Syllabus
Spring 2020
BLW 335-500 & BLW 335-501: Business Law
Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor: Drew Thornley, J.D.
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Office Hours:
Office:
Tuesday: 12:30-2:30 PM
Wednesday: 1-4 PM
Thursday: 10:00-11:00 AM
Otherwise, by appointment.

Online (Skype, Google Hangout, etc.):
*If you desire online office hours during the designated times below, schedule an appointment with me in person or via email.

Wednesday: 8-11 AM
Thursday: 8-9 AM
Otherwise, by appointment.


Course Description: An examination of various legal relationships that are significant in business, including contracts, torts, sales, business organizations, agency, and related subjects. Prerequisite: Junior Standing. Expected weekly hours of work outside of class: six (6).

Program Learning Outcomes: Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/uq-plo.asp.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Goals and Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Recognize the legal terms introduced in the course and apply or relate these terms to specific situations.
2. Analyze information to recognize legal issues and legal problems in fact situations and to determine what legal principle(s) should be applied.

3. Integrate knowledge of the legal principles that are covered to solve problems that are unfamiliar.

4. Apply problem-solving skills to legal issues, using logic and critical thinking.

5. Appreciate and identify ethical dilemmas in the business/legal context and use ethical reasoning in decision-making.

6. Describe the impact of constant change and lack of certainty, which are inherent aspects of the U.S. legal system.

7. Develop an awareness of the need for a continuing acquisition of new knowledge about changes in the law.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Examinations:** Five (5) examinations, each worth 10% of your overall course grade (50% total). Each module’s exam covers material from that module only. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true-false questions. All material covered in the assigned readings may be the subject of questions on the exams. Each exam opens and closes at the time noted in the syllabus and must be completed within those dates. **Exams not completed within this time period will receive zero (0) points. Missed exams will be excused and allowed to be made up only for university-excused absences or for extreme emergencies that justify missing the exam. What constitutes an extreme emergency is within the discretion of the instructor. If you have any expectation that you have some medical or other issue that might conflict with an exam, make sure you take the exam early in the exam window and do not wait until the last minute.** All exams in this class will be administered online through D2L. Any excused exams must be scheduled for make up within two (2) days of the missed exam or the emergency has resolved itself, or students missing the exam will receive a point value of zero (0) for the missed exam. It is entirely the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with me to take the missed exam. If you have a conflict with another university event or a university excused absence, you must contact me well in advance of the examination. In case of an extreme emergency that prevents you from taking an exam, contact me before the scheduled examination if at all possible. If it is not possible to contact me before the exam, contact me as soon as possible after the emergency is resolved. Failure to do so may result in an examination grade of zero.

**Discussions/Assignments:** I will assign discussion posts and other written assignments. Be sure to check the due date on each. Discussions will make up 5% of your overall course grade, while other written assignments will make up 25%. Additional instructions, to follow. **NOTE: For assignments, I employ software to monitor for plagiarism.**

**Class Participation Quizzes:** Since this is an online class, there are no physical class sessions to attend. However, just like in a face-to-face class, I expect all students to interact with the material and participate in the course. In lieu of classroom lecture sessions, class-lectures videos have been posted to D2L. There are also PowerPoint presentations and other written materials that you can utilize to interact with the material. In order to evaluate your participation in the class, there are multiple-choice quizzes for each module. Each of these quizzes is worth 4% of your grade (so, 20% total). The quizzes are set up as follows:

- The quizzes are relatively short (between 10 and 20 questions each), but I am giving you 60 minutes to complete each one. This is to encourage you to really think about the questions and spend a lot of time working through them.
• You are encouraged to use your class material (books, notes, etc.) while taking the quizzes. Additionally, it is perfectly fine if you take the quizzes in groups so you can work through the problems together.

• Although each quiz is relatively short, the questions are drawn randomly from a very large bank of questions. Because of this, if you are taking the quiz with other students, you will each likely have different questions on your quiz. Thus, if you take the quiz with other students then you will have a chance to see a greater number of questions and cover more material.

• You can take each quiz up to 5 times, and your highest score will be your grade. Each time you take the quiz, it will generate a different set of random questions, so taking each quiz multiple times will allow you to practice on a greater number of questions. Since your highest score is what is recorded for your grade, even if you make 100% on the first attempt, you can still take each quiz multiple times for practice without hurting your grade.

The purpose of these quizzes is to help you learn the material better as well as to get practice on questions that are similar to what you will see on the exam. Thus, I highly encourage you to take advantage of these quizzes and your ability to take them multiple times, both to help your grade and also to prepare you for the exams.

**Grading:** Grades are calculated based on the percentage you earn on each graded item. Your final grade is the weighted average of all of your earned percentages. Reminder: Exams count 50% of your final grade (10% each), assignments count 25%, quizzes count 20% (4% each), & discussions count 5%.

**Missed Graded Work** – If you experience an emergency that prevents you from completing any graded work, you must notify me as soon as you become aware of the emergency or, if not possible to alert me in advance, as soon as possible after the emergency arises. **Note:** Whether to allow you to make up missed graded work is at my discretion, and I will always take into account that you have multiple days (if not weeks) to complete graded work, as assigned. In other words, if, for example, you have 2 weeks to complete an assignment but wait until the night before it is due to complete it but are unable to do so due to an emergency that arises the night before it is due, do not expect to be allowed to make up the assignment, since you waited until the night before to complete an assignment for which you were given 2 weeks.

**Medical and Other Serious Problems** - Please take time and make the effort to advise me if you have difficulties that require my attention, to properly evaluate your classroom participation and activities. A note from a physician may be requested and required.

**Unannounced Tests (Pop Quizzes)** - I reserve the right to give unannounced tests (pop quizzes). Missed tests for university-excused absences will be made up within two (2) calendar days, or students missing the test will receive a point value of zero (0). It is the student’s total responsibility to make arrangements to take the missed test. Unannounced test points are added to the total possible point accumulation for the course.

**Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4):**

*Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf.) Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is*
appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Student Academic Dishonesty (4.1):

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Course Grades (University Policy 5.5):

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.

Students with Disabilities:

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Course Calendar: This is a general outline of material expected to be covered. Material covered, dates of tests, and material covered on each exam may vary slightly, as necessitated by the pace in which material is covered. Any material deviations from this schedule will be announced and delivered to students either during class or by email. Due dates are listed in D2L. Each module will last approximately 3 school weeks.

Module 1: Chapters 1-4, 6, 7, 23

Module 2: Chapters 11-14
Module 3: Chapters 15-18, 20

Module 4: Chapters 25-28

Module 5: Chapters 5, 8, 29-32