

# BUSI 2301-020

## LEGAL AND ETHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

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### Spring 2022 Syllabus

RAS 105

### 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, forms of business structure, basic property law, international law, and other relevant legal and ethical topics.

### Prerequisite Knowledge

No prerequisite class is required.

### Course Technology

- Blackboard

### Class Meeting Times

6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

### Final Exam Time

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### 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](mailto:helpdesk@angelo.edu)

### Faculty/Instructor Information

#### Instructor:

**Mr. Joe Muñoz, J.D.**

*Sr. Executive Assistant to the President and General Counsel  
Adjunct Faculty member*

#### Education:

**Licensed Attorney**

*State of Texas*

#### Doctor of Jurisprudence

Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
*Texas Southern University*

#### Bachelor of Science

*Angelo State University*

**Email:**

[Joe.Munoz@angelo.edu](mailto:Joe.Munoz@angelo.edu)

*\*Please use this as the primary form of communication*

**Office:**

Mayer Administration Building AD 213

**Office Hours:**

*Please e-mail or call for an appointment.*

**Office Phone:**

(325) 942-2073

**Home Phone:**

(325) 658-3039

While I am more than happy to work through questions a student might have over the phone, I ask that students utilize their ASU e-mail as the primary form of communication. If I need to relay information about class, I will do so via Blackboard and e-mail so please check your ASU email daily. Should a student e-mail me, they should expect an answer within 24 hours.

## Course Objectives

**Learning Objectives:**

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

1. Understand the application of business practices and the connection with the ethical, political, and legal environment of the United States.
2. Know how professionals effectively navigate complex business issues that lack a clear right answer and articulate and defend the rationale for their choice in resolution.
3. Understand the history and intent of American political, ethical, and legal structures and by so doing to ascertain why proposed solutions to contemporary ethical and social business questions may or may not work.
4. Articulate the importance of legal, ethical, and political boundaries upon business behavior and the bearing of those boundaries upon individual values and normative systems.

## Assessment Methods

- Students will be assessed based on class participation and exams.
- Students are expected to read the assignment prior to attending class. A discussion on the assignment will occur each class. In order to receive full points for classroom participation a student should come to class prepared and contribute to classroom discussion without dominating it.
- Many topics covered in this class are controversial – no comments or discussion should be taken personally and all opinions and discussion should be respectful and considerate.

- The dates for each of the four exams are listed below. Exams are not comprehensive and will include questions based on information covered during class, in the textbook, and other materials covered throughout the course.

## Course Textbook

Business Law, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Henry Cheeseman

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

A = 90 – 100 %

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = 59 % and below

## Extra Credit Opportunity:

### Complete a Personal Code of Ethics – 10 Points

This assignment has no length requirement but should reflect that the student understands what a “Code of Ethics” is and should guide the student both personally and professionally.

### Office Visit – 10 Points

Before the final, the student must make an appointment by sending a professional email to the professor requesting a meeting and attend the meeting scheduled.

## Exams

Missed exams may be made up with a valid excuse provided students communicate with the professor immediately (within 24 hours).

## Participation/Absenteeism

Students are expected to participate in this course.

## Final Exam

The final exam is not comprehensive and simply the fourth exam given in the course.

## 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, which is in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook.

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.

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.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

## **Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

## **Norris-Vincent 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 others points of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity and harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in appropriate disciplinary actions.

## 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](mailto:studentservices@angelo.edu), or by contacting:

Mrs. 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](mailto:Dallas.Swafford@angelo.edu)

## Title IX

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Miller, J.D.**  
*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022  
[michelle.miller@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.miller@angelo.edu)

**You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).**

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit the [Office of Title IX Compliance website](#).

## **Student absence for religious holidays**

As stated in the Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedures (OP 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day), a student who intends to miss class 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 the [Course Drop website](#).

## **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. For undergraduates, 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 Procedures (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, has experienced inequitable evaluation procedures, or inappropriate grading practices, 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 grade appeal process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see [Operating Procedure 10.03](#).

## Course Outline/Tentative Schedule

| DATE                        | TOPIC  | ASSIGNMENT   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>       | Introduction to Course   |  |
| Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup>       | Chapter 1 – Legal Heritage & The Digital Age   | <i>Chapter 1</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Brown v. Board of Education;</i><br><i>Fisher v. University of Texas</i>  |
| Jan. 25 <sup>th</sup>       | Chapter 2 – Courts & Jurisdiction  | <i>Chapter 2</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>V.L. v. E.L.;</i><br><i>Carter’s of New Bedford, Inc. v. Nike, Inc.</i>   |
| Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>       | Chapter 3 – Judicial, Alternative, & E-Dispute Resolution                                      | <i>Chapter 3</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Wade v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.;</i><br><i>Kindred Nursing v. Clark;</i>  |
| Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>        | Chapter 4 – Constitutional Law   | <i>Chapter 4</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Mutual Pharmaceutical v. Bartlett;</i><br><i>Packingham v. North Carolina;</i><br><i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>   |
| Feb. 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | Chapter 5 – Intentional Torts & Negligence (Part II: Torts, Crimes, and Intellectual Property) | <i>Chapter 5</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Wal-Mart v. Cockrell;</i><br><i>Jones v. City of Seattle;</i><br><i>Aleo v. SLB Toys USA</i>  |
| Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>        | Chapter 6 – Product & Strict Liability   | <i>Chapter 6</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Bilenky v. Roybi Tech., Inc.;</i><br><i>Shoshone Coca-Cola Bottling v. Dolinski;</i><br><i>Genie Industries v. Matak;</i><br><i>Braswell v. Cincinnati Inc.;</i><br><i>Cummins v. BIC USA</i> |
| Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>       | <i>Catch -Up on Chapters</i><br><br>Review for Exam #1   |  |
| <b>Feb. 15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>** EXAM #1 **</b>   |  |

| DATE                  | TOPIC   | ASSIGNMENT  |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup> | Chapter 7 – Intellectual Property & Information Technology  | <p><i>Chapter 7</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics, Inc.;</i><br/> <i>Samsung Electronics v. Apple;</i><br/> <i>Star Athletica v. Varsity;</i></p>  |
| Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Chapter 8 – Criminal Law & Cybercrime   | <p><i>Chapter 8</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Maryland v. Kulbicki;</i><br/> <i>U.S. v. Barrington;</i><br/> <i>Riley v. California</i></p>   |
| Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> | Chapter 9 – Nature of Traditional and E-Contracts (Part III: Contracts & E-Commerce)  | <p><i>Chapter 9</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Kolodziej v. Mason;</i><br/> <i>Facebook, Inc. v. Winklevoss;</i></p>   |
| March 1 <sup>st</sup> | <p>Chapter 10: Agreement</p> <p>Chapter 11: Consideration &amp; Promissory Estoppel (Start)</p> <p><i>*Browse these chapters</i></p>  | <p><i>Chapter 10</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>McKee v. Isle of Capri Casinos;</i><br/> <i>Ehlen v. Melvin;</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 11</i><br/> Dynamic Study Module- Lab</p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Ferguson v. Carnes;</i><br/> <i>Cooper v. Smith;</i><br/> <i>Clemmons v. Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, Inc.</i></p> |
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <p>Chapter 11: Consideration &amp; Promissory Estoppel (Finish)</p> <p>Chapter 12: Capacity &amp; Legality</p> <p>Chapter 16 – Breach of Contract and Remedies</p> <p><i>*Browse these chapters</i></p> | <p><i>Chapter 12</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Ivie v. Smith;</i><br/> <i>DeCormier v. Harley Davidson</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 16</i></p> <p><u>Cases in Class:</u><br/> <i>Burke v. 401 N. Wabash Venture, LLC;</i><br/> <i>Alba v. Kaufmann;</i></p>  |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup> | <p><i>Catch -Up on Chapters</i></p> <p>Review for Exam #2</p>   |   |



| DATE                                      | TOPIC  | ASSIGNMENT  |
|---|--|---|
| March 10 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>** EXAM #2 **</b>   |   |
| March 14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>SPRING BREAK!!!!</b>  |   |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup>                    | Chapter 31 – Employment, Worker Protection, and Immigration Law  | <i>Chapter 31</i><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Wal-Mart Stores v. Henle;</i><br><i>SeaWorld v. Dept of Labor;</i>  |
| March 24 <sup>th</sup>                    | Chapter 33 – Equal Opportunity in Employment   | <i>Chapter 33</i><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Bennett v. Nucor Corp.;</i><br><i>Waldo v. Consumers Energy;</i><br><i>EEOC v. Abercrombie &amp; Fitch;</i> |
| March 29 <sup>th</sup>                    | Chapter 34 – Small Business, Entrepreneurships, and General Partnerships                               | <i>Chapter 34</i><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Bank of America v. Barr;</i><br><i>Pegg v. Kohn;</i>  |
| March 31 <sup>st</sup>                    | Chapter 35 – Limited Partnerships and Special Partnerships (We will briefly touch on Corporations too) | <i>Chapter 35</i>   |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup>                     | Chapter 49 – Landlord-Tenant Law and Land Use Regulation   | <i>Chapter 49</i><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>New Haverford Partnership v. Stroot;</i>  |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>                     | <i>Catch -Up on Chapters</i><br><br>Review for Exam #3   |   |
| April 12 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>** EXAM #3**</b>  |   |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | Chapter 42 – Ethics and Social Responsibility of Business  | <i>Chapter 42</i><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Samara Brothers, Inc.;</i><br><i>POM Wonderful LLC v. Coca-Cola Company</i>        |

| <b>DATE</b>                | <b>TOPIC</b>  | <b>ASSIGNMENT</b>   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| April 19 <sup>th</sup>     | Chapter 43 – Administrative Law and Regulatory Agencies | <i>Chapter 43</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>EPA v. EME Homer City Generation, L.P.</i>  |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup>     | Chapter 53 – Family Law                                 | <i>Chapter 53</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Beyor v. Beyor; Dodson v. Dodson</i>  |
| April 26 <sup>th</sup>     | Chapter 48 – Real Property                              | <i>Chapter 48</i><br><br><u>Cases in Class:</u><br><i>Robenolt v. Zyznar;</i><br><i>Paine v. Sexton;</i><br><i>The Willows, LLC v. Bogy</i> |
| April 28 <sup>th</sup>     | <i>Catch -Up on Chapters</i><br><br>Review for Exam #4  |   |
| <b>May 10<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>** EXAM #4** FINAL</b>                               | <b>6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.</b>   |

*\*The schedule is subject to change.*