Course Syllabus

Course Number/Section/Name: BUSI 3312-70 Business Law
Professor: Robin R. Patterson, J.D.

Class Days/Times/Location or Other Format: Online
Office Location: Classroom Center 214D
Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 am – 12 noon and Wednesdays 10:00 am – 1:00 pm or by appointment
Office Phone: (806)651-2497
Email: rpatterson@wtamu.edu
Social Media: Keep up with the latest happenings of your COB on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wtamuco and Twitter, #WTAMUCOB
Other: Prerequisite – junior standing

Terms of Use

A student's continued enrollment in this course signifies acknowledgment of and agreement with the statements, disclaimers, policies, and procedures outlined within this syllabus and elsewhere in the WTClass environment. This Syllabus is a dynamic document. Elements of the course structure (e.g., dates and topics covered, but not policies) may be changed at the discretion of the professor.

WTAMU College of Business Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.

Learning Objectives of the WTAMU College of Business Programs

The College of Business (COB) at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) seeks to prepare students in the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Professional Accounting (MPA), and the Master of Science, Finance and Economics (MSFE) degree programs for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement via key learning goals and objectives.

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The learning objectives of the College of Business are as follows:

- Leadership
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Business Integration
- Core Business Knowledge
- Global Business Environment
- Business Ethics and Corporate Governance

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the legal and regulatory environment affecting business today with special emphasis on the development of issue spotting, analytical, and problem-solving skills.

Course Objectives

1. To recognize and analyze ethical and legal issues relating to business and to understand that law is the foundation of business; {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Business Ethics and Corporate Governance}
2. To demonstrate knowledge of the dispute resolution process and the court system; {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Core Business Knowledge}
3. To demonstrate knowledge of the principles and concepts of various laws that affect business including contracts, torts, property law; and business organizations {Maps to COB Learning Objective – Core Business Knowledge}

Course Materials (Text, calculator, etc.)

*Dynamic Business Law – The Essentials 2nd Edition*
Kubasek, Browne, Herron, Dhooge, Barkacs

http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0073524972/student_view0/index.html

The textbook is required.

We will also use McGraw-Hill’s Connect online resources. The appropriate link is:
http://connect.mheducation.com/class/r-patterson-busi-3312-70-fall-2014. The first time you log in to the course you will be required to register. More information is available in WTClass. There will be interactive homework assignments and quizzes for each chapter available through Connect.
Map from COB Learning Objectives to Specific Course Objectives

See Course Objectives

Course Grading Policies

It is possible to earn 1000 points during this semester. Your grade will be determined as follows:

- EXAM #1 (Chapters 1-6) 150
- EXAM #2 (Chapters 7-13) 150
- EXAM #3 (Chapters 19-22 & 25) 150
- CONNECT ASSIGNMENTS 300
- FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive – Chapters 1-13, 19-22, & 25) 250

TOTAL 1000

GRADE SCALE:

A = 900 – 1000 points
B = 800 – 899 points
C = 700 – 799 points
D = 600 – 699 points
F = 599 or fewer points

Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Chapter 1, Introduction to the Fundamentals of Dynamic Business Law and Business Ethics
2. Chapter 2, U.S. Legal System and Alternative Dispute Resolution
3. Chapter 3, Administrative Law
4. Chapter 4, Constitutional Law
5. Chapter 5, Criminal Law and Business

6. Chapter 6, Tort Law

7. Exam #1

8. Chapter 7, Real, Personal, and Intellectual Property

9. Chapter 8, Introduction to Contracts and Agreements

10. Chapter 9, Consideration

11. Chapter 10, Capacity and Legality

12. Chapter 11, Reality of Assent

13. Chapter 12, Contracts in Writing and Third-Party Contracts

14. Chapter 13, Discharge and Remedies

15. Exam #2

16. Chapter 19, Agency and Liability to Third Parties

17. Chapter 20, Forms of Business Organizations

18. Chapter 21, Partnerships

19. Chapter 22, Corporations: Formation and Organization

20. Chapter 25, Consumer Law

21. Exam #3

22. Exam #4 (Comprehensive Final)

The reading assignments may be adjusted due to time constraints. Students are responsible for material assigned.

EXAMS:

1. There will be 4 exams including the final.

2. Each of the first three exams is worth 15% of your grade.

3. The final exam is comprehensive and worth 25% of your grade.
4. All exams must be taken.

5. No make-up exams will be permitted except in emergency situations, and the instructor must be notified as soon as possible. In the event a make-up exam is allowed, it should be taken as promptly as possible.

6. Exam questions may come from the book, lecture notes, cases and other assigned material. The first three exams will each consist of 50 randomly selected questions from a test bank and you will have 65 minutes to complete the exam. The final exam is comprehensive with 50 questions and you will have one hour and fifteen minutes (65 minutes) to complete the exam.

7. You need to know the material as you will not have time to look up the answers. It is suggested that you not take the exams on a computer with a dial-up connection as past experience indicates there could be technical problems. Technical problems should be directed to the WTAMU “HELP” Desk, 806-651-4357.

8. Answer all the questions even if you are not sure of the correct answer.

9. Assignment Due Date and Exam Time and Dates are provided in the Course Schedule in WTClass.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

1. There is an interactive assignment and a quiz for each chapter that is to be submitted timely to the instructor via McGraw-Hill Connect. McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework. There will be one Connect assignment and quiz for each chapter. There is no time limit for the interactive assignment other than the submission deadline, and you will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. As outlined in this Syllabus, assignments and quizzes accessed in Connect will make up 300 points (30%) of your overall course grade (See Course Schedule for due dates). Connect access codes may be packaged with a new textbook in the bookstore. Connect can also be purchased online at our section’s Connect web address: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/r-patterson-busi-3312-70-fall-2014. If you purchase Connect online, you will have the option of purchasing Connect or Connect Plus, which includes an interactive eBook version of the required textbook for this course. To register in Connect, please http://connect.mheducation.com/class/r-patterson-busi-3312-70-fall-2014 and click “Register Now.”

Assignments and quizzes may be turned in early but must be done by the due date for credit. Due dates are assigned to each chapter and no assignments will be accepted past the due date (See the Course Schedule). You may turn in assignments prior to the due dates and are encouraged to do so. Assignments not turned in by the due dates will receive a zero for the grade. The chapter interactive assignments count as 15% of your total grade and the chapter quizzes count as 15% of your total grade. In the event of an emergency, I need to be notified timely. You may contact me at 806-517-0820 if you cannot reach me any other way and it is an emergency.

2. There are cases in the textbook that are important to your understanding of the material. You should read and understand the cases as questions about the cases may be on the exams. Below is a case brief format for your use in reading the cases. There is a “Case Brief Help File” under “Lessons” in this course.

3. No extra credit is available and there are no incompletes for this course.
Course Topics - Tentative Calendar of Readings, Topics, and Due Dates

See the Course Schedule for Due Dates.

Additional Course Policies

YOU ARE TO DO YOUR OWN WORK. YOU MUST PREPARE YOUR OWN ASSIGNMENTS AND TAKE YOUR OWN EXAMS WITHOUT HELP FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES! THERE IS NO TEAM OR GROUP WORK IN THIS COURSE.

SAFEGUARDS:

Back up every piece of work you do on disk, and make a hard copy. If you experience computer difficulties, you are responsible for solving your own technical problems. Heavy Internet usage occurs during the evening hours of 8-10 PM. You might want to consider logging on at other times if possible.

DEADLINES:

Odd things happen in cyberspace: emails get lost, servers disconnect temporarily, logins are impossible, etc. Do not wait for the last moments to complete your assignments. Allow time to meet deadlines. Reply and check for replies on every email sent and received. Be sure to check the message centers each time you logon, for important messages.

NETIQUETTE:

Netiquette is basically using good manners in cyberspace. Since most of the communication over the net is by way of text, be sure your written words are not offensive to the receiver. Remember email is a document, and can be read by others than the intended audience. Flaming, or making personal attacks on a person, is also unacceptable. Whether you are in a chat room, writing an email or posting to a discussion area, remember to use proper etiquette in consideration of others. If you would like to read more on the subject of netiquette, use the link below:

http://www.iwillfollow.com/email.htm

WTAMU COB Student Code of Ethics

Each student enrolled in COB courses accepts personal responsibility to uphold and defend academic integrity and to promote an atmosphere in which all individuals may flourish. The COB Student Code of Ethics strives to set a standard of honest behavior that reflects well on students, the COB and West Texas A&M University. All students enrolled in business courses are expected to follow the explicit behaviors detailed in the Student Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics

- Do not use notes, texts, solution manuals, or other aids for a quiz or exam without instructor authorization.

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• Do not copy the work of others and/or allow others to view your answers or copy your work during a quiz, exam, or on homework assignments.
• Do not allow other parties to assist in the completion of your quiz, exam, homework, paper, or project when not permitted.
• Do not work with other students on projects or assignments without authorization from the course instructor.
• Properly cite and specifically credit the source of text, graphic, and web materials in papers, projects, or other assignments.
• Do not forge the signature of an instructor, advisor, dean, or another student.
• Provide truthful information for class absences when asking faculty for excused absences or for a make-up for a quiz, exam, or homework.
• Provide truthful information on your resume including work history, academic performance, leadership activities, and membership in student organizations.
• Respect the property, personal rights, and learning environment of all members of the academic community.
• Live up to the highest ethical standards in all academic and professional endeavors.

Students violating the Student Code of Ethics will be reported to the Dean’s office and are subject to penalties described in the West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life, which may include suspension from the University. In addition, a violator of the Student Code of Ethics may become ineligible for participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB and for recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

COB Student Resources Link

The COB has developed a Student Resources repository (e.g., APA writing style information, business core reviews, facilities, and other helpful supplements), which can be found on the COB Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-business-facilities-and-resources.aspx. Additionally, WTAMU has developed an Academic Study Skills information site to assist students (e.g., study habits, supplemental instruction, tutoring, writing and math skills), which can be found on the WTAMU Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/academic-study-skills.aspx. For WTAMU Writing Center information (for students needing writing assistance, guidance, and feedback), please visit: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/writing-center.aspx.

COB Communications Component

Students earning a BBA degree must complete at least one course with a communications component as part of the business core requirements. The COB communications component is a requirement in the following courses: ACCT 4373 (Accounting Communications), BUSI 4333 (Cross-Cultural Issues in Business Communications), BUSI 4350 (Current Issues in Management Communications), BUSI 4380 (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), BUSI 4382 (Emerging Media Law), CIDM 3320 (Digital Collaboration and Communication), ECON 4370 (Economics of Health Care), FIN 3350 (Personal Financial Planning), FIN 4320 (Investments), FIN 4321 (Portfolio Theory), MGT 3335 (Organizational Behavior), MGT 4380 (Conflict Resolution and Negotiation), and MKT 3342 (Consumer Behavior).

Students in a communications component course are explicitly required to demonstrate knowledge of communication skills. Specific objectives may include but are not limited to the following concepts put forth by the National Business Education Association: (1) ability to organize a written and an oral message coherently and effectively, (2) ability to use technology for communication, (3) ability to...
research a topic, prepare a report, and present the findings to all organizational levels, and (4) ability to
demonstrate critical-thinking skills. Specific course requirements and the role of the communications
component with respect to student grading policy are at the discretion of the course instructor of record.

Student Travel Opportunities

In multiple business courses, there may be opportunities for student travel supplemented by student fees.
If you have an interest in such opportunities as they become available, please notify a faculty member.

Dropping/Repeating the Course

Should a student decide to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the final drop
dates and adhere to the WTAMU Add/Drop policy. Any student participating in the course after the
WTAMU posted drop date will be considered active and a grade will be administered at the end of the
course for that student. Students are charged a fee for any course attempted for a third or subsequent time
at WTAMU other than a non-degree credit developmental course or exempted courses.

Scholastic Dishonesty

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by
refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall
constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said
to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or
examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any
examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a
makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless
expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper or project prepared by another
student as your own. You are responsible for being familiar with the University's Academic Integrity
Code, as well as the COB Student Code of Ethics listed in this document.

Viewpoints/External Websites Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document, web-based course materials, and/or classroom presentations and
discussions are those of the professor and do not necessarily represent the views of West Texas A&M
University, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the
person making such statements. It is understood and expected that each individual within this course will
respect and allow individual difference of opinion.

Neither the professor, the COB, nor WTAMU are responsible for the content of external websites
discussed in the classroom and/or linked to via online course materials, emails, message boards, or other
means. Referred websites are for illustrative purposes only, and are neither warranted nor endorsed by the
professor, COB, or WTAMU. Web pages change frequently, as does domain name ownership. While
every effort is made to ensure proper referencing, it is possible that students may on occasion find
materials to be objectionable for reasons beyond our control.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of
other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive
behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University’s Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Technology Requirements**

All technological requirements for the successful completion of this course are the responsibility of the student, including access to a working computer and or to a device with secure broadband Internet connection, data storage and retrieval, and state-of-the-art security. The student is responsible for all technological problems not related to WTAMU, including but not limited to equipment failures, power outages, and Internet breakdowns. Furthermore, students are responsible for all necessary technical and operational skills for completing this course, and for being familiar with WTClass (the Angel Learning System) both in a general sense and in a specific sense as pertaining to this course and any materials stored within. The professor is not responsible for any technical matters related to WTClass. Students must contact WTClass if they have problems accessing and/or using the WTClass environment.

**Physical or Educational Access - ADA Statement**

West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; [www.wtamu.edu/disability](http://www.wtamu.edu/disability); phone 806-651-2335.

**Evacuation Statement**

If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary: evacuate immediately do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester. to request additional information, please contact the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Copyright**

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**Legal Disclaimer**

The content of this course is for educational purposes only. No classroom discussions shall constitute legal advice, and instructor will not give legal advice to students. If you are faced with an issue requiring legal advice, please retain independent legal counsel.

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* Syllabus template approved by COB Curriculum Committee May 2014. Annual review of the syllabus is a formal part of the COB continuous improvement process.