GENERAL INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS
BUSINESS LAW - BLAW 3335.501
SUMI 2021
Online

Instructor: Dr. Justin R. Blount
Nelson Rusche College of Business/McGee Building 229K
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**Office Hours:**

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<th>Office Hours (all office hours online)</th>
<th>Class Hours (all online)</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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**Course Description:** An examination of various legal relationships which are significant in business, including contracts, torts, personal property, business organizations, agency, suretyship, bailments, cyberlaw/e-commerce, international law and comparative law, and related subjects. Prerequisite: Junior Standing.

**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/ug-plo.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-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: (500 points) 4 class examinations and 1 final examination worth 100 points each. The final exam is not comprehensive. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and/or 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 only be excused and allowed to be made up 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. Note that I am not very lenient with this policy due to the fact that the exam windows are quite long. Thus, 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. As of now, I do not plan to require any proctoring of exams. However, if I begin to see abnormal test results that indicate cheating is taking place, I reserve the right to require proctoring of exams. 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. Students are NOT permitted to use the textbook, notes, or any other resources during any of the exams. In addition, exams are to be individual work and collaboration with other students or individuals is not allowed. Using ANY materials of any kind on the exams or collaborating with other students on the exams is considered cheating, and a violation of SFA’s academic dishonesty policy, which will result in appropriate consequences.

Case Questions: (140 Total Points) Four (4) written case questions will be assigned and each is worth 35 points each. These case questions will be available on D2L. The questions will consist of a short fact pattern presenting a legal problem which must be analyzed. Each student is to write a brief but complete response to the assigned case questions using the below IRAC method of legal analysis (also discussed in Appendix A of the text). Students may collaborate on thinking through the case question and conducting an analysis, but final written responses must be individual work (i.e. you cannot copy someone else’s work, and must write your own, independent final paper). The written responses are due at the time noted on the course schedule and must be delivered to the instructor through the DROPBOX TOOL in the BLW 335 course in the SFASU Desire2Learn (D2L) web application.

It is the student’s responsibility to know how to use the Dropbox submission process properly. If you fail to properly submit your assignment through Dropbox before the time and date it is due, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. With the exception of your one “late pass,” (described below) there is no exception to this policy – I do not accept late work. The only way I will accept a paper that was not in the Dropbox folder by the time it is closed is if you provide me with proof, through the Dropbox submission confirmation email, that you did submit the assignment and the only reason I have not received it was a technical problem outside of your control. If you have submitted your assignment properly, you should receive an email from Dropbox. If you do not receive an email, then you should try to re-submit, because that means your submission did not go through. This means that you should submit your paper sufficiently in advance of the time it is due such that if the Dropbox is not working for some reason, you can send me an email before the time the paper is due with the paper attached to the email letting me know that you tried to submit the paper via the Dropbox but it was not working properly. I will not accept hard copies handed to me or emailed copies – you must submit your assignments electronically via Dropbox.
**One Reduced Point Late Assignment:** The only exception to my “no late work” policy is that this semester, I am allowing students one opportunity to submit an assignment late, but with a 25% point reduction, under the following parameters:

1. This opportunity does not work for the exams – if you miss an exam, you will receive a zero on that exam. This opportunity only applies to written assignments.
2. In order to use this opportunity, you must **notify me by email within 24 hours of the due date/time of the assignment that you missed handing in the assignment and would like to use your one “late pass” to hand the assignment in late.** Your email notification must have an electronic copy of the written assignment you are turning in attached to the email.

Points for case problem assignments will be determined by (1) the totality of the work (i.e., that all questions from the case problem are answered); (2) the substance of the responses (i.e., evidence of thoughtfulness, analysis, and support for the response); and (3) the form of the response (i.e. conciseness, neatness, organization, professionalism, spelling and grammar).

**FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS – YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE REQUIREMENTS OR YOU WILL LOSE POINTS!** Failing to follow these formatting instructions will result in an automatic deduction of up to 10% from your grade.

- Your case problem answers must be submitted in a file format that is compatible with (i.e. able to be opened with and read) Microsoft Word or Adobe .pdf.
- Your answer must be typed in **12 point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs/sections/section headings, with spacing set to 0pt between lines.** The page margins must be set at **1 inch all around, with both the right and left margins justified (i.e. no ragged edge on the right).** These are relatively simple formatting settings in Word. If you don’t know how to do these settings, then you can find numerous tutorials explaining these settings using Google.
- You must write professionally and use complete sentences, proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- You must put **bolded headings** into the paper setting out each section – Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion.
- You must put your name at the top of the paper or in a heading. **Failing to put your name on the paper will result in automatic deduction of 5 points from your grade.**

**IRAC Method of Legal Analysis** – your chapter end case problems should be answered using the IRAC method. This is a way to analyze a legal problem (it can also be useful in analyzing other problems that involve applying a rule) that will help you to analyze the problem thoroughly and reach the correct legal conclusion. IRAC is an acronym which stands for:

**I – Issue** – based upon the facts presented in the problem, you need to determine and state what the legal issue(s) is that needs to be resolved. You have to determine this issue based upon a thorough reading of the facts set forth in the case question. Once you determine what the legal issue is that needs to be addressed, you should state it in your analysis as a question (example - “Did Tom breach the contract by failing to finish painting the car?”). Although the “Issue” section of the analysis is usually quite short – it can often be stated in one sentence – it is a critical part of your analysis because it frames the rest of your answer. If you do not identify the right legal issue, then the rest of your analysis will almost certainly be incorrect because you will be analyzing the wrong issue/answering the wrong question.

**R – Rule** – after determining what the relevant legal issue is that needs to be addressed, you must then set out the appropriate rule(s)/law(s) which should be used to address that issue. Analyzing a legal problem is not about stating your opinion about what you want to happen – legal analysis involves applying the appropriate
law to the facts of the case so you can determine what the answer is under the relevant law. Thus, the rule section is also critically important to your analysis because it will set the stage for the application section of your paper, which should be the most lengthy and analytical part of your paper.

A – Application – this is the most difficult and lengthy section of your paper, and where your analysis takes place. This is where you apply the Rule to the facts of the case to resolve the Issue that you previously identified. Applying the rule means that you discuss it as it applies to the facts of the particular case, so you can reach a conclusion regarding what the correct resolution of the case is under the law. **If you are talking about any law/rule in this section, than that law/rule should be set out in the Rule section of the paper. Your Application section should be driven by the Rule section. You are not merely stating your opinion about the case here or just restating the facts of the case - you are conducting an analysis where you apply the proper legal rule to the issue at hand.**

C – Conclusion – in this section, you simply give a short statement of your conclusion regarding what the correct legal outcome of this case should be, based upon the analysis done in your application section. This can often (but not always) be done in one sentence.

**Class Participation Quizzes:** (50 total points) 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, I have recorded class lectures via the Panopto lecture capture tool and have posted them to D2L. There are also powerpoints 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 10 points, for a total of 50 points toward your grade. 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 you 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 prepare you for the exams.

**Extra Credit - Course Evaluation:** Students will be awarded five (5) additional participation points for completing the online course/instructor evaluation at the end of the semester.
Grading: Grades will be determined on the following scale, based on percentage ratio of student’s total accumulated points to the total possible (690) points for the course. Decimals are rounded up to the nearest whole number for determining the final grade (e.g., .794 or 79.4%=80% and would be a B letter grade; .788 or 78.8%=79% and would be a C letter grade).

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<th>Scale</th>
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<td>90-100%</td>
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<td>80-89%</td>
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<td>70-79%</td>
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<td>60-69%</td>
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<td>Below 60%</td>
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Example: 84 points Exam No. 1 72 points Exam No. 2 74 points Exam No. 3 68 points Exam No. 4 88 points Exam No. 5

46 Class Participation Quizzes 112 points Case Questions 544 Total Accumulated Points

544/690=.788 or 78.8%=79%=C Letter Grade

But consider: 549/690=.7956 or 79.56%=80%=B Letter Grade (with up to 5 extra credit points added)

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.

May 17 – May 23
Module 1, Introduction, Chapters 6, 7, 23, 24
Case Problem 1 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59 p.m., May 23
Class Participation Quiz 1 due by 11:59 p.m., May 23
Exam No. 1 [Chs. 6, 7, 23 & 24], opens on Fri., May 21 at 8:00 a.m., due by 11:59 p.m., Sun., May 23.

May 24 – May 30
Module 2, Chapters 11-14
Case Problem 2 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59 p.m., May 30
Case Participation Quiz 2 due by 11:59 p.m., May 30
Exam No. 2 [Chs. 11-14], open on Fri., May 28 at 8:00 a.m., due by 11:59 p.m., Sun. May 30.

May 31 – June 9
Module 3, Chapters 15-18, 20
Class Participation Quiz 3 due by 11:59 p.m., June 9
Exam No. 3 [Chs. 15-18, 20], open on Mon., June 7, at 8:00 a.m., due by Wed., 11:59 p.m., June 9.

June 10 – June 18
Module 4, Chapters 25-28
Case Problem 4 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59 p.m., June 18.
Class Participation Quiz 4 due by 11:59 p.m., June 18
Exam No. 4 [Chs. 25-28], open on Wed., June 16 at 8:00 a.m., due by 11:59 p.m., Fri., June 18.

June 19 – June 25
Module 5, Chapters 5, 8, 29-32
Class Participation Quiz 5 due by 11:59 p.m., June 25.
FINAL EXAM [Chs 5, 8, 29-32], open on Wed., June 23, at 8:00 a.m. due by 11:59 p.m., Fri. June 25.