

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. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

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.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

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

Foundations of Business Law and Ethics provides 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 arise in 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.

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

- Foundations of Business Law (Online Custom Edition for Extension Students) by Allison/Prentice. The text should be purchased at:
<https://bookstore.greenbeltpress.com/storefront/titledetails.html?pid=3EVpq96770RqSMr>
- Do not purchase a hard copy version of the “regular” Allison/Prentice text as it is substantially different.

Quizzes (Computer-Graded Assignments)

The quizzes each contain 15 multiple choice questions and will 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 general internet sources. They constitute 25% of your course grade.

Ethics Writing Assignments (Instructor-Graded Assignments)

There are three ethics scenarios that require you to read, analyze, and answer accompanying essay questions. They constitute 35% of your course grade.

Final Exam

The proctored final exam contains 50 multiple choice questions and has a 100 minute time limit. The exam is closed book and closed notes. The exam constitutes 40% of your course grade. Also:

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Court Systems Pleadings and Discovery Subject Matter Jurisdiction Personal Jurisdiction The Trial Stage Alternative Dispute Resolution Constitutional Law Equal Protection Free Speech	Computer-Graded Assignment 1
2	Ethics Difficulties in Ethical Decision Making Are Corporations Moral Agents? How to Encourage Employees to Act Ethically Criminal Law Introduction to Torts Negligence Elements Defenses in Negligence Cases Intentional Torts	Instructor-Graded Assignment 2 Computer-Graded Assignment 3
3	Intellectual Property and Trademarks Trade Secrets Patents Copyrights Securities Regulation Contracts Offers Acceptance and Termination Consideration Legal Capacity Assent Issues Fraud Legal Purpose	Instructor -Graded Assignment 4 Computer-Graded Assignment 5
4	The Statute of Frauds	Instructor -Graded Assignment 6

	Valid Contracts The Uniform Commercial Code and Sale of Goods Contracts Discrimination Law Other Federal Employment Statutes Agency Law: Introduction and Liability for Contracts Agency Law: Negligence Liability Real Property Personal Property Wills and Estates	Computer-Graded Assignment 7
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

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

4 Quizzes (Computer-Graded Assignments)	25%
3 Ethics Writing Assignments (Instructor-Graded Assignments)	35%
Final Exam	40%
Total	100%

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

A	100-94%	B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%	F	59-0%
A-	93-90%	B	86-84%	C	76-74%	D	66-64%		
		B-	83-80%	C-	73-70%	D-	63-60%		

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, 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.

University Extension Contact Information

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