GENERAL INFORMATION AND SYLLABUS
BUSINESS LAW - BLAW 3335.5001
Summer II – July 8, 2024 to August 7, 2024
Online

Instructor: Dr. Judi Wells
Nelson Rusche College of Business/McGee Building

Tel: (936) 558.7717 Cell (text)
Email: jwells@ssbww.law

Office Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Office Hours (all office hours online)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Additional Office hours may be scheduled by appointment. Text or email to set up a meeting (either in person or through Zoom). Remember, you can always text me questions and I will respond as soon as possible.

Text: Required: 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 grl.com website. The later is probably easier! There is a support link if you have questions. You MUST have your own access to the online book in order to complete the quizzes for each chapter.

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

Course Description: An examination of various legal relationships which are significant in business, including contracts, torts, business organizations, agency, employment law, and related subjects.

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. In particular, the program learning outcomes for this course include: (i) The student will exhibit an understanding of ethics and social responsibility; (ii) The student will apply critical thinking skills by solving problems requiring quantitative and/or qualitative analysis; (iii) The student will effectively apply knowledge and skills in the functional areas of business; and (iv) The student will demonstrate career readiness through completion of a structured field-based work internship experience.

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. 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 worth 125 points each. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and/or true-false questions. The final exam is not comprehensive. 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: (200 Total Points) Four (4) written case questions will be assigned and each is worth 50 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 IRAC method of legal analysis (discussed in Chapter 3 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). 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 the BLAW 3335 course in the SFASU Brightspace/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. 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.
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). 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!** Failing to follow these formatting instructions will result in an automatic deduction of up to 10% from your grade.

- 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, with spacing set to 0pt between lines**. The page margins must be set at **1 inch all around**. 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.**

I will review your draft Case Problem and give you pointers and suggestions **IF** you submit your draft to jwells@ssbww.law at least two days before the due deadline.

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. (The method will also help you think through the answers to exam questions.). 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.

Chapter Quizzes: (175 total points) There is a quiz at the end of chapter of the text. You will be 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 the information. The schedule for completing these quizzes is set forth at the end of this syllabus. You will be required to engage with the material on a regular basis in order to complete these quizzes as scheduled.

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 (875) points for the course. Decimals points of .5 and over are rounded up to the nearest whole number for determining the final grade (e.g., .795 or 79.54%=80% and would be a B letter grade; .794 or 79.4%=79% and would be a C letter grade).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale:</th>
<th>Example:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%=A</td>
<td>115 points Exam No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%= B</td>
<td>110 points Exam No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%= C</td>
<td>100 points Exam No. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%= D</td>
<td>108 points Exam No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%=F</td>
<td>109 Chapter Quizzes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150 points Case Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>690 Total Accumulated Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>692/875=.791 or 79.1%=79%=C Letter Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>But consider: 697/875=.797 or 79.7%=80%=B Letter Grade (with up to 5 extra credit points added)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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 you can read through all the materials and cram for an exam in a one-night session.

Review the attached timeline, calendar due dates, plan ahead and keep up. If you do not spend a few hours EACH day on this course, you will most likely fail.
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 it 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/.

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 fee, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:** SFA Counseling Services [www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  Rusk Building, 3rd floor, 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic [www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://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

“It is not the things that are counted that matter. It is the things that count that are not counted.”

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| July 8, 2024 Through July 16, 2024 | Introduction and Getting Started Module 1:  
  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: Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. | Complete Getting Started Instructions  
  CAREFULLY READ the Syllabus  
  Take Syllabus quiz  
  Read and Outline Chapters 1 through 7  
  Take the Chapter Quizzes at the end of each of Chapters 1 through 7  
  Complete Case Question #1 using IRAC method  
  Complete Exam #1  
  All Chapter Quizzes, Case Question #1 and Exam #1 are due by Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. |
| July 16, 2024 through July 23, 2024 | Module 2:  
  Chapter 8: Intro to Contracts  
  Chapter 9: Agreement  
  Chapter 10: Consideration  
  Chapter 11: Capacity  
  Chapter 12: Legality  
  Exam #2 OPENS: Saturday, July 20, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. | Read and Outline Chapters 8 through 12  
  Take Chapter Quizzes at end of each of Chapters 8 through 12  
  Complete Case Question #2 using IRAC method  
  Complete Exam #2  
  All Chapter Quizzes, Case Question #2 and Exam #2 are due by Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. |
| July 23, 2024 through July 30, 2024 | Module 3:  
  Chapter 13: Statute 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: Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 8:00 am | Read and Outline Chapters 13 through 20  
  Take Chapter Quizzes at end of each of Chapters 13 through 20  
  Complete Case Question #3 using the IRAC method  
  Complete Exam #3  
  All Chapter Quizzes, Case Question #3 and Exam #3 are due by Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. |
| **July 30, 2024 through August 7, 2024** | **Module 4:**  
Chapter 21: Agency I  
Chapter 22: Agency II  
Chapter 23: Employment  
Chapter 24: Business Organizations  
Chapter 25: Intellectual Property | **Read and Outline Chapters 21 through 25**  
**Take Chapter Quizzes at end of each of Chapters 21 through 25**  
**Complete Case Question #4 using the IRAC method**  
**Complete Exam #4**  
**All Chapter Quizes, Case Question #4, and Exam #4 are due by Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.** |
| --- | --- | --- |