



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Course Syllabus
Spring 2025

Course Name:	Business Law
Course #:	BLAW 2341-Sections 601/602/607
Modality:	Online asynchronous
CRN:	202520
Instructor:	Dr. Nick Gera, Ed.D., JD, MBA, MPP
Email:	ngera@tamusa.edu
Office:	Online zoom – via appointment
Phone:	210.987.8787 (email first – do not call unless emailed first).
Office Hours²:	Sundays 2:00-4:00pm And by Appointment
Class Location:	Online zoom – via appointment

Important Notices:

- Online weekly work 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:

Term Papers: There will be 4 terms papers that will require you to discuss legal entities such as corporations, LLC, non-profits and general partnerships. Each paper will be worth 100 points and must be conducted in APA format. Instructions for the paper are provided in the assignment details. Papers will be due Sundays by midnight.

Discussion Boards: There are 4 discussion topics assigned on Blackboard that are available on Monday and end on Sunday by midnight. You must respond “at a minimum” to two others in class on two separate days. Your responses must be substantial contributions to the assignment, supported by sources (statutes, cases, articles). Use the university online library system to locate scholarly sources.

McGrawhill Connect Assignments: Every week there are McGrawhill Connect assignments. These assignments will grade based on how much you read, completed eLearning assignments and completion of mini-quiz. Connect assignments will be due Sundays by midnight

Make up and Late Assignment/Discussions/Quiz policy:

Quizzes & Discussion Boards: There will be no make-up quizzes or discussion boards and no late quizzes or discussion boards will be accepted.

Assignments	Number	Points Per	Total Points
McGrawhill Connect Assignments	15	60	400
Discussion Boards	4	50	200
Four Term Papers	4	100	400
Total Points			1000

Meaning of Letter Grades³:

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:

Late Work: Late submissions will NOT be accepted without a valid medical note excusing you for that day.

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 16-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:

Week	Due Date	Topic	Read Before Class	Assignment
Week 1	1/26	Introduction	Review Syllabus	Discussion Board 1
Week 2	2/2	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 1	
Week 3	2/9	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 2	
Week 4	2/16	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 3	Discussion Board 2
Week 5	2/23	Term Paper #1 and McGrawhill Connect Assignment	Chapter 4	
Week 6	3/2	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 5	
Week 7	3/9	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 7	Discussion Board 3
Week 8		SPRING BREAK ☺		
Week 9	3/16	Term Paper #2 and McGrawhill Connect Assignment	Chapter 8	
Week 10	3/23	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 9	
Week 11	3/30	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 10	
Week 12	4/6	Term Paper #3 and McGrawhill Connect Assignment	Chapter 11	
Week 13	4/13	Complete McGrawHill Connect	Chapter 12	

		Assignments		
Week 14	4/20	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 13	Discussion Board 4
Week 15	4/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK	N/A	
Week 16	5/4	Complete McGrawHill Connect Assignments	Chapter 14	
Week 17	5/11	Term Paper #4	Chapter 15	

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