

Tennessee State University, College of Business
The Department of Accounting

Business Law 3000, Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
(Formerly Legal Environment of Business, BL 3000)

Fall Semester, 2012

BLAW 3000, Sec. 80 (10483) 5:30-8:30 W Room 313 Avon Williams Campus

Instructor: Lewis Laska, J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Business Law
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Office Hours: 8:00-9:40 MW; 2:25-3:00 MW; R 8:00 – 5:00

Purpose of Course: The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the legal aspects of business and to understand ethical issues as they relate to commerce. It is taken by both business majors and non-business majors. It is a required course in the TSU business curriculum and is designed to meet AACSB standards regarding knowledge of legal and ethical issues.

Scope of the Course: This is a study of the legal and ethical aspects of the business environment. The course presents law as an expanding social and political institution in the environment of business. Premier topics are the legal system itself and ethics. Topics range from the Constitution and business to international law, securities law, administrative law, and employment discrimination law.

Course Goals (Academic Competencies): The competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) are: 1) the ability to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of various legal terms, structures and concepts; 2) the ability to demonstrate an understanding of various ethical terms and apply them in context; 3) an understanding of important legal terms and concepts demonstrated by the ability to apply them in context; 4) the ability to use legal and ethical terms and make appropriate decisions; 5) the ability to develop critical thinking using legal and ethical terms. Students should be prepared to show that they understand (identify) legal/ethical issues; can understand (analyze) the various stakeholders; can articulate (describe) his/her own value and belief systems; can accept responsibility for his/her choices; can formulate and make responsible decision in the best interest of the work team, organization, community and society. See, program Goal 2, the last page of this syllabus.

Course Content/Outline (by topic): See Class Meeting Schedule

No one will receive a passing semester grade if absent for twelve classroom contact hours or more regardless of reason. Present your reasons for missing class to the instructor at the earliest possible time and do so in writing.

Punctuality/Attendance: Punctual attendance at every scheduled class is required. Roll will be taken at each class in the form of a class roll that **each student must both circle his/her name and sign his/her name.**

Excessive absences are defined in the Student Handbook and generally mean more than three unexcused absences. If I am in the room when you enter, you are late. If I have picked up the signed class roll, you will not be allowed to sign it. Don't ask to do so, I will refuse. Do not sign the class roll for someone else or allow someone to sign it for you. This will result in your being dropped from the class. Sometimes I forget to pass the class roll. Be a good citizen and remind me during the class.

Classroom Civility: Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a minimum penalty of a zero on the exam and may result in a failing grade for the course. Talking among yourselves disturbs other students and the instructor. Such talking or other disruptive behavior will result in dismissal from the class. You may not talk on cell phones in class. **You must turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices prior to class. If your cell phone rings in class, you can expect a punitive quiz that will immediately be administered to the whole class.** You may not leave class early, nor may you get up and leave and return, without my permission. If you must leave early, get my permission. Sit in a place in the room so that your departure is quiet and does not interfere with the lecture or disrupt the class. The instructor reserves the right to place students in assigned seats if necessary. University policy prohibits eating and drinking in class but I don't enforce this rule unless this becomes distracting. If you want me to know your name, provide me with a photocopy of your student ID card showing your name and a picture I can see clearly. Do this by the second week of class. You have the right to sleep in class. I have the right to awaken you in any manner I see fit.

Course Requirements and Methods of Instruction: Each student is expected to study and understand the assigned chapter before class, be able to answer all the questions at the end of each chapter and respond properly to in-class exercises. Lectures over the chapter material will be supplemented with discussion and question-and-answer. Law is the study of legal concepts. This will include the exercise on stakeholder analysis. Case briefing assignments must be completed and turned in on time.

Evaluation: Grades will be based upon the average of scores upon the scheduled examinations of approximately one hour in length. However, examinations may have a different weight, depending on the content covered. The final examination is not cumulative. Most examinations will be objective with true/false, multiple-choice and short answer (essay) questions. However, the final examination will include two essay questions. Students must be present for the final examination in order to receive a grade for this course. Test grades will be averaged, based on the weight of each test, and final grades assigned on a ten-point distribution (100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D). There will be **no make-up tests**. The value of a missed test will be added to the value of the final examination. Writing assignments are Pass/Fail. Pass adds two points to lowest test.

Course Textbook: The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, 15th Ed. (2009) by O. Lee Reed, Peter J. Shedd, Marisa Anne Pagnattaro, and Jere W. Morehead.

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty and integrity lie at the heart of any educational enterprise. Students are expected to do their own work and neither to give nor to receive assistance during quizzes and examinations. Deliberate violations of academic integrity (plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation, of information) and fabrication are not tolerated. Actions outlined in the Tennessee State University Student Handbook under Code of Student Conduct will be followed for incidents of academic misconduct.

Reasonable Accommodations: Any students requiring accommodations should contact Patricia Scudder, Director of Students with Disabilities-Disabled Student Services Office, at 963-7400, preferably before the fourth class meeting. The College of Business, in conjunction with the Office of Disabled Student Services, makes reasonable accommodations for qualified students with medically documented disabilities. I need to be aware of your status if it will affect your class activities and assignments---before assignments are due.

Code of Student Conduct: There will be no eating, drinking, sleeping or disruptive behavior in the classroom. Each student is encouraged participating in classroom activities, asking questions, and working along with the class as recommendations/problem solutions to illustrations, examples, and cases are examined. Additionally, cell phones must be turned off upon entering the classroom and should remain so until class has ended. Action will be taken against those students who do not adhere to appropriate classroom behavior.

Class Meeting Schedule

Aug. 29	Class No. 1.	Chapter 1.	Law as the Foundation of Business; Case Briefing
Aug. 25	Class No. 2.	Chapter 1.	Continued
Sep. 5	Class No. 3.	Chapter 2.	Ethics
Sep. 5	Class No. 4.	Chapter 2.	Ethics, continued
Sep. 12	Class No. 5.	Test:	Chapter 1-2
Sep. 12	Class No. 6.	Chapter 3.	Court Systems
Sep. 19	Class No. 7.	Chapter 3.	Court Systems, continued
Sep. 19	Class No. 8.	Chapter 4.	Litigation
Sep. 26	Class No. 9.	Chapter 4.	Litigation, continued
Sep. 26	Class No. 10.	Chapter 5.	Negotiation and ADR
Oct. 3	Class No. 11.	Chapter 6.	Constitution
Oct. 3	Class No. 12.	Chapter 6.	Constitution, continued
Oct. 10	Class No. 13.	Chapter 10.	Torts
Oct. 10	Class No. 14.	Chapter 10.	Torts, continued
Oct. 24	Class No. 15.	Mid-Term Exams	
Oct. 24	Class No. 16.	Chapter 13.	International Law
Oct. 31	Class No. 17.	Chapter 13.	International Law, continued
Oct. 31	Class No. 18.	Chapter 8.	Business Organizations
Nov. 7	Class No. 19.	Chapter 8.	Business organizations, continued
Nov. 7	Class No. 20.	Chapter 15.	Sarbanes/Securities
Nov. 14	Class No. 21.	Chapter 15.	Sarbanes/Securities continued
Nov. 14	Class No. 22.	Chapter 16.	Antitrust
Nov. 21	Class No. 23.	Chapter 16.	Antitrust, continued
Nov. 21	Class No. 24.	Chapter 20.	Discrimination
Nov. 28	Class No. 25.	Chapter 20.	Discrimination, continued
Nov. 28	Class No. 26.	Writing – Speaking	
Dec.5	Class No. 27.	Writing – Speaking	
Dec. 5	Class No. 28.	Writing – Speaking	

Final Exam: Week of December 7. All chapters since the last exam.

Assignments: Briefing: Steamship New World; Stakeholder Analysis; The case of Nanotar; the Case of TSU, Survey instrument; Ethics.