BUSI 2301
Legal & Ethical Environment of Business
Delivered Online – 2nd Summer 2017

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 completely online.

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:
By appointment only (either face to face in my office during normal business hours, or via Skype).

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

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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 access codes may be packaged with a new textbook in the bookstore. Connect can also be purchased online at our section’s Connect web address: http://connect.mheducation.com/class/w-ruiz-2summer2017online. 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-2summer2017 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.
- 70% = Exams (4 unit exams & 1 comprehensive final exam)
- 20% = Assignments
- 10% = Participation (LearnSmart Modules through Connect, Discussions, “Attendance”)

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 Assignment Category (A) will be dropped before the Assignments category is averaged. Your two lowest grades in the Participation Category (P) will be dropped before the Participation category is averaged. Your one lowest grade in the Exam Category (E) will be dropped before the Exam Category is averaged.

To calculate your course average, you will use the three averages calculated according to the previous paragraph and you will plug them into the following formula: 0.20(A) + 0.10(P) + 0.70 (E) = Course Average.

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. This is a very fast paced semester since it must be completed in just over 4 weeks. You must be sure that you understand the deadlines and comply with them faithfully.

Participation
Participation will be measured by your completion of the assigned LearnSmart activities and Discussion Boards.

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.

**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/discussions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, lifestyle, 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/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php](http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/course_drop_provisions.php).

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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.
## Content Outline, Deadlines, and Assessments

| Deadlines | Content and Task Descriptions | U = ungraded  
| G = graded  
| A = Assignment  
P = Participation  
E = Exam |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module One | **Course Introduction:**  --  
Study Syllabus & Explore Blackboard Course  U  
Complete Connect Orientation Video and Assignment  G/A  
Participate in the Discussion Board  G/P  
**Chapter 5: Business, Societal, and Ethical Contexts of Law**  --  
Read Ch 5  U  
Review Ch 5 PPT  U  
Complete Ch 5 LearnSmart Activity  G/P  
Complete Ch 5 Assignment  G/A  
**Module One Exam**  G/E |
| Due 7/16/17 | | |
| | **Chapter 1: Legal Foundations**  --  
Read Ch 1  U  
Review Ch 1 PPT  U  
Complete Ch 1 LearnSmart Activity  G/P  
Complete Ch 1 Assignment  G/A  
**Chapter 2: Business and the Constitution**  --  
Read Ch 2  U  
Review Ch 2 PPT  U  
Complete Ch 2 LearnSmart Activity  G/P  
Complete Ch 2 Assignment  G/A  
**Chapter 3: American Judicial System, Jurisdiction & Venue**  --  
Read Ch 3  U  
Review Ch 3 PPT  U  
Complete Ch 3 LearnSmart Activity  G/P  
Complete Ch 3 Assignment  G/A  
**Chapter 4: Resolving Disputes: Litigation and ADR**  --  
Read Ch 4  U  
Review Ch 4 PPT  U  
Complete Ch 4 LearnSmart Activity  G/P  
Complete Ch 4 Assignment  G/A  
**Module Two Exam**  G/E |
<p>| Module Two | Due 7/23/17 | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Three</th>
<th>Due 7/30/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 6: Overview and Formation of Contracts</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Ch 6</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Ch 6 PPT</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 6 LearnSmart Activity</td>
<td>G/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 6 Assignment</td>
<td>G/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 7: Contract Enforceability and Performance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Ch 7</td>
<td>U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Ch 7 PPT</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 7 LearnSmart Activity</td>
<td>G/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 7 Assignment</td>
<td>G/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 9: Torts and Products Liability</strong></td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Ch 9</td>
<td>U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Ch 9 PPT</td>
<td>U</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 9 LearnSmart Activity</td>
<td>G/P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 9 Assignment</td>
<td>G/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 22: Criminal Law and Procedure in Business</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read Ch 22</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Ch 22 PPT</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 22 LearnSmart Activity</td>
<td>G/P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Ch 22 Assignment</td>
<td>G/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Three Exam</strong></td>
<td>G/E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Module Four**  
**Due 8/6/17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Chapter 13: Choice of Business Entity, Sole Proprietorships, and Partnerships | Read Ch 13 U  
Review Ch 13 PPT U  
Complete Ch 13 LearnSmart Activity G/P  
Complete Ch 13 Assignment G/A |
| Chapter 14: LLCs and LLPs | Read Ch 14 U  
Review Ch 14 PPT U  
Complete Ch 14 LearnSmart Activity G/P  
Complete Ch 14 Assignment G/A |
| Chapter 15: Corporations | Read Ch 15 U  
Review Ch 15 PPT U  
Complete Ch 15 LearnSmart Activity G/P  
Complete Ch 15 Assignment G/A |
| Chapter 23: Personal Property, Real Property and Land Use Law | Read Ch 23 U  
Review Ch 23 PPT U  
Complete Ch 23 LearnSmart Activity G/P  
Complete Ch 23 Assignment G/A |
| Chapter 24: Intellectual Property | Read Ch 24 U  
Review Ch 24 PPT U  
Complete Ch 24 LearnSmart Activity G/P  
Complete Ch 24 Assignment G/A |

| Chapter 23: Personal Property, Real Property and Land Use Law | -- |
| Chapter 24: Intellectual Property | -- |

| Module Four Exam | G/E |

| FINAL EXAM | COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM | G/E |

**This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor.**