GENERAL INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS
BLW 3335-500
Business Law
Fall Online - August 28, 2023 to December 15, 2023

Instructor: Dr. Judi C. Wells
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Telephone: 
BEST: (936) 559-7960 (Law Office)
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Office Hours: (All Office Hours are online)
Tuesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (By Appointment)
Wednesday 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (By Appointment)
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (On Line)
**Additional times may be scheduled by appointment. Text or email to set up an appointment (either in person or through Zoom). Remember, you can always text me questions and I will respond as soon as possible.

Course Description:
An examination of various legal relationships, which are significant in business, including contracts, agency, torts, intellectual property, personal property, bailments and related subjects.

Required Textbooks and Other Materials:
Practical Business Law, Thornley, Shrewsbury, & Blount, electronic text, ISBN# 9781644969403. This book can be ordered direct from the publisher at www.grlcontent.com. The textbook is only available online. You are required to purchase and read the textbook for this class. You may purchase the textbook either by: 1) purchasing an access card from the SFA bookstore; or 2) purchasing access through the publisher’s website. The later is probably easier! There is a support link on the publisher’s website if you have questions.

NOTE: The textbook contains internal quizzes for each chapter that must be completed.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student should:
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. Develop an awareness of the need for continuing acquisition of new knowledge about changes in the law.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations (500 total points): There will be four (4) exams during the semester, including the final; each is worth 125 points. The final exam is not comprehensive. Each exam will consist of true-false and multiple-choice 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. Do not wait until the last minute and then complain about computer issues. It is entirely the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with me if you miss an exam. If you have a conflict with another university event or a university-excused absence, you must contact me in advance of the examination. In case of an extreme emergency, contact me as soon as possible after the emergency is resolved. Failure to do so may result in an examination grade of zero (0). 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. 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 is considered cheating, and a violation of SFA’s academic dishonesty policy, which will result in appropriate consequences.

Case Problems (200 points): Four (4) written case problems will be assigned and each is worth 50 points. The case questions will be available on D2L, in the appropriate module. The questions 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 problems using the IRAC method of legal analysis (discussed in Chapter 3 of the text). Students may collaborate on thinking through the analysis, but responses must be individual work. (DO NOT copy and turn in the exact same analysis. If you do, both will receive zero (0) points). 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 D2L.

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 zero (0) for that assignment. If you have submitted your assignment properly, you should receive an email from Dropbox. If you do not receive and email, then you should try to re-submit, because that means your submission did not go through. If 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. (Please use the jwells@ssbww.law email address).

Points for the case problem 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). THERE IS A SAMPLE CASE QUESTION AND IRAC ANSWER IN THE INTRODUCTION SECTION. MAKE SURE YOU REVIEW THEM.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS – YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE REQUIREMENTS OR YOU WILL LOSE POINTS!

• Your case question answers must be submitted in Microsoft Word file format.
• Your answer must be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font, single spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs/sections/section headings.
• You must write professionally and use complete sentences, proper grammar, punctuation, etc.
• 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. Failure to put your name on the paper will result in automatic deduction of 5 points from your grade.

IRAC Method of Legal Analysis – Your case questions must 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 problem. Once you determine what the legal issue is that needs to be addressed, you should state it in your analysis section 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 the issue. Analyzing a legal problem is not about you just 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, the most lengthy part.

A – Application – this is the most difficult and lengthy part of your analysis. This is where you set out the facts and apply the Rule to the facts of the case to resolve the Issue that your 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. **Note: if you are talking about any rule/law in this section, then that rule/law 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 you have done in the Application section.

**Chapter Quizzes (175 points):** There is a quiz in each chapter of the text. You are required to read the text throughout the course and complete these quizzes. These quizzes reflect 20% of your grade, so it is very important that you read the text and perform well on these quizzes. Reading comprehension is a very important part of learning the law, as well as being a productive businessperson and member of society, and these tests are designed to ensure that you are actually reading the text so you can gain practice at reading and understanding text. The schedule for completing these quizzes is set forth below. **You are required to engage with the material on a regular basis in order to complete these quizzes as scheduled.**

**Course Evaluation (5 bonus points):** Students will receive five (5) bonus points for completing the Course Evaluation through mySFA at the end of the semester. This is optional, but I do encourage and appreciate your feedback. I review all results and comments. Your feedback is helpful as I strive to make this study beneficial to SFASU students.

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

1. **Grading:** Grades will be determined on the following scale, based on percentage ration of student’s total accumulated points to the total possible (875) points for the course. Decimals are rounded up to the nearest whole number for determining the final grade (e.g., 0.794 or 79.4% = 80% and would be a B letter grade; .788 or 78.8% = 79% and would be a C letter grade).

   **Scale:**
   - 90 - 100% = A
   - 80 - 89% = B
   - 70 - 79% = C
   - 60 - 69% = D
   - Below 60.0% = F

   **Example:**
   - Exam #1 115 points
   - Exam #2 110 points
   - Exam #3 100 points
   - Exam #4 108 points
   - Chapter Quizzes 109 points
   - Case Questions 150 points
   - **692 Total Accumulated Points**

   692/875 = 0.791 = 79.1% = C Letter grade

   **BUT consider:** 692+ 5 bonus points = 697/875 = 0.797 = 79.7% = 80% =B Letter grade


2. **Attentiveness, diligence and perseverance will serve you well in your higher education and in the future. Plan ahead and keep up.** This course covers a lot of material in a short period of time and requires your best efforts in order to do well. Please do NOT believe that you can read all the materials and cram for an exam in a one night session.

3. This course is considered a legal studies course. The study of law can be voluminous and tedious, but it can also be interesting and even a little fun. In this course, you will not be simply memorizing rules, you will be learning the rules and strategies and analyzing fact situations to determine how the rules and strategies should be applied. You will be required to think and analyze – great practice for working out in the real world.

4. **General Student Policies:** The following policies apply to all students enrolled in courses at Stephen F. Austin State University.

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**Student Academic Dishonesty (University Policy 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 it is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet source 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.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.asp).

**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](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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Acceptable Student Behavior (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 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.

Mental Health and Wellness:

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources: SFA Counseling Services www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices. Rusk Building, 3rd floor, 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp Human Services, Room 202; 936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

“Not everything that counts can be counted; and not everything that can be counted counts.”

Albert Einstein
**Course Calendar:** This is the general outline of the material expected to be covered, along with anticipated exam dates, quiz dates, and all due dates. Any material deviations from this schedule will be delivered by email in D2L.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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</table>
| August 28, 2023 Through September 20, 2023 | Introduction and Getting Started | Complete Getting Started Instructions  
Chapter 1: Intro to US Law  
Chapter 2: Intro to Courts  
Chapter 3: IRAC  
Chapter 4: Dispute Resolution  
Chapter 5: Intentional Torts  
Chapter 6: Negligence  
Chapter 7: Strict Liability  
Exam #1 OPENS: Monday, September 18, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. | READ the Syllabus carefully  
Calendar dates and deadlines  
Take Syllabus Quiz  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 1 through 5 quizzes are due by Monday, September 11, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Read and Outline Chapters 6 and 7  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 6 and 7 Quizzes are due by Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Complete Case Question #1 using IRAC method  
Complete Exam #1  
Case Question #1 and Exam #1 are due by Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. |
| September 20, 2023 Through October 14, 2023 | Module 2:  
Chapter 8: Intro to Contracts  
Chapter 9: Agreement  
Chapter 10: Consideration  
Chapter 11: Capacity  
Chapter 12: Legality  
Exam #2 OPENS: Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. | Read and Outline Chapters 8 and 9  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 8 and 9 quizzes are due by Friday, September 29, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Read and Outline Chapters 10, 11, and 12  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapters 10, 11, and 12 quizzes are due by Friday, October 13, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Complete Case Question #2 using IRAC method  
Complete Exam #2  
Case Question #2 and Exam #2 are due by Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. |
| October 14, 2023 Through November 18, 2023 | Module 3:  
Chapter 13: Statue of Frauds  
Chapter 14: Formation Issues  
Chapter 15: Performance  
Chapter 16: Negotiation  
Chapter 17: Breach  
Chapter 18: UCC  
Chapter 19: UCC  
Chapter 20: Warranties and Product Liability  
Exam #3 OPENS: Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. | Read and Outline Chapters 13 and 14  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 13 and 14 quizzes are due by Friday, October 20, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Read and Outline Chapters 15, 16, and 17  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 15, 16, and 17 quizzes are due by Friday, November 3, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Read and Outline Chapters 18, 19, and 20  
Take Chapter Quizzes while reading  
Chapter 18, 19, and 20 quizzes are due by Friday, November 17, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.  
Complete Case Question #3 using the IRAC method.  
Complete Exam #3  
Case Question #3 and Exam #3 are due by Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 19, 2023 Through December 15, 2023</th>
<th>Module 4:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Chapter 21: Agency I</td>
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<td>Chapter 22: Agency II</td>
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<td>Chapter 23: Employment</td>
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<td>Chapter 24: Business Organizations</td>
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<td>Chapter 25: Intellectual Property</td>
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<td>Exam #4 OPENS: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Read and Outline Chapters 21 and 22</td>
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<td>Take Chapter Quizzes while reading</td>
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<td>Chapter 21 and 22 quizzes are due by Friday, December 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Read and Outline Chapters 23, 24, and 25</td>
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<td>Take Chapter Quizzes while reading</td>
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<td>Chapter 23, 24, and 25 quizzes are due by Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Complete Case Question #4 using IRAC method</td>
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<td>Case Question #4 is due by Friday, December 8, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Complete Exam #4</td>
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<td>Exam #4 is due by Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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