BUSI 2301: Legal and Ethical Environment of Business
Course Syllabus, Fall 2017
M. & Wed. 6-7:15p.m.
Location RAS 104

Course Description/Overview: An overview of the legal and social environment of business. Topics include social responsibility, ethics, the judicial system and court procedure, business torts and crimes, contracts, bailments, forms of business structure, bankruptcy, securities regulation, antitrust, consumer protection, personnel and labor law, international law and other relevant legal and social topics.

Prerequisite Knowledge: None

Course Technology: Use of Blackboard

Class Meeting Times: Monday 6:00-7:15p.m.
                  Wed. 6:00-7:15p.m.

Technical Support:
The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911 or toll free at (866) 942-2911 or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu

Faculty/Instructor Information:
Austin Mathis, J.D., M.A.
Office: By email and appointment only
Campus E-mail: Austin.mathis@angelo.edu
Office Hours: By email and appointment
Home Phone: (432) 386-3120

Course Objectives:
Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to…

1) TO EXPOSE STUDENTS TO THE APPLICATION OF BUSINESS PRACTICES WITHIN THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

2) TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO ASSESS THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BOUNDARIES UPON BUSINESS BEHAVIOR AND THE BEARING OF THESE BOUNDARIES UPON INDIVIDUAL VALUE AND NORMATIVE SYSTEMS.

3) TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY AND INTENT OF AMERICAN POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND LEGAL STRUCTURES; AND BY SO DOING TO ASCERTAIN WHY PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL AND SOCIAL BUSINESS QUESTIONS MAY OR MAY NOT WORK.

Summary of ideas/topics the course will explore:
A. What is the proper role of business, both in America and in our global society? And how much government regulation is necessary or optimal to achieve that role for business?
B. Self-regulation as a technique for achieving a more desirable role for business in society.

C. The nature of the law and of the legal system that we have erected to process that law.

D. Primary intersections between the Bill of Rights and the practice of commerce in the United States.

E. Requirements to have a valid contract and then proceeds to discuss the interpretation and enforcement of contracts.

F. Understanding of torts, focusing on torts in a business context and including both torts against persons and against property.

G. Intersection between the market, ethics and the law.

H. Introduction to the legal principles governing the creation and propagation of a business.

I. Is bigness bad? Or contrariwise, is bigness necessary for commercial success in our global market?

J. The law in day-to-day business practice.

K. Working conditions and general societal circumstances that gave rise to the union movement.

L. Philosophical and economic issues of the wisdom of government intervention to protect consumers against both willful wrongs and the misfortunes of the market.

M. Ethical and legal issues raised by globalization.

N. General grasp of environmental law policy and its implications for the business community and the population at large.

O. The basis and interaction of technology in social, legal, and business environment.

**Assessment Methods:**
Twenty imbedded questions on the Comprehensive Final Exam will assess the learning objectives above. The goal is for the class to average 80 percent (or better) correct answers on these 20 questions.

**Course Textbook and Required Readings:**

Other readings are assigned in a timely manner as needed and are provided to you as PDF, MS Word format, or a link to an online resource will be provided.

**Grading Policies**
Grades will be weighed based on the following system:

- Exam 1: 100
- Exam 2: 100
- Exam 3: 100
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Assignment(s)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Possible Points = 700

A = 630 – 700 is 90% of 700
B = 560 – 629 is 80% of 700
C = 490 – 559 is 70% of 700
D = 420 – 489 is 60% of 700
F = 419 or below

Response Time:
Grads for exams and assignments will be returned to the student on the next class day or as soon as possible thereafter.

Missed/Late Work: There are no makeups!!! Regardless of your attendance, you are responsible for class notes, handouts, and deadlines. There may be additional assignments and announcements made in class. It is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what you have missed.

Your homework assignment(s) must be turned in timely or you will receive a zero. Exams must be taken as scheduled. Only the most severe emergencies will be considered as excuses for missing an exam. Should you miss an exam for such an emergency, every effort should be made to contact me prior to the scheduled exam. If you are unable to contact me before the scheduled exam time, then you should contact me as soon as is possible after you have missed such an exam.

Attendance/Participation: In order to succeed in this class, you will need to be present. Actively taking notes & participating in discussions will be a must for success. I realize that emergencies arise and you may have to miss class. However, attendance is required for all classes as stated in the University Bulletin and will be recorded. There will be an attendance sign-in sheet, and it is your responsibility to make sure that you sign it each day; if you fail to sign it you will be counted as absent. You must be present for the entire class in order to be counted present.

FINAL EXAM:
Your final exam will be a comprehensive multiple-choice exam.

COURSE POLICIES: Academic Honesty and Other Important Issues

Academic Honesty and Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

It is the professor’s intention to be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible. Therefore, all students will be asked to adhere to the same set of guidelines and rules UNLESS there are disabilities or documented extenuating circumstances that have been discussed with the professor and the Student Life Office. Please make sure you inform the professor as soon as any
situation arises. Do NOT wait until the problem is compounded by poor class performance, poor attendance, etc.

Academic integrity is expected. This includes, but is not limited to, any form of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized sharing of work, or unauthorized possession of course materials. The professor assumes that all students can be trusted. Please do no violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

**College of Business Code of Ethics**

Students, faculty, administrators and professional staff of the College of Business should always:

- Be forthright and truthful in dealings with all stakeholders
- Take responsibility for one’s actions and decisions
- Serve as an example of ethical decision-making and behavior to others
- Admit errors when they occur, without trying to conceal them
- Respect the basic dignity of others by treating them as one would wish to be treated

**Courtesy and Respect**

Courtesy and Respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other’s opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one’s ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

**Accommodations for Disability**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.15 Providing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities), the Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

**Student absence for religious holidays**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Course Drop**

To view information about how to drop this course or to calculate important dates relevant to dropping this course, you can visit:

Incomplete as a Course grade
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.11 Grading Procedures), the grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I’s.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14196-op-1003-grade-grievance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, AUG 28-30</td>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CAPITALISM AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, SEPT 4-6</td>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>ETHICS AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Sept. 4-HOLIDAY&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, SEPT 11-13</td>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>THE CORPORATION AND PUBLIC POLICY</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, SEPT 18-20</td>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, SEPT 25-27</td>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 2-4</td>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>EXAM 1 MONDAY SEPT. 29!!!!!!!</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, OCT 9-11</td>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>CONTRACTS</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, OCT 16-18</td>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>CONTRACTS</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 23-25</td>
<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>EXAM 2 MONDAY OCT. 20!!!!!!!</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BUSINESS TORTS AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 30-NOV 1</td>
<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>BUSINESS TORTS AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-25</td>
<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT LAW</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 6-8</td>
<td>WEEK 12</td>
<td>EXAM 3</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 9, 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 13-15</td>
<td>WEEK 13</td>
<td>CONSUMER PROTECTION</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 20-22</td>
<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL ETHICS AND LAW</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 27-29</td>
<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 4-6</td>
<td>WEEK 17</td>
<td>INTERNET LAW AND ETHICS</td>
<td>TEXT, CHAPTER 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 4-6</td>
<td>WEEK 18</td>
<td>TURN IN COURSE ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 11-15</td>
<td>WEEK 19</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM WEEK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>