Instructor: Drew Thornley

J.D., Harvard Law School
B.A., The University of Alabama
EMBA, Quantic School of Business and Technology
Associate Professor of Legal Studies (Tenured)
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Office Hours (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Zoom: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 8:00 AM – 10:40 AM

NOTE: If you desire a Zoom meeting during (and/or outside) this designated time, you must schedule an appointment with me in advance.


Course Description: An introduction to the United States’ legal system, with specific focus on civil procedure, litigation, and laws in such subject matters as contracts, torts, sales, business organizations, intellectual property, and agency. 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.
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.

Grades: Grades will be determined according to the following percentages:

   Exam 1: 15%
   Exam 2: 15%
   Exam 3: 15%
   Exam 4: 15%
   Textbook-Chapter Quizzes: 25%
   Assignments & Discussions: 15%

All grades are calculated by percentage. I don’t assign a point value for exams or assignments. So, if an exam has 25 questions, it doesn’t matter if each question is worth 1 point or 4 points or 100 points. Your grade is the number correct divided by 25. So, 25/25 = 100%, 20/25 = 80%, etc. Same with assignments. It doesn’t matter that one assignment might be scored out of 10, while another is scored out of 100. All that matters is the percentage you earn. Your participation grade will be the average score of all of your percentages. So, for example, if you earn an 8/10, that’s 80%. And if you earn 90/100, that’s 90%. If these were your only assignments, then your assignment grade would be 85%, which equals the average of 80% (8/10) and 90% (90/100). Grades are **not rounded up**. For example, 79.99 = 79.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There are four exams, each worth 15% of your overall grade. Each lasts 60 minutes and will be taken via the “Quizzes” function of Brightspace by D2L.
Any change to the following list of exam topics will be announced to students via Brightspace by D2L:

Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, & 4-7
Exam 2: Chapters 8-12
Exam 3: Chapters 13-20
Exam 4: Chapters 21-25

Textbook-Chapter Quizzes: The textbook has 25 chapters. Each chapter has a chapter quiz at the end. You have one attempt for each quiz. Your percentage average for all 25 quizzes will be your grade for this portion (25%) of your overall grade. Thus, in effect, each quiz equates to 1% of your overall grade. A table of quiz deadlines is included in the following section.

Assignments: Each unit will include one written assignment and one discussion. These are weighted equally. Collectively, these account for 15% of your overall grade.

Schedule of Deadlines for Textbook-Chapter Quizzes

*NOTE: These are subject to change. I will let you know of any material deviation from this schedule.

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UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All applicable university policies are incorporated herein. For a complete list of university policies, see the following: https://www.sfasu.edu/policies. In particular, I highlight two of these policies below:

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](http://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](http://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/thewhub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thewhub)

936.468.4008
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