

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
Department of General Business and Finance**

**Course Syllabus Spring 2017**

**Course Number:** BUAD 2301  
**Course Title:** Business Legal Environment  
**Prerequisites:** None  
**Professor:** Joey Robertson, J.D.  
**Phone:** (936) 294-1287  
**Email address:** tjr004@shsu.edu  
**Office:** SHB 201  
**Office Hours:** MW 11:00-?. In addition, I am available to meet with you by appointment if the posted office hours are not convenient for you. Please contact me so that we can schedule a mutually convenient time to meet.

**Communication with the Professor:**

The most efficient and convenient means to ask questions or schedule appointments is via email or my course Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Robertsonbuslaw/>

or search for “Dr. Robertson's SHSU Business Law Courses”

I am available to meet with you almost any time by appointment. Please feel free to contact me to schedule a time to meet with you if the posted office hours are not convenient for you.

**Text:**

West’s Business Law, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition by Clarkson, Miller, and Cross. West Publishing Company. ISBN: 9780538470810, or consider the condensed version.

**Course Description:**

This course covers legal environment from a “preventative law,” practical perspective. Specific subjects include: litigation, alternative dispute resolution, torts, business organizations, real and personal property law including asset protection-estate planning, and administrative law. The course provides an introduction to environmental law, consumer law, securities law, and human resources management law (labor law).

The course will require a significant amount of time in order for you to be successful. This class is not “Death by Powerpoint” – in fact we do not use Powerpoints in class. They are provided to you to SUPPLEMENT your own study,

but should not be relied on as a primary study guide for the exams. Our lectures will focus on a high level discussion of the material. In order to participate in these discussions, which you are expected to do, you will need to be prepared when you show up to class.

You are expected to have completed your reading and homework daily. If you have not done these things it is likely your grade will suffer.

### **Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Develop and recognize legal problems.
- Recognize when federal and state laws impinge on personal and professional decision-making.
- Develop the analytical thinking process through the application of legal concepts in the resolution of legal disputes.
- Have the ability to research current law, rules and regulations related to specific disputes.

### **Topics Covered:**

Civil Litigation Processes and Procedures  
Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Criminal Law  
Tort Law  
Property Rights and Responsibilities  
Bailments  
Real Property Issues  
Probate, Trust & Estate Planning  
Agency Law  
Forms of Organizing Businesses  
Ethics  
Employment Law  
Environmental Law  
Insurance Law

### **Religious Holy Days Policy:**

Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one (1) week of returning to class. The student, not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day.

## **Handicapped Student Policy:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Student Life program or activity. Handicapped students may request academic assistance when needed from a Committee for Continuing Academic Assistance for Disabled Students by visiting the Lee Drain Building Annex, or by visiting [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus).

## **Attendance Policy:**

Attendance in this class is expected as is stated in the Sam Houston State University catalog. **Absences in excess of eight (8) hours will result in a failure. In this class that 8 hours is equivalent to 6 class absences.** There are no excused/unexcused absences, you are either here or you are not.

Also, those who miss a substantial number of classes will penalize themselves by missing material that will be discussed in class that may not appear in the text, and over which the class will be tested. In this class you are encouraged to attend every class even if you are late. Please do not hesitate to come to class. You will be penalized for arriving to class late (see next paragraph), but you will still have access to all testable information.

I will take attendance of the class via a roll sheet. If you are not in your assigned seat when attendance is taken, you are considered "late" for that period. Three "lates" will result in one (1) absence.

This system is automatic. No "permission" is given to miss a class – this system permits a reasonable number of absences for sickness, etc. It is not necessary to inform me if you plan or cannot attend class on a given day. **However, if you need to leave class early please inform me prior to class.**

## **Extra Credit:**

In addition to the above listed Attendance Policy and in an effort to encourage you to attend class, the following incentive has been adopted to encourage consistent attendance. Please note that this is extra credit and you must attend the entire class in order to receive this extra credit. If you are absent for any reason you will not be able to obtain the reward for perfect attendance.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Perfect Attendance: | I will add 10 points to your point total |
| Only 1 absence:     | I will add 5 points to your point total. |

## Classroom Policies:

In order to facilitate a positive classroom environment, please observe the following:

- Class will start promptly at the assigned time.
- Do not cause disruptions in class or you will be asked to leave.
- This is a professional environment, but I will allow you to wear hats in class as long as there are no problems. You will have to remove them for exams.

## Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the following:

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Five (5) Exams:          | 100 points/500 points total  |
| Homework (case research) | 100 points                   |
| Class participation      | 100 points (sub for an exam) |
| Possible Extra Credit    | ???                          |

## Total Possible Points for all assignments 600

Your grade is determined on a percentage of 600 points whether you complete any extra credit or not.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 89.5% +         | = A |
| 79.5% – 89.499% | = B |
| 69.5% – 79.499% | = C |
| 59.5% – 69.499% | = D |
| <59.5%          | = F |

- You will start the semester with 100 points for participation. These points may be substituted for your lowest exam grade if you complete the “Card Game”. In the game I will randomly call students chosen by way of names printed on a deck of cards. Students will be asked questions on the class material, cases in the book, etc. If you know the material, great! You get to keep all of your points. If you partially know the material you will lose 5 points, and if you do not know the material at all you will lose 10 points. If I call your name and you are not present in class the game is over for you, and you will not be able to substitute the participation grade for your lowest exam.

Additionally you will be assigned to a work group. These groups will be expected to meet for one hour outside of class. Participation will be logged by your group leader and failure to attend or participate will cost you points.

- Homework (case briefs using the IRAC method) will be assigned regularly and taken up randomly. It is your choice whether or not to roll the dice.

- If class participation and reading preparation decline I reserve the right to have random quizzes. The quizzes will be handed out at the beginning or end of the class period. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. If quizzes are used the point total for the quizzes will be added to the total points for the class. For example, if two quizzes are given the total points for the class will increase from 500 points to 520. There will be no make up on class quizzes!!
- **STRICT POLICY ON EXAMS!** If you miss an exam for any reason, you will be required to take a comprehensive final examination during finals week. The comprehensive final will be weighted heavier to compensate for the missed exam. It will count as TWO exams. If you miss more than one exam, you will receive an F in the course.
- If you arrive **LATE** for an exam: If you arrive after the first person has handed in their exam you will **NOT** be allowed to take the exam. You will have to take a comprehensive final. As stated above, if you miss more than one exam, you will receive an F in the course.
- For exam purposes you are responsible for all material in the text as well as all material discussed in class.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Legal Environment 2301: Reading and Examination Schedule

Warning: This schedule is tentative and changes can be expected. Changes will be announced verbally in class.

| <b>Class</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Chapter- Business Law</b>                                    | <b>Notes</b>  |
|--------------|-------------|---|---|
| 1            | 8/23        | Syllabus, policies, questions, etc.<br>Chapter 1 – Intro to Law |   |
| 2            | 8/28        | Chapter 1   |   |
| 3            | 8/30        | Chapter 2 – Courts and ADR                                      |   |
| 4            | 9/4         | Chapter 3 – Court Procedures                                    |   |
| 5            | 9/6         | Chapter 4 – Constitutional Authority                            |   |
| 6            | 9/11        | Chapter 4 - Exam Review   |   |
| 7            | 9/13        | <b>Exam 1</b>   | <b>Court and Judicial Systems</b>   |
| 8            | 9/18        | Exam Results – Chapter 6 - Torts                                |   |
| 9            | 9/20        | Chapter 6 – Torts   |   |
| 10           | 9/25        | Chapter 7 – Negligence  |   |
| 11           | 9/27        | Chapter 8 – Intellectual Property                               |   |
| 12           | 10/2        | Chapter 9 – Criminal Law<br>Exam Review                         |   |
| 13           | 10/4        | <b>Exam 2</b>   | <b>Torts and Crimes</b>   |
| 14           | 10/9        | Exam Results – Chapter 32– Agency                               |   |
| 15           | 10/11       | Chapter 32 / Chapter 33– Liability to third parties             |   |
| 16           | 10/16       | Chapter 36 – Sole Proprietorships                               |   |
| 17           | 10/18       | Chapter 37 – Partnerships and LLP's                             |   |
| 18           | 10/23       | Chapter 38 – LLC's<br>Exam Review                               |   |
| 19           | 10/25       | <b>Exam 3</b>   | <b>Agency, Business Forms</b>   |
| 20           | 10/30       | Exam Results - Chapter 39                                       |   |
| 21           | 11/1        | Chapter 39/Chapter 40   |   |
| 22           | 11/6        | Chapter 39 – Corporations                                       |   |
| 23           | 11/8        | Chapter 40 – Corporations                                       |   |
| 24           | 11/13       | Chapter 41 – Corporations                                       |   |
| 25           | 11/15       | Chapter 42 – Corporations<br>Exam Review                        |   |
| 26           | 11/20       | <b>Exam 4</b>   | <b>Corporations</b>   |
|              | 11/22-11/24 | Thanksgiving Break  |   |
| 27           | 11/27       | Chapter 49 – Personal Property                                  |   |
| 28           | 11/29       | Chapter 50 – Real Property<br>Chapter 52 – Wills                |   |
|              | TBD         | <b>Exam 5 – FINAL EXAM</b>                                      | <b>Admin. Law, Antitrust, Property, Professional Liability and Insurance.</b> |