



# The University of Texas at Austin University Extension

## LEB 320F: Foundations of Business Law & Ethics

**Prerequisite:** Upper-division standing. UT Austin students interested in applying this course towards degree requirements should contact their advisor prior to enrollment.

**Course Description:** Foundations of Business Law and Ethics provide students with an introduction to common legal issues that often impact businesses. Within this course, students will be given different scenarios that require them to work through organizational problems dealing with legal processes, legal procedures, various legal doctrines, and ethical dilemmas that often impact a workplace. After successfully completing this course, students will be able to identify and navigate common legal issues and ethical situations that arise in business.

**Required Textbook:** *Business Law and Ethics (Online Custom Edition)* by John R. Allison and Robert A. Prentice. Forty Acres Press, First Edition.

This online textbook will be purchased through Canvas and then will be available through Canvas. Many versions of this book exist - do not buy or use a version that is not sold through Canvas. Textbook purchase (cost ~\$65) is required before accessing the course content. No additional bookstore fees are required.

### Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

1. Describe the different legal processes and procedures that enable, constrain, and shape business activity.
2. Explain the substantive legal doctrines that enable, constrain, and shape business activity.
3. Apply rules governing legal processes and procedures as well as substantive legal doctrines to unfamiliar factual situations in order to reach a defensible conclusion as to how a particular scenario might be resolved.
4. Analyze the legal implications of various strategic business decisions that a firm might select.
5. Analyze ethical dilemmas and apply decision models to create solutions when the law does not require or prohibit any particular outcome.

### Course Outline

There are 10 units in this course, which must be completed in order:

1. Introduction to the Legal Environment and Court Systems
2. Trials, Sources of Law, and Alternative Dispute Resolution
3. Criminal Law and Constitutional Law
4. Torts
5. Product Liability

6. Intellectual Property
7. Contracts I
8. Contracts II
9. Agency and Employment Law
10. Ethics

For each of the 10 units, you will find lecture notes and video by the course authors. These notes are intended to provide you with an introduction to the big picture ideas. We hope you will study these notes before tackling the assigned readings.

Each set of lecture notes is broken down into Key Concepts. These concepts are presented in the same order they appear in your textbook, and each concept corresponds to a unit learning objective. You will be tested on all of these ideas on the final exam.

## Assignments and Exams

You are expected to complete all of the activities in the course:

### 10 Computer-Graded Assignments

*(20 questions each, 1 hour time limit each, 50 points each/500 points total)*

### Final Exam

*(50 questions, 2 hour time limit, 500 points)*

The Final Exam is closed-book, closed-note; you are not to access any materials or resources during the exam, and you are to follow all university policies regarding academic honesty. The Final Exam must be taken in a proctored setting. More information about this process is available within the course. Exam proctoring fees are not included in the course fee.

You may use your textbook and notes for the unit quizzes.

## Strategies for Success

If you hope to do well in the course, you must complete all reading assignments, exercises, and quiz questions. The lecture notes in each unit do not contain everything you need to know. With law, it is often the small details that matter most. These notes will make the bulk of your work flow more smoothly and efficiently, but we deliberately included limited information so you cannot simply memorize the notes in order to ace the final exam.

You are encouraged to access this course 3 to 5 times per week. By doing so you will be able to actively participate, complete your assignments and access announcements in a timely manner. A key feature of self-paced courses is that students can set their own schedules, and you may have any number of reasons for working through at a different rate than the one outlined next. In the end, you will have roughly 22 weeks to complete the eleven graded items (10 quizzes, 1 exam), and so you are "on target" to complete the course if you finish a graded item about every two weeks. This is just a guideline, but if you find yourself significantly behind the one graded item per two weeks, especially if you are more than halfway through your 5-month period to finish the, it would probably be a good idea to devote more time to the course.

## Grades and Course Extensions

You are expected to complete all of the activities in the course. There are 1000 possible points in this course. Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

10 Computer-Graded Assignments <i>(20 questions each, 1 hour time limit each, 50 points each/500 points total)</i>	50%
Final Exam <i>(50 questions, 2 hour time limit, 500 points)</i>	50%

**You must pass the Final Exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade.**

Grades will be assigned using the following scale:

- A 100-89.5%
- B 89.4-79.5%
- C 79.4-64.5%
- D 64.4-59.5%
- F 59.4-0%

## University Extension

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit [extension.utexas.edu](https://extension.utexas.edu). Questions may be directed to our office at 512-471-2900 or [uex@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:uex@austin.utexas.edu).