

# Course Syllabus

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## ACCT 2301.501 – Business and Public Law

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Naveen Jindal School of Management  
The University of Texas at Dallas

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### Course Information

Course Number/Section	<b>ACCT 2301.501</b>
Course Title	<b>Business and Public Law</b>
Term and Dates	<b>Fall 2016</b> <b>8/22/2016 – 12/7/2016</b>
Class Location	JSOM 1.212
Professor	<b>Christina Betanzos</b>
Email Address	clb120030@utdallas.edu
Office	JSOM 4.232
Office Hours	Wednesday 8:00-9:00am & 2:00 – 4:00pm

**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions** None.

### Course Description

The law and the public policy behind our laws impact on 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.

### Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. 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:
    - Introduction to Law
    - Constitutional Law
    - Intentional Torts and Business Torts
    - Negligence, Strict Liability & Product Liability
    - Criminal Law
    - Contracts
    - Agency
    - Choice of Entity
    - Intellectual Property

2. 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 Textbooks and Materials**

**Title:** Business Law and the Legal Environment – Standard Edition (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**Authors:** Beatty and Samuelson

**Publisher:** Cengage Learning

**Bundle:** Another option is to buy a bundle which includes Business Law and the Legal Environment, Standard Edition, Loose-leaf version, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition + MindTap® Business Law, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card. This is an excellent option given the added value and cost savings.

### **Course Policies**

#### Makeup Exams

A make-up exam may be offered at my discretion, and only for very compelling reasons.

#### Extra Credit

None Available

### **Student Assessments**

In this course, I expect that you will come to class, be respectful at all times, read all book materials, and actively engage yourself in this course. Your active participation will have a direct impact on your success in this course. You need to have discipline to stay up with course work and do what is expected. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions. Your positive approach to this course will enable you to get the most out of the course.

### **Grading Information**

#### **Weights / Grade Breakdown**

	<b>Points</b>
<b>Exams</b>	
Exam #1	100
Exam #2	100
Exam #3	100
<b>Project</b>	
1 Assignment	50
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>350</b>

**Grading criteria**

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
93 – 100%	A
89 – 92%	A-
86 - 88%	B+
83 - 85%	B
79 – 82%	B-
76 – 78%	C+
73 – 75%	C
69 – 72%	C-
65 - 68%	D
Below 65%	F

**Accessing Grades**

Students can check their grades by clicking “My Grades” under Course Tools after the grade for each assessment task is released.

**Course Policies****Enhancement of Communication Skills:**

Through class participation and discussion, communication skills will be improved.

**Student Resources**

The following university resources are available to students:

**UTD Distance Learning:** <http://www.utdallas.edu/oeo/distance/students/cstudents.htm>

**McDermott Library:** Distance Learners (UTD students who live outside the boundaries of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, or Tarrant counties) will need a UTD-ID number to access all of the library’s electronic resources (reserves, journal articles, ebooks, interlibrary loan) from off campus. For UTD students living within those counties who are taking online courses, a Comet Card is required to check out materials at the McDermott Library. For more information on library resources go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/library/distlearn/disted.htm>. [Top](#)

## Assessments

### Projects

There will be one project assigned during the semester. You must follow the assigned format. No late assignments will be accepted. The assignment must be turned in at the beginning of class and in a hardcopy format or you will receive a zero.

### Exams

There will be three exams. These exams will not be cumulative and you will have 50 minutes to complete each of these exams. The exam questions will be some combination of true/false and multiple-choice.

### Class Participation/Attendance

Students should read the assigned chapters prior to class and participate in class discussion. I expect that students will act in a professional and courteous manner towards their classmates and towards me. Differing views should be respected.

## TOPICS AND SCHEDULE

**NOTE:** All assignments are due on the date mentioned in this syllabus.

This course outline should serve as your guideline for where you should be in the completion of the materials for this course. All course information will be posted in eLearning and it is your responsibility to keep up with the material and submit materials as requested by the time requested.

Date	Chapters	Comments
8/24/16	Intro to the Course and Syllabus; Chapter 1, 2	Introduction to Law, Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
8/31/16	Chapter 4, 5	Common Law, Statutory Law, and Administrative Law; Constitutional Law
9/7/16	Chapter 5, 6, 7	Constitutional Law, Dispute Resolution, Crime
9/14/16	Chapter 7, 8	Crime, Intentional Torts and Business Torts
9/21/16	Chapter 8, 9	Intentional Torts and Business Torts; Negligence, Strict Liability and Product Liability
9/28/16	Exam 1; Chapter 11	Chapters 1,2 & 4-9; Bring a scantron and a #2 pencil; Intro to Contracts

10/5/16	Chapter 12, 13	The Agreement: Offers and Acceptances; Consideration
10/12/16	Chapter 14, 15	Legality, Voidable Contracts
10/19/16	Chapter 16, 17	Written Contracts; Third Parties  <b>Writing Assignment Due – Be sure you have it printed out to turn in and be sure to follow directions</b>
10/26/16	Chapters 18, 19	Performance, Breach and Discharge; Remedies
11/2/16	Chapters 19, 21	Remedies, Introduction to Sales
11/9/16	<b>Exam #2; Chapter 29</b>	<b>Chapters 11-19 and 21; Bring a scantron and a # 2 pencil; Employment and Labor Law</b>
11/16/16	Chapter 30, 31	Employment Discrimination; Starting a Business: LLC's and other options
11/23/16	No Class	Thanksgiving Break
11/30/16	Chapter 31, 41	Starting a Business: LLC's and other options; Intellectual Property
12/7/16	<b>Exam # 3</b>	<b>Chapters 28 - 31 and Chapter 41 Bring a scantron &amp; a # 2 pencil</b>

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

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## **Scholastic Honesty**

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the

possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. [Top](#)

## Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. Please look for the course evaluation link on the course Home Page towards the end of the course. [Top](#)

## University Policies

### Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### Academic Integrity

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 includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

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.

**Students in this course suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings, and if found responsible, the following minimum sanctions will be applied:**

- 1. Homework / Individual Projects – Zero for the Assignment (grade cannot be dropped)**

2. **Case Write-ups – Zero for the Assignment**
3. **Quizzes (Graded) – Zero for the Quiz**
4. **Presentations – Zero for the Assignment**
5. **Group Work – Zero for the Assignment**
6. **Tests – F for the course**

You are responsible to read all regulations at: <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/index.html>

### **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22, PO Box 830688, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688 (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

### **Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. ([http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))