



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Course Syllabus
Spring 2025

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| Course Name: | Business Law | | |
| Course #: | BLAW 2341-001 | | |
| Modality: | Face to Face | | |
| CRN: | 25035 | | |
| Instructor: | Matthew D. Mangum, J.D., LL.M. | | |
| Email: | matthew.mangum@tamusa.edu ¹ | | |
| Office: | BLH 341H | | |
| Phone: | 210.784.2310 | | |
| Office Hours²: | Mondays: 2:00-5:15 Wednesdays: 2:00-3:15 And by Appointment | | |
| Class Location: | BLH 366 | | |
| Class Days: | MW | Times | 11:00-12:15 |

Important Notices:

- In-person Attendance is Required!
- No recordings of the course will be available.
- I want you to pass this course. Better yet, I want you to do well.

Required Textbook: *Business Law and Strategy* 2nd Edition by Melvin, Orozco, and Guerra-Pujol. McGraw Hill, Included with the course and linked in Blackboard.

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

¹ Generally, I answer emails same business day, but not during the weekend or on University holidays. If you use Blackboard Messages expect a delayed response. (Email is faster.)

² Office Hours means that I will be in my office with the door open waiting for you to stop by with questions.

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

- 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:

- **12 Simulations:** Most weeks, students will complete a simulation (also called an ABA) through McGraw Hill Connect. Simulations will be due at 5:00pm on the Fridays noted on the schedule below. You will have two attempts to complete each simulation. Late submissions will be accepted for five additional days (i.e. until the following Wednesday). 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. Your lowest simulation grade will be dropped. The average of your simulations will be 25% of your course grade.
- **3 Exams:** This course will have three exams (including a comprehensive Final Exam). Exams will consist of case problem style questions. Exams will be completed in class. Exams 1 & 2 will be 20% of your course grade and the Final will be 25%.
- **Attendance:** Attendance is required. Attendance will be 10% of your course grade. To be counted as present, you must attend the vast entirety of the class session. Your attendance grade will be the percentage of classes you attended. This means that each class you miss lowers your attendance grade by about 3.57 points. However, there is no penalty for your first two absences. If you must miss additional classes for medical reasons or if you require an accommodation, please provide documentation through the Dean of Students office or Disability Support Services. This is no penalty for absences excused by the University.
- **Extra Credit:** There 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.

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| Simulation Average | 25% |
| 1 st Exam | 20% |
| 2 nd Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Attendance | 10% |

Meaning of Letter Grades³:

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

Exams: You must provide prior notice if you miss an exam in a non-emergency situation. Failure to do this will result in a 20-point reduction in your exam grade. Any make-up exams should be taken within one week of the schedule exam date. Taking the Final Exam late may result in an incomplete for the course.

Generative AI Policy: No Use of Generative AI Permitted. Because of an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving, BLAW 2431 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.

Grading Timeframe: Assignments will be graded and made available to students within two weeks of due date.

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.

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.)

³ For details, please see the 2021-2022 Catalog, <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/grades/>

“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 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.” 2019-2020 Catalog page 103

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

Course Schedule:

| Date: | Topic: | Read Before Class |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 22 January | Introduction to Law | Ch. 1 |
| | **Simulation 1 Due Friday 24 January at 5:00pm** | |
| 27 January | Courts & ADR | Ch. 4 & p. 116-122 |
| 29 January | **No Class—Online Assignment** Constitutional Law | p. 48-63 |
| | **Simulation 2 Due Friday 31 January at 5:00pm** | |
| 3 February | Constitutional Law | p. 64-71 |
| 5 February | Crimes & Torts | p. 896-903, 818-828 |
| | **Simulation 3 Due Friday 7 February at 5:00pm** | |
| 10 February | Torts | p. 829-838 |
| 12 February | Contracts | Ch. 8 |
| | **Simulation 4 Due Friday 14 February at 5:00pm** | |
| 17 February | Contracts | Ch. 9 & 10 |
| 19 February | Contracts | Ch. 12 |
| | **Simulation 5 Due Friday 21 February at 5:00pm** | |
| 24 February | Review | Study Guide |
| 26 February | **Exam 1** | |
| 3 March | UCC | Ch. 13 & 14 |
| 5 March | UCC | Ch. 15 & 16 |
| | **Simulation 6 Due Friday 7 March at 5:00pm** | |
| | **Spring Break!** | |
| 17 March | UCC | Ch. 17 & 19 |
| 19 March | Business Entities | Ch. 27 & 28 |
| | **Simulation 7 Due Friday 21 March at 5:00pm** | |
| 24 March | Business Entities | Ch. 30 |
| 26 March | Business Entities | Ch. 29 |
| | **Simulation 8 Due Friday 28 March at 5:00pm** | |
| 31 March | Agency | Ch. 36 |
| 2 April | Agency: Liability | Ch. 37 |
| | **Simulation 9 Due Friday 4 April at 5:00pm** | |

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| 7 April | Review | Study Guide |
| 9 April | **Exam 2** | |
| 14 April | Employment Law | Ch. 38 & 40 |
| 16 April | Property | Ch. 48 |
| | **Simulation 10 Due Friday 18 April at 5:00pm** | |
| 21 April | Intellectual Property: Copyright | p. 1036-1038, 1049-1054 |
| 23 April | Intellectual Property: Trademark | p. 1041-1048 |
| | **Simulation 11 Due Friday 25 April at 5:00pm** | |
| 28 April | Intellectual Property: Patent | p. 967-975 |
| 30 April | Intellectual Property: Trade Secret | p. 1038-1041 |
| | **Simulation 12 Due Friday 2 May at 5:00pm** | |
| 5 May | The Rule of Law & Review | Study Guide |
| 12 May | **Final Exam—10:00-11:50** | |

Important University Polices will be included when available from the University.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals 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, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/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.

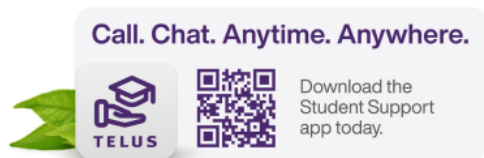
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *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 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. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



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/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) 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://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

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 submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, 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 course 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, equal 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, 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 such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with

a temporary medical condition 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, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 a safe environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

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. Conduct that infringes 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 (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Dates:

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| January 21 | First day of class |
| April 21 | Last day to drop with an automatic "W" |
| April 28 | Last day to withdraw from the University |
| April 18 | Study Day – No classes |
| May 5 | Last day of classes |
| May 6 | Study Day – No classes |
| May 7-13 | Final exams |

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.