Syllabus
Spring 2024
BLAW 3325-500: Business, Ethics, and Society
Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor:

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B.A., The University of Alabama
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Office Hours:

Office:

Monday: 11:55 AM-2:25 PM
Tuesday: 9-10 AM
Wednesday: 11:55 AM-2:25 PM

Online (via Zoom: https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/3028800723):

Thursday: 9 AM-1 PM (appointment required)

NOTE: If you desire an online meeting during (and/or outside) this designated time, you must schedule an appointment with me in advance. To do so, email me your request for a meeting, along with your complete availability.


Course Description: A comprehensive study of the dynamic social, political, legal, and regulatory environments within which domestic and international businesses must operate. Course topics are examined with an emphasis on ethical business decision making and consideration of the social responsibility of business.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Goals and Objectives:

This course is designed to emphasize and explain the importance of understanding the dynamics of the environment of the business community. After completing this course, the student will be able to identify the environmental forces that may impact the operation of a business, and further, to understand the importance of being prepared for environmental changes and anticipating the expectations of stakeholders. This course will also help the business student develop an understanding and application of ethical principles in evaluating business decisions, as well as considering the social responsibility expected by the stakeholders of the business community in the decision-making process.

Upper-Level Class and Professionalism Expectations:

As you advance in your studies at the junior and senior levels, you should expect course work to become more demanding. You are expected to complete all readings and activities assigned to the best of your ability, and this work should be at a more advanced level than what was expected in courses in the core curriculum courses. In an upper-level class, you are expected to prepare more and complete assignments from knowledge in your class readings, your own research, and personal experience.

As business student, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. All communications in this class (including assignment submissions, email messages, and class discussions) should present you as a professional in the field. This means that you should always use professional language, proper spelling/grammar/punctuation, appropriate addresses, and completeness in your communications. Each communication you make will help shape your professional image, and this class is the time to practice this. Always proofread your messages from the standpoint of your receiver and adjust as needed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations: There will be 3 Mini-Exams (45 minutes each) and 2 full examinations (a Mid-Term and a Final). You will have 75 minutes to complete the Mid-Term, and 90 minutes to complete the Final. Collectively, exams comprise 70% of your overall grade. The examinations are worth the following percentages of your overall grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Mini-Examinations</td>
<td>10% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
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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 my discretion. 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 arrange 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.

For all Mini-Exams, you are allowed to use the textbook. The Mid-Term Exam and the Final Exam will be proctored. For all exams, you are not allowed to use any online study aids, and you are not allowed to look up answers online. Exams are to be completed individually, so collaboration with any other person (student in the class or otherwise) is not allowed. Collaborating with another person on an exam is considered cheating and a violation of SFA’s academic dishonesty policy, which will result in appropriate consequences.

**Individual Assignments:** You will write two ethical reasoning case analyses. Each counts 10% of your overall grade. Further instructions on these assignments are provided in Syllabus Appendix 1.

**Group Presentation Assignment:** The class will be divided up into groups of 3-5 students and there is a group assignment you will complete. You will be allowed to choose your own group if you notify me of your choices by the dates set forth in the course schedule below. If you do not notify me of your choices by these dates, I will randomly assign you to a group. This assignment will be worth 10% of your overall grade. The specifics of this assignment are set forth in Syllabus Appendix 2.

**Overall-Grade Percentages:**

Mini-Exams: 30% (10% each)
Exams: 40% (20% each)
Individual Assignments: 20% (10% each)
Group Assignment: 10%

**NOTE:** Grades are not rounded up. So, for example, a 69.99 is not rounded up to a 70.

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work. Any paper that is not submitted via the D2L Dropbox by the time set forth in the syllabus will receive a zero. **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. **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 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.**
All written work submitted in this class must be submitted in a Microsoft Word file format (.doc or .docx). Work that is submitted in any other file format will not be accepted and you will receive a zero. You have free access to Microsoft 365 through your MY SFA student account.

**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. Any material deviations from this schedule will be announced either by email or via D2L announcement.

**January 18-February 16:** Module 1 – Chapters 1, 7-8, Behavioral Ethics

- Friday, February 2, 5:00 p.m. – Notify me by this time if there is a group of individuals you would like to work with for your group assignment. (The maximum size of a group is 5 students.) Otherwise, I will randomly assign you a group.
- Mini-Exam 1 – Opens on Wednesday, February 14, @ 8:00 a.m.; closes on Friday, February 16, @ 11:59 p.m.
- Individual Case 1 – Due via D2L Dropbox by Friday, February 16, @ 11:59 p.m.

**February 19-March 22:** Module 2 – Chapters 2-5

- Mini-Exam 2 – Opens on Wednesday, March 6, @ 8:00 a.m.; closes on Friday, March 8, @ 11:59 p.m.
- Mid-Term Exam – Chapters 1-4, 5, 7-8, Behavioral Ethics; opens on Wednesday, March 20, @ 8:00 a.m.; closes on Friday, March 22, @ 11:59 p.m.

**March 25-May 3:** Module 3 – Chapters 10, 13-17

- Individual Case 2 – Due via D2L Dropbox by Friday, April 12, @ 11:59 p.m.
- Mini-Exam 3 – Opens on Wednesday, April 17, @ 8:00 a.m.; closes on Friday, April 19, @ 11:59 p.m.
- Group Presentation – Due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1.
- Final Exam – Chapters 10, 13-17, 7-8 & Behavioral Ethics; opens Monday, May 6, @ 8:00 a.m.; closes on Wednesday, May 8, @ 11:59 p.m.

**Student Conduct (University Policy 4.106, [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-106.pdf]):**

*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. 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.*
Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial.

Use of any artificial intelligence (AI) software or tool, such as ChatGPT, to complete any assignment, including but not limited to any exams, research projects, or written work produced in the class, is considered a violation of the Academic Dishonesty policy and will be treated by the instructor as such.

Withheld Grades

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework 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. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.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), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health, and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

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

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741