sr=1-1&keywords=to+kill+a+mockingbird

6. Picking Cotton, Jennifer Thompson-Cannino Ronald Cotton and Erin Torneo

http://www.amazon.com/Picking-Cotton-Memoir-Injustice-Redemption/dp/0312599536/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1401300656&sr=1-1&keywords=picking+cotton

7. You MUST keep current on the news of the world. Current issues and events will be discussed in class, and will be tested on exams.

8. Additional readings will be assigned during the semester.

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials

Anything that keeps you current on the news of the world.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACADEMIC CALENDAR

CLASS	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
August 26	Introduction to Course and Syllabus	<u>Unbroken</u> (summer reading book)
August 28	The Legal Environment	Chapter 1 <i>Plessey v. Ferguson</i> ¹ <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> ² Begin Reading <u>Justice and A Civil Action</u> -Must Be Completed By First Exam
September 2	Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	Chapter 2
September 4	Dispute Resolution	Chapter 3
September 9	Common Law, Statutory Law and Administrative Law	Chapter 4
September 11	Constitutional Law	Chapter 5
September 16	Intentional Torts and Business Torts	Chapter 6
September 18	Intentional Torts and Business Torts	Chapter 6
September 23	Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapter 7
September 25	Negligence and Strict Liability	Chapter 7
September 30	EXAM I	CHAPTERS 1-7
October 2	Introduction to Contracts Agreement	Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Begin Reading <u>To Kill A Mockingbird</u> – Must be Completed By Second Exam
October 7	Consideration	Chapter 12
October 9	Legality	Chapter 13
October 14	Capacity and Consent	Chapter 14
October 16	Written Contracts	Chapter 15
October 21	Written Contracts	Chapter 15
October 23	Third Parties	Chapter 16
October 28	Performance and Discharge	Chapter 17
October 30	Remedies	Chapter 18

¹<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?navby=CASE&court=US&vol=163&page=537>

²<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?navby=CASE&court=US&vol=347&page=483>

November 4	Remedies	Chapter 18
November 6	EXAM II	CHAPTERS 10-18
November 11	Agency Law	Chapter 28 Begin Reading <u>Picking Cotton</u> – Must Be Completed By Third Exam
November 13	Agency Law	Chapter 28
November 18	Employment Law	Chapter 29
November 20	Starting a Business: LLCs and Other Options	Chapter 31
November 24 – November 29	Fall Break	No Class
December 2	Criminal Law	Chapter 8
December 4	Criminal Law	Chapter 8
December 9	EXAM III	Chapters 28, 29; 31; 8

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:

CLASS	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
Time Permitting	Consumer Law	Chapter 39
Time Permitting	Environmental Law	Chapter 40
Time Permitting	Cyberlaw	Chapter 41
Time Permitting	Intellectual Property	Chapter 42
Time Permitting	International Law	Chapter 9
Time Permitting	Partnerships	Chapter 32
Time Permitting	Life and Death of a Corporation	Chapter 33
Time Permitting	Corporate Management	Chapter 34
Time Permitting	Shareholders	Chapter 35
Time Permitting	Securities Regulation	Chapter 36

GRADING

Grading Scale

Exam #1	200 Points
Exam #2	200 Points
Exam #3	200 Points
Writing Assignments (15 assignments worth 10 points each)	150 Points
Total Points	750 Points

***Please Note, additional assignments and points may be added during the semester.**

Students will be ranked in order from top to bottom based on total points earned. Based on that ranking your letter grade will be assigned. Essentially you are competing against your classmates. Below is a ROUGH APPROXIMATION of how grades will be assigned.

<u>Percentage Of Class</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Top 25%	A
Next 10%	A-
Next 10%	B+
Next 10%	B
Next 10%	B-
Next 5%	C+
Next 5%	C
Next 5%	C-
Next 5%	D+
Next 5%	D
Next 5%	D-
Bottom 5%	F

Exams (200 Points Each)

There will be three large and extremely challenging exams. The format of the exams will be discussed in class, but they will likely combine essay questions, short answers, multiple choice, true false, and some surprise format questions.

Exam Dates (subject to change):

Exam #1 September 30, 2014

Exam #2 November 6, 2014

Exam #3 December 9, 2014

Weekly Writing Assignments (10 Points Each)

Due Dates: TBD (Generally Every Tuesday)

Assignment specifics to be discussed in class. Strong written communication skills are a must for success in any profession. The best way to become a strong writer is to practice!

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.).

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

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

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!!!

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

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	Your final course grade will be determined by calculating a percentage of points earned on all assigned work out of the total points available on all assigned work. Letter grades will be assigned based on percentage of points earned as well as your relative rank to your classmates.
Makeup Exams	<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> <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>
Extra Credit	Not Available
Late Work	See Makeup Exams regarding late exams! Writing Assignments will not be accepted late. You will receive ZERO (0) credit if it is not turned in on time in hardcopy format.
Special Assignments	Not Available
Class Attendance	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.
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	The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

The descriptions, assignments, grading scale and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

BLAW 2301.HON – FALL 2014 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, assignments, and due dates of assignments are subject to change at the professor's discretion.

You must sign and return this to me. 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.

PRINT FIRST NAME (LEGIBLY)

PRINT LAST NAME (LEGIBLY)

SIGNATURE

DATE