



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Course Syllabus
Spring 2024

Course Name:	Business Law
Course #:	BLAW 3341-601
CRN:	23529
Instructor:	Carol Mattick, J.D., MBA.
Email:	cmattick@tamusa.edu ¹
Office:	Online
Phone:	210.860-0102
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Class Location:	Virtual
Class Schedule	Asynchronous (Entirely online)

Important Notices:

- Participation in Discussions is Required!

Required Textbook:

Business Law and Strategy 2nd Edition by Melvin, Orozco, and Guerra-Pujol. McGraw Hill, ISBN: 9781266491832. Connect is required for the course.

Course Website: tamusa.blackboard.com

Catalog Course Description:

This course introduces the nature and structure of the US and Texas legal systems; the basic principles of legal reasoning; and laws having a substantial impact on business including contracts, business organizations, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

Prerequisites:

ENGL 1301 & ENGL 1302

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

¹ DO NOT use Blackboard Messages. Generally, I answer emails same business day. I may not respond to emails during the weekend or on University holidays.

- Understand Business Entities including the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Identify the difference between Intentional Torts and Negligence.
- Analyze if a valid, enforceable Contract exists.
- Evaluate case problems using Legal Reasoning.

Grading Policy:

48 Simulations: Every week, students will complete one or more simulations (also called an Assignment Based Activity or “ABA”) through McGraw Hill Connect. These are expected to require 15 minutes each to complete. Simulations assigned for a particular week will be due at 11:59 pm on Sunday, two weeks after they are initially assigned as noted on the schedule below. **You will have two attempts to complete each simulation** and your best score will be used. Late submissions will be accepted for five additional days (i.e. until the following Friday). However, to be able to complete a simulation after the due date, you must email the professor to be granted access. (Yes, that’s annoying, but there are limited settings on Connect for this sort of thing.) Simulations completed in accordance with the late policy will receive half credit. The average of the grades on your simulations (plus the quizzes below) will be 50% of your course grade.

Quizzes as Needed in Lieu of Simulations: There are some topics in the text for which there are very few or which do not have any simulations associated with them. In order to test your understanding of this material, you will complete a quiz in Weeks 5 and 9. They will be 45 questions long.

6 “You Be the Judge” Assignments. These are simulations that are more involved and that require you to use legal reasoning skills to solve a problem . You’re being the judge! They are expected to require 45 minutes each to complete. These assignments occur in Weeks 3,4,6 and 12-14. They are due at 11:59 pm on Sunday, two weeks after they are initially assigned, as noted on the schedule below. **You will have three attempts to complete each one.** Your best score among the three attempts will be used. Late submissions will be accepted for five additional days (i.e. until the following Friday) and will receive half credit. The average of your grades on “You Be the Judge” assignments will be 18% of your course grade.

8 Discussion Posts. Here, I am looking to hear cogent feedback from you concerning: 1) what you did or did not understand about the law from the readings on the topic of the discussion thread; and 2) your observations concerning how this topic will affect the business for which you currently work or contemplate working. There is no “right” or “wrong” answer here. Make one primary post **OR** respond to the post of another student and make substantive points or arguments. **However, I will warn you that when students respond to another student’s post, they tend not to develop their observations as well as when they make a primary post. Be sure to make substantive points in order to get full credit. Be sure to answer the questions asked in the discussion post prompts.** I will be monitoring and responding to your posts as appropriate. The eight Discussion Posts will count for 32% of your grade

Extra Credit: This is NO extra credit available in this course. [Not even if you email me at the end of the semester asking.]

Academic Dishonesty: Any assignment found to contain plagiarized material or be the result of any academic dishonesty will receive the grade of zero. In addition, two instances of academic dishonesty will result in the grade of F being assigned for the course.

Credit

Simulations	48.00% (1 pt ea)
Quizzes	02.00% (1 pt ea)
You Be The Judge Exercises	18.00% (3 pts ea)
Discussion Threads	32.00% (4 pts ea)
Total	100.00%

Meaning of Letter Grades²:

A	Excellent, 90-100
B	Good, 80-89
C	Average, 70-79
D	Passing, 60-69
F	Failure, below 60

Make up and Late Assignment/Exam policy

Simulations and You Be the Judge Exercises: Late submissions will be accepted for five additional days (i.e. until the following Friday). To be able to complete a simulation after the due date, you must email the professor to be granted access.

Quizzes: Late submissions will be accepted for five additional days (i.e. until the following Friday) To be able to complete a quiz after the due date, you must email the professor to be granted access.

Definition Of a Credit Hour:

“A credit hour is an amount of work that reasonably approximates: not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks for one semester, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; at least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in the item above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours. (This information is in accord with federal regulations regarding the definition and assignment of credit hours under section 600.0 and 600.24(f) of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.)

“A credit hour represents a unit of measure of instruction consisting of 60 minutes, of which 50 minutes must be direct instruction over a 15-week period in a semester system. Academic administrative units are responsible for ensuring that credit hours are awarded only for work that

² For details, please see the 2023-2024 Catalog, <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/grades/>

meets this requirement. (This is in accord with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board definition.) Transfer credits will be evaluating for equivalency to this requirement. Students should expect to invest a minimum of two hours of additional work for each hour of classroom or faculty instruction per week." 2023-2024 Catalog page 103

Therefore, this course requires 3 hours of reading time plus a minimum of 6 hours of homework per week.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

▪ **AACSB Assessment:**

The College of Business received AACSB accreditation in Spring 2023. As part of that ongoing process, students will be assessed on program level outcomes based on course outcomes from various courses. The materials from this course may be used for assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

• **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy:**

This course requires that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

▪ **Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

▪ **Academic Learning Center:**

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

• **Counseling/Mental Health Resources:**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional

difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling
Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

▪ **Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

▪ **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:**

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

- **Meeting Basic Needs:**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

- **Military Affairs:**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

- **Religious Observances:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

- **The Six-Drop Rule:**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

- **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating

violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

▪ **Pregnant/Parenting Students:**

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

▪ **Students' Rights and Responsibilities:**

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Key Dates for Spring 2024 Semester:

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-calendar/>

Course Schedule:

Week	Reading Topics / Simulations / Quizzes / Discussion	Due Dates
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.30 Hrs</i>	
Jan 15 -- Jan 21	<u>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment for Business</u> CH 1: Legal Foundations and Thinking Strategically CH 3: Business and the Constitution	54 Pages
Week 1	<u>Simulations</u> Intro to Law: Case Law Intro to Law: Criminal vs Civil Law Con Law: Business and the Constitution Con Law: The Basic Structure of Government	02/04/24
	<u>Discussion Post # 1</u>	02/04/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.05 Hrs</i>	
Jan 22 -- Jan 28	<u>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment for Business</u> CH 4. The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, and Venue. CH 5. Resolving Disputes: Litigation and ADR	54 Pages
Week 2	<u>Simulations</u> Con Law: Fed and State Sources of Power Intro to Law: Types & Hierarchy of Laws Alternative Dispute Resolution	02/11/24
	Discussion Post #2	02/11/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 4.10 Hrs</i>	
Jan 29 -- Feb 4	<u>Contracts, Sales and Leases</u> CH 8. Contracts: Overview, Mutual Assent and Consideration CH 9. Capacity and Legality	48 Pages

Week 3	<u>Simulations</u> Contracts: Elements of a Contract Contracts: Offers Contracts: Acceptance Contracts: Adequacy of Consideration Contracts: Revocation and Term of Offers	02/18/24
	<u>You Be the Judge: Verbal Agreements</u>	02/18/24
	<u>Discussion Post #3</u>	02/18/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.52 Hrs</i>	
Feb 5 – -- Feb 11	<u>Contracts, Sales and Leases</u> CH 10. Enforceability CH 11. Performance CH 12. Breach and Remedies	53 Pages
Week 4	<u>Simulations:</u> Contracts: Damages and Equitable Remedies Contracts: Parole Evidence Rule, Interpretation Contracts: Statute of Frauds.	02/25/24
	<u>You Be the Judge: Fraud</u>	02/25/24
	Discussion Post #4	02/25/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 2.80 Hrs</i>	
Feb 12 -- Feb 18	<u>Sales Contracts</u> CH 13. Sales: Overview of Article 2 CH 14. Sales Contracts: Agreement, Consideration and the Statute of Frauds CH 15 Title, Allocation of Risk and Insurable Interest	39 Pages
Week 5	<u>Simulations:</u> Contracts: UCC vs Common Law Contracts: Formation and Terms of a Sales Contract Contracts: Battle of the Forms	03/03/24

	Quiz – 35 Questions	03/03/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 2.93 Hrs</i>	
Feb 19 -- Feb 25	CH 16. Performance and Cure in Sales Contracts CH 17. Breach and Remedies in a Sales Transaction CH 19. Warranties	49 Pages
Week 6	<u>Simulations:</u> Contracts: Performance of Sales Contracts Warranties	03/10/24
	<u>You Be the Judge:</u> The UCC and Warranties	03/10/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 2.93 Hrs</i>	
Feb 26 -- Mar 03	<u>Business Entities</u> CH 27. Choice of Business Entity and Sole Proprietorships CH 28. Partnerships	43 Pages
Week 7	<u>Simulations:</u> P & Corp Law: Business Organizations P & Corp Law: Characteristics of Bus Organizations P & Corp Law: Partnership Form and Operations P & Corp Law: Partner Liability & Disassociation	03/17/24
	Discussion Post #5	03/17/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.22 Hrs</i>	
Mar 04 -- Mar 10	<u>Business Entities</u> CH 29. Limited Liability Companies CH 30. Corporations: Formation and Organization	58 Pages
Week 8	<u>Simulations:</u> P & Corp Law: LLCs P & Corp Law: Corporations	03/24/24

	P & Corp Law: Formation, Classification and Regulation P & Corp Law: Managing a Corporation P & Corp Law: Shareholder Role and Rights	
	Discussion Post # 6	03/24/24
	Spring Break	
Mar 11 -- Mar 17 Week 9	No Assignments	
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.72 Hrs</i>	
Mar 18 - Mar 24	<u>Regulation of Securities, Corporate Governance, and Financial Markets</u> CH 32. Overview of the Securities Market: Definition, Categories, and Regulation CH 33. Regulation of Issuance: The Securities Act of 1933	44 Pages
Week 10	<u>Simulations:</u> P & Corp Law: Securities Regulation.	04/07/24
	Quiz – 40 Questions	04/07/24
	Discussion Post #7	04/07/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 2.23 Hrs</i>	
Mar 25 -- Mar 31	<u>Agency and Employment Law</u> CH 36. Agency Formation, Categories, and Authority CH 37. Duties and Liability of Principals and Agents	37 Pages
Week 11	<u>Simulations:</u> Agency: General Agency: Agent's Duties to His/Her Principal Agency: Principal's Liability for Agent's Actions	04/14/24

	Agency: Agent's Liability for Tort	
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.53 Hrs</i>	
Apr 1 - Apr 07	<u>Agency and Employment Law</u> CH 38. Employment at Will CH 42 Administrative Law	46 Pages
Week 12	<u>Simulations:</u> Empl Law: General Empl Law: Job Security Administrative Law	04/21/24
	<u>You Be the Judge:</u> Employment Law	04/21/24
	<u>Discussion Post #8</u>	04/21/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.20 Hrs</i>	
Apr 8 -- Apr 14	<u>Regulatory Environment for Business</u> CH 41. Torts and Products Liability	36 Pages
Week 13	<u>Simulations:</u> Torts: Fraudulent and Negligent Misrepresentation Torts: Intentional Torts Torts: Interference with Property Rights, Premises Liability Torts/Negligence: Duty and Breach Torts/Negligence: Causation and Damages	04/28/24
	<u>You Be the Judge:</u> Negligence	04/28/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 2.17 Hrs</i> <i>Lighter Workload = Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	
Apr 15 -- Apr 21	<u>Regulatory Environment for Business</u> CH 43. Consumer Protection CH 45. Insurance Law	35 Pages
	<u>Simulations:</u>	04/28/24

Week 14	Insurance Law	
	<u>You Be the Judge</u> : Consumer Law	04/28/24
	<i>This Week's Assignments: Estimated 1st Try = 3.40 Hrs</i>	
Apr 22 -- Apr 28	<u>Property Law</u> CH 48. Personal Property, Real Property and Land Use Law CH 50. Intellectual Property	57 Pages
Week 15	<u>Simulations</u> : Property Law: Real Property IP: General IP: Copyright Law IP: Trademark Law IP: Patent Law	05/05/24
Apr 29 -- May 5	Additional Time to Catch Up on Simulations, Quizzes, and Discussion Posts for ½ Credit	05/05/24
Week 16		
May 7	End of Term	
May 13	Grades Due	