



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Course Syllabus Spring 2025

Course Name: Business Principles
Course #: BUAD 1301.601
CRN: 202510

Instructor: Dr. Nick K. Gera, Ed.D, JD, MBA, MPP

Email: ngera@tamusa.edu – Do not send email messages through Blackboard; please email. I do NOT see messages from Blackboard system. Please email me at ngera@tamusa.edu

Office: Online

Phone: 210-987-8787 (email before calling/texting)

Office Hours: By appointment -email to schedule

Class Location: Online -asynchronous

Class Days: Online -asynchronous

Important Notice:

- Weekly online participation is required!

Course Website: tamusa.blackboard.com

Catalog Course Description: This course introduces economic systems, forms of business ownership, and considerations for running a business. Students will learn various aspects of business, management, and leadership functions; organizational considerations; and decision-making processes. Financial topics are introduced including money and banking and securities markets. The course includes discussions of business challenges in the legal and regulatory environment, business ethics, social responsibility, and international business. Emphasized is the dynamic role of business in everyday life.

Readings

Foundations of Business

7 Edition, book

Format:

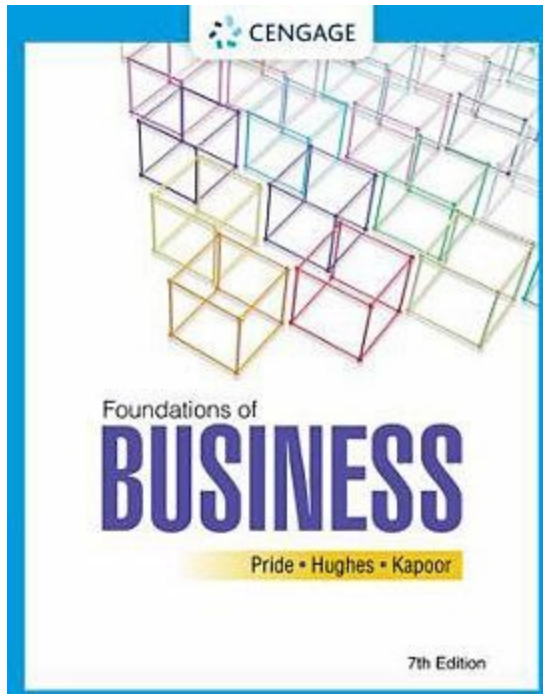
Paper

Author(s): Pride/Hughes/Kapoo

Publisher:

Cengage Learning

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Prerequisites: ENGL 1301 & ENGL 1302

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

- Identify the historical basis for and sources of American law, classify the types of law and outline key elements of the U.S. Constitution.
- Outline the structure of federal and state court systems, describe the steps in litigation and explain the main forms of alternate dispute resolution.
- Define and explain the basic elements of a contract, apply them to specific cases and explain contract defenses.
- Determine when a contract is breached and select the appropriate remedy for breach.
- Explain the difference between intentional torts, negligence and strict liability, and the applicable defenses and the remedies available for each.
- Describe the purpose of criminal law, identify the elements of certain specific crimes, choose among available defenses and apply punishment for criminal violations.
- Explain the difference between real and personal property, describe the means of ownership and outline basic principles of bailment.
- Outline basic agency and employment law principles, explain the role of the independent contractor and describe basic labor laws.
- Provide the key elements of sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations, and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- Classify and explain the types of intellectual property and identify cyber-crime issues.

AACSB Assessment: The College of Business is in the process of applying for AACSB accreditation. As part of that 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 of the above course outcomes.

Grading Policy:

Assignments	Number	Points	Total Points
Exams	4	50	200
Discussion Boards	10	DB 1 – 11 are 20 Pts. (the lowest grade of 11 discussion boards is dropped).	250
Mandatory Participation Assignment (read below)	1		50
Total Points			500

450-500 = A
400-449 = B
350-399 = C
300-349 = D

Exams: There are 4 objective style exams (multiple choice) available in Blackboard that will cover the assigned readings. Exams will be due at 11:59 PM CST by Saturday noted on the schedule below. Each exam is multiple choice test, based on the readings. You have 70 minutes to complete the exam. Note that when you log on you cannot leave and re-enter the test. You must complete the test once you begin. You have 50 multiple choice questions to answer during 70 minutes.

Discussion Boards: There are 11 discussion topics assigned on Blackboard (the lowest score will be dropped) that are available on Monday and end on Saturday 12 NOON CST. You must submit your main response by Wednesday, and 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.

Mandatory Participation Assignment: The College of Business has scheduled a series of activities designed to enrich your undergraduate learning experience. A detailed schedule of the activities, including dates and times, will be provided. Participation in one activity is a mandatory component of this course and contributes to 10% of your overall grade. Failure to meet the participation requirement without documentation may result in a reduction of your grade for the course. Please contact your instructor immediately if you anticipate challenges with fulfilling this requirement so accommodations can be discussed.

Attendance: This is an online course. Failure to complete two weeks or more of work will result in you being dropped from the course.

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.

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Using an AI-content generator (such as ChatGPT) to complete coursework without proper attribution or authorization is a form of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please contact your instructor to discuss the issue.

Make up and Late Assignment/exam policy:

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

Exams: You must provide me with prior notice if you miss the final exam in a non-emergency situation. Failure to do this will result in a 20-point reduction in your exam grade. Any makeup exams should be taken within one week of the schedule exam date.

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 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.

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

⁴ For details, please see the 2021-2022 Catalog, <https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/grades/>

assessing such program level outcomes, and hence students must follow the necessary rigor to ensure mastery and retention of the above course outcomes.

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 Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

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.

Generative AI Policy: No Use of Generative AI Permitted. This course assumes 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.

Course Schedule

Week	Week of Date	Topic	Read Before Class	Assignment
Week 1	1/26	Introduction	Review Syllabus	Discussion Board 1 part 1
Week 1	1/26	Business, Economics & Ethics	Chapter 1 & 2	Discussion Board 1 Part 2
Week 2	2/2	Global Business	Chapter 3	Discussion Board 2
Week 3	2/9	Forms of Business Ownership	Chapter 4	Discussion Board 3
Week 4	2/16	Exam I (covers chapters 1 – 4)		
Week 5	2/23	Small Businesses, Management	Chapter 5 & 6	Discussion Board 5
Week 6	3/2	Business Organization & Production	Chapter 7 & 8	Discussion Board 6
Week 7	3/9	Exam II (covers chapters 5-8)		

Week 8		SPRING BREAK ☺		
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Week 9	3/16	Employees & Motivation	Chapter 9 & 10	Discussion Board 8
Week 10	3/23	Customer Relationships	Chapter 11 & 12	Discussion Board 9
Week 11	3/30	Exam III (covers chapters 9-12)		
Week 12	4/6	Promoting Products;	Chapter 13 & 14	Discussion Board 11
Week 13	4/13	Social Media & e-Business	Chapter 14	Discussion Board 12
Week 14	4/20	Accounting & Financial Management	Chapter 15 & 16	Discussion Board 13
Week 15	4/27	THANKGIVING BREAK	NA	NA
Week 16	5/4	Accounting & Financial Management (cont.)	Chapter 16	
Week 17	5/11	Exam IV (chapters 13-16)		

Key Dates For Spring 2024 Semester

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