LEB 320F: Foundations of Business Law and Ethics

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Dean Bredeson, J.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Forty-five semester hours of college coursework.

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Exams must be taken in-person at an approved testing center. More information about taking exams is available on the University Extension website.

Students have five months from their date of enrollment in which to complete all coursework. While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

If all other coursework is complete and you have requested the final exam through the course exam manager by your designated completion date, an additional 30 days will be provided for you to study for and take that exam. If the final exam has not been requested by your completion date, you will be dropped from the course.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview
Most large and successful American companies are sued occasionally. But all else being equal, well-run operations tend to face lawsuits far less frequently. Every firm is better off when more executives, managers, and employees can spot potential legal problems and act to make lawsuits less likely. By the time someone “calls the lawyers,” it is often too late. This course will acquaint you with a range of legal issues that commonly impact businesses, thereby making you a better businessperson. Beyond law lies the realm of ethics. Everyone faces situations throughout their careers and lives in which the law does not require or prohibit any particular action. This course will help you identify and navigate ethical dilemmas and appreciate the ethical responsibilities that companies owe to various stakeholder groups.
Course Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

- Describe the different legal processes and procedures that enable, constrain, and shape business activity.
- Explain the substantive legal doctrines that enable, constrain, and shape business activity.
- 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.
- Analyze the legal implications of various strategic business decisions that a firm might select.
- Analyze ethical dilemmas and apply decision models to create solutions when the law does not require or prohibit any particular outcome.

Required Materials
*Business Law and Ethics* (Online Custom Edition) by Allison/Prentice/Bredeson. This book is purchased within the course and accessed online. Do not purchase a hard copy version of the “regular” Allison/Prentice text as it is substantially different.

Course Organization
For each of the nine units in the course, you will find an introduction and learning objectives. These are intended to provide you with an introduction to the big picture ideas. Study these notes before tackling the assigned readings. The concepts are presented in the same order they appear in your online textbook. You will be tested on most all of these ideas on the quizzes, and again on the final exam.

Quizzes (Computer-Graded Assignments)
The quizzes each contain 15 multiple choice questions and have a 30 minute time limit. They are completed online. The quizzes are open notes, but you may not consult with another person or with internet sources. They constitute 50% of your course grade.

Final Exam
The comprehensive final exam contains 50 multiple choice questions and has a 2 hour time limit. The exam must be taken at in proctored testing center approved by University Extension. The exam is closed book and closed notes. The exam constitutes 50% of your course grade. Also:

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.
## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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| 1      | Introduction  
Legal Terms, Structure of the Courts,  
Reading a Case |  |
| 2      | Conflict Resolution  
Subject Matter Jurisdiction, Personal Jurisdiction,  
Trials, Alternative Dispute Resolution |  |
| 3      | Torts  
Negligence, Duty of Care, Causation, Defenses,  
Intentional Torts | Computer-Graded Assignment 1 |
| 4      | Constitutional Law  
Commerce Clause, Equal Protection, Free Speech |  |
| 5      | Contracts I  
Contract Law Terms, Offers, Acceptances,  
Consideration |  |
| 6      | Contracts II  
Capacity, Assent, Fraud, Legal Purpose,  
Statute of Frauds, Uniform Commercial Code | Computer-Graded Assignment 2 |
| 7      | Intellectual Property  
Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Patents, Copyrights |  |
| 8      | Employment Law  
Disparate Treatment, Disparate Impact,  
Workplace Privacy, Agency Law |  |
| 9      | Business Ethics  
Ethical Principles, Terms, and Theories  
Workplace Applications | Computer-Graded Assignment 3 |

**FINAL EXAM**

### Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 3 Quizzes (Computer-Graded Assignments) 50%
- Final Exam 50%
- Total 100%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

- 89.5-100.0 = A  
- 79.5-89.4 = B  
- 64.5-79.4 = C  
- 59.5-64.4 = D  
- Below 59.5 = F
Getting Help
- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, exam proctoring, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

Academic Integrity
Students of the University of Texas and this course may not share or distribute materials that could be an advantage to another current or future student, and the university has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, the integrity of the University, and the value of our academic brand, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Dean of Students website at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

University Extension Contact Information
uex@austin.utexas.edu
512-471-2900