BUSI 2301.030
Legal & Ethical Environment of Business
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:45PM, RAS105

Course Description/Overview

An overview of the basic principles of law as they apply to business, with an emphasis on the ethical environment of business. Topics include personal ethics, business ethics, legal ethics, resolution of ethical conflicts, the judicial system and court procedure, alternative dispute resolution, the constitution and business, business torts and crimes, contracts, bailments, forms of business structure, basic property law, international law and other relevant legal and ethical topics.

Prerequisite Knowledge
None

Course Technology
Internet access necessary. Course materials may be found on the University’s Blackboard system at http://blackboard.angelo.edu. The Connect program from McGraw-Hill Education will be accessed through and integrated with your Blackboard Course.

Class Meeting Times and Location
This class will be conducted on the days and times noted above.

Technical Support
The Technology Service Center (TSC) may be contacted by calling (325) 942-2911 or 1-866-942-2911 or by email at helpdesk@angelo.edu

Faculty/Instructor Information

Whitney Leifeste Ruiz
Senior Instructor of Business Law
Office:  RAS 254
Phone:  325-486-6489
E-Mail:  whitney.ruiz@angelo.edu

About the Instructor:
Doctorate of Jurisprudence  University of Texas – Austin
Masters in Communication  Angelo State University
Licensed Attorney  State of Texas

Office Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00a.m.-12:30p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:45p.m.-2:00p.m. in RAS 105

Response Time
Response to emails will normally be within 24 hours Monday through Friday.
Course Objectives

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. recognize the application of business practices within the context of existing social, political, and legal environments in the United States.
2. understand the importance of legal, social, and political boundaries placed on business behavior, and to begin to assess the bearing of these boundaries on individual value and normative systems.
3. explain the history and intent of political, social, and legal structures.

Assessment Methods
You will demonstrate that you have met the objectives above through a combination of exams, assignments and online discussions that will measure your learning.

Textbook, Required Readings, & McGraw-Hill Connect

Authors: Sean P. Melvin and F.E. Guerra-Pujol
Publisher: McGraw Hill Education

McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution that is required for this course. As outlined in the Grading Policies portion of this syllabus, assignments through Connect will make up a significant portion of your overall course grade.

Access
Connect can be purchased online at our section’s Connect web address: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/w-ruiz-spring-2018-tr-1230pm. If you purchase Connect online, you will have the option of purchasing Connect with the eBook. This is the most economical method. NOTE: You can register in Connect and have access without a code for approximately two weeks to allow for financial aid to come in.

Registration
To register in Connect, please visit http://connect.mheducation.com/class/w-ruiz-spring-2018-tr-1230pm and click “Register Now.”

Support & Tips
If you have any issues while registering or using Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill’s Customer Experience team through http://www.mhhe.com/support or at 800-331-5094. To avoid problems related to unexpected technical issues, you are advised not to wait until the last moment to complete assignments. Please review your “Connect Student Quick Tips” document for further support.

Other readings may be 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

This course employs the following to measure student learning.
- 20% = LearnSmart Modules (through Connect)
- 20% = Quizzes and Assignments (through Connect, Blackboard, and in class)
- 20% = Exam #1
- 20% = Exam #2
- 20% = Exam #3 (The final exam)

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 59% and below.

Method of Calculating Grades
Your two lowest grades in the LearnSmart Modules Category will be dropped before the category is averaged. Your two lowest grades in the Quizzes and Assignments Category will be dropped before the category is averaged. NO EXAM GRADES WILL BE DROPPED.

Missed/Late Work
There are no makeups!!! Your exams, assignments, and participation items must be completed online timely or you will receive a zero. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. You must be sure that you understand the deadlines and comply with them faithfully.

Participation/Absenteeism
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. Therefore, you are each allowed 4 penalty free absences this term. However, 1 point will be deducted from your final course grade for each class missed after the penalty free absences. 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. Do not skip four classes and then expect to have an illness excused. These penalty free absences are to be used for illnesses, family emergencies, etc. Use them wisely.

Course Policies

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 not violate this trust. Violation of academic integrity will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Courteous and Respect**

Courteous 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/discussions. 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**

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs 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 emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Ms. Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Development  
Office of Student Affairs  
University Center, Suite 112  
325-942-2047 Office  
325-942-2211 FAX  
Dallas.Swafford@angelo.edu

**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 http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrar_office/course_drop_provisions.php.

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.

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

Disclaimer
Come on….I’m a lawyer, of course I have to have a disclaimer. In all seriousness, we will be discussing many different topics, some of which may involve sensitive issues. Personal opinions will be expressed and often welcomed to further the discussion. Please do not take any such expression by me or any other student personally. You will not be graded based upon your personal opinions expressed in this course. You will be graded on your understanding of the law as it stands, regardless of whether or not you agree with the current status of the law or the policies behind it. At all times, however, students are expected to be respectful of each other and of me.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/16/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/18/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Legal Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/23/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 1 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/25/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Business and the Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/30/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 2 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/01/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 2 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/06/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 3: The American Judicial System, Jurisdiction, &amp; Venue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 3 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/13/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Resolving Disputes: Litigation &amp; ADR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/15/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 4 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/20/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Torts &amp; Products Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>02/22/18, Thurs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM #1, covering Chapters 1-4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/27/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 9 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/01/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 22: Criminal Law &amp; Procedure in Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/06/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 22 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 23: Personal Property, Real Property, and Land Use Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>03/12th-16th/18</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/20/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 23 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/22/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 24: Intellectual Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/27/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 25: International Law and Global Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/29/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>04/02/18, Mon.</strong></td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY TO DROP</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>04/03/18, Tues.</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM #2, covering Chapters 9, 22-25</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/05/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Overview and Formation of Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/10/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Contract Enforceability and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/12/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Employment Relationships and Labor Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/17/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Employment Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/19/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 12 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/24/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Excerpts from Chapters 13, 14, 15: Choice of Business Entity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/26/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Business, Societal, and Ethical Contexts of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/01/18, Tues.</td>
<td>Ch 5 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/03/18, Thurs.</td>
<td>Ch 5 Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>05/10/18, Thurs.</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM #3 (FINAL EXAM), covering Chapters 5-7, 10-15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:30AM-12:30PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXAM #3 (FINAL EXAM), covering Chapters 5-7, 10-15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>