



**BLAW 2203 – Legal Environment of Business  
Fall Term 2019**

**College of Business  
Dept. of Accounting, Finance & M.I.S.**

**Instructor:** Lawrence J. Trautman, MBA, J.D.  
**Section # and CRN:** P02 - 14217; P03 – 12726  
**Office Location:** Agriculture/Business Multipurpose Building, Rm. 337  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00 am, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (& by appointment)  
**Mode of Instruction:** Face to Face  
**Course Location:** Agriculture-Business Multipurpose Building  
**Class Days & Times:** P02 - T/R 12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. [Room 120]  
P03 - T/R 03:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. [Room 120]

**Catalog Description: BLAW Legal Environment of Business**

A survey of the U.S. legal system with an emphasis on aspects relevant to business operations. Topics include legal systems, constitutional law, criminal law, property law, torts, and basic contract law.

**Prerequisites:** Passing University admissions reading test

**Co-requisites:** None

**Required Texts:** *Business Law: Text and Cases* (14th Edition), by Kenneth W. Clarkson, Roger LeRoy Miller & Frank B. Cross (© 2019)  
Publisher: Cengage  
ISBN: 978-1-305-96725-0  
Available in various formats: eBook only, or with various paper book options  
At PVAMU bookstore.  
Recommended: Ben Mezrich, *The Accidental Billionaires: The Founding of Facebook* (Anchor Books, 2009).

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment
1	State and apply the fundamental principles of the Common Law system, including significance of precedent and the analytical methods used.	BBA 1a
2	Identify the primary sources of U.S. law and those sources' relative importance.	BBA 1a
3	State and apply the role of the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution in determining the application of state and federal laws to business activities.	BBA 1a
4	State and apply the rules protecting "real property" and "personal property" and their differing application to items and interests.	BBA 1a
5	Identify the distinctions between "intentional" and "unintentional" torts.	BBA 1a
6	State and apply the elements of, and defenses against, a cause of action for negligence.	BBA 1a
7	State and apply the requirements for creating (the "elements" of) a contract	BBA 1a

	under Common Law contract law rules.	BBA 1a
<b>8</b>	State and apply the principal distinctions between criminal law and civil law.	BBA 1a
<b>9</b>	State and apply the fundamental principles of Antitrust Law-Regulatory Environment	BBA 1a
<b>10</b>	State and apply the fundamental principles of Employment Law	BBA 1a
<b>11</b>	State and apply the fundamental principles of Corporate Governance	BBA 1a
<b>12</b>	Ethics: Students will recognize and analyze a legal ethical problem and be able to choose and defend a solution.	BBA 2a

### Major Course Requirements

### Method of Determining Final Course Grade

#### Course Grade Requirement

<b>10 Reaction Papers: Topics to be assigned</b>	<b>Attendance &amp; participation- combined score</b>	<b>Class Presentation</b>	<b>Mid-Term and Final Exams</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>20% [10% each]</b>
Not to exceed 5 pages front and back (include footnotes of sources). Each reaction paper counts as 5% of your grade.	You may have questions to work on in groups that we will review in class. Attendance and class participation <u>is important</u> and will be a major portion of your grade component for this category.	Spoken communication is an important skill. You will participate in groups to discuss legal problems you find in reaction papers.	The mid-term & final exams are fill in the blank & multiple choice. You are encouraged to study the outlines that will be provided and to augment them with your notes in class. Review these documents and our previous exercises to prepare.

Total:

#### Grading Criteria and Conversion:

900 – 1000 points = A

800 – 899 = B

700 – 799 = C

600 – 699 = D

599 And Under = F

A= 90.00 – 100%

B = 80.00 – 89.99%

C = 70.00 – 79.99%

D = 60.00 – 69.99%

F = 50.00 – 59.99%

#### Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

**Assignment Title or Grade Requirement**

Exams

**Description**

Mid-term and final exams (multiple choice and short essay questions) covering assigned and covered chapters in text and class discussions designed to measure knowledge of presented course material.

Legal Environment of Business – Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes

P02 - T/R 12:30 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. [Room 120]  
 P03 - T/R 03:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. [Room 120]

Date	Chapter	Topic
<b><u>Week One</u></b> August 27	Chapter	Course Intro, requirements, etc. The Importance of Reading-Ruth J. Simmons What is Law – U.S. Constitution Reaction Paper Assignment #1. IRAC! IRAC! IRAC!: How To Brief Any Legal Issue, available at <a href="http://ssrn.com/abstract=2827285">http://ssrn.com/abstract=2827285</a> . Read and write a brief reaction (not to exceed 2 pages front & back) about what you learned from reading this paper & why important. <b>Assignment 1 due on paper before beginning of next class.</b>
August 29	Chapter 1, 2	What is Law Precedents, Stare Decisis, Courts of Equity Reaction Paper Assignment #2. <i>Some Key Things U.S. Entrepreneurs Need to Know About The Law and Lawyers</i> , 46 TEXAS JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LAW 155 (2016), available at <a href="http://ssrn.com/abstract=2606808">http://ssrn.com/abstract=2606808</a> . <b>Assignment 1 due. Assignment 2 due on paper before beginning of class September 5th.</b>
<b><u>Week Two</u></b> September 3	Chapter 3	The Legal System Courts & Jurisdiction Sources of our Law <b>Assignment 2 due on paper before beginning of class September 5th.</b>
September 5	Chapter 5	Litigation Process; Importance of Ethics & Assumption of Good Faith <b>Assignment 2 due on paper before beginning of class.</b> Reaction Paper Assignment #3. The Importance of Truth Telling and Trust, 36 JOURNAL OF LEGAL STUDIES EDUCATION (2019), available at <a href="http://ssrn.com/abstract=3430854">http://ssrn.com/abstract=3430854</a> . <b>Assignment 3 due on paper before beginning of class September 12th.</b>
<b><u>Week Three</u></b> September 10	Chapter 4	Constitutional Law The U.S. Constitution and business activities State-Federal conflicts Interstate/Intrastate Commerce Clause
September 12	Chapter 4	Constitutional Law- Continued <b>Assignment 3 due on paper before beginning of class.</b> Reaction Paper Assignment #4, A Descriptive Analysis of the Fourth Amendment and the Third-Party Doctrine in the Digital Age!, 28 ALBANY LAW JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 73 (2018), available at <a href="https://ssrn.com/abstract=3005714">https://ssrn.com/abstract=3005714</a> . <b>Assignment 4 due on paper before beginning of class September 19th.</b>
<b><u>Week Four</u></b> September 17	Chapter 4	Analyzing constitutional issues through scrutiny test by the Courts Equal Protection of the law, Due Process, 1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment
September 19	Chapter 43	Administrative Law (SEC, FTC, Others)– Antitrust Law <b>Assignment 4 due on paper before beginning of class.</b> Reaction Paper Assignment #5, <i>The SEC &amp; The Internet: Regulating the Web</i>

of Deceit, 68 THE CONSUMER FINANCE LAW QUARTERLY REPORT 262 (2014), available at <http://www.ssrn.com/abstract=1951148>.  
**Assignment 5 due on paper before beginning of class September 26th.**

**Week Five**

September 24 Chapter 44 Administrative Law Continued  
 Securities Fraud

September 26 Chapter 6 Introduction to Torts Law (basic Tort theories/assault/battery)  
 Chapter 7 Intentional Torts – Elements of Negligence  
 Intentional Torts in Business Activities/Defenses **Assignment 5 due on paper before beginning of class.** Reaction Paper Assignment #6, *Ethical Culture and Legal Liability: The GM Switch Crisis and Lessons in Governance*, 22 BOSTON UNIV. JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LAW 187 (2016), available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2691536>.  
**Assignment 6 due on paper before beginning of class October 3rd.**

**Week Six**

October 1 Chapter 10 Criminal Law – Elements of crimes  
 Criminal – Sixth amendment  
 Criminal Liability

October 3 Chapter 10 Degrees in Crimes (petty, misdemeanor, felony)  
 Embezzlement/Arson/Conspiracy/Accomplice/Murder.  
**Assignment 6 due on paper before beginning of class.**

**Week Seven**

October 8 Chapter 8, 9 Internet Law, Cyber Crime, Social Media & Privacy  
 Intellectual Property Rights

October 10 Chapter 8, 9 Internet Law, Cyber Crime, Social Media & Privacy  
 Intellectual Property Rights [continued]  
 Mid-term review materials provided.

**Week Eight**

October 15 **Review** – Torts/Constitutional Law/ Criminal Law (everything covered so far)

October 17 **Mid-Term Exam** **Mid-Term Exam** –Legal System /Torts/Constitutional Law/ Criminal Law  
 handouts, and lectures

**Week Nine**

October 22 Chapter 11 Contracts – Basics and Formation  
 Chapter 12 Concepts of Offer and Acceptance Reaction Paper Assignment #7, Lessons About Franchise Risk From YUM! Brands and Schlotsky's, available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=3442905>.

October 24 Chapter 13 **Assignment 7 due on paper before beginning of class.**  
 Chapter 14 Consideration/Capacity and Legality  
 Minor/Alcoholics/Insane/Duress  
 Reaction Paper Assignment #8, *The Matrix: The Board's Responsibility for Director Selection and Recruitment*, 11 FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS REVIEW 75 (2012), available at <http://www.ssrn.com/abstract=1998489>. **Assignment 8 due on paper before beginning of class October 31st.**

**Week Ten**

October 29 Chapter 36 Business Organizations  
 Small Businesses & Franchises

October 31	Chapter 37, 38	Business Organizations <b>Assignment 8 due on paper before beginning of class.</b> Reaction Paper Assignment #9, <i>Corporate Directors' and Officers' Cybersecurity Standard of Care: The Yahoo Data Breach</i> , 66 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1231 (2017), available at <a href="http://ssrn.com/abstract=2883607">http://ssrn.com/abstract=2883607</a> . <b>Assignment 9 due on paper before beginning of class November 7th.</b>
<b><u>Week Eleven</u></b>		
November 5	Chapter 39, 40	Business Organizations
November 7	Chapter 40	Business Organizations <b>Assignment 9 due on paper before beginning of class.</b> Reaction Paper Assignment #10, <i>Governance of the Facebook Privacy Crisis</i> , available at <a href="http://ssrn.com/abstract=3363002">http://ssrn.com/abstract=3363002</a> . <b>Assignment 10 due on paper before beginning of class November 14th.</b>
<b><u>Week Twelve</u></b>		
November 12	Chapter 40 Chapter 42	Business Organizations Investor Protection and Corporate Governance
November 14	Chapter 41	Business Organizations <b>Assignment 10 due on paper before beginning of class.</b>
<b><u>Week Thirteen</u></b>		
November 19	Chapter 48	Property/ Personal Property/Bailment/Tenancy
November 21		No Class - University closed
<b><u>Week Fourteen</u></b>		
November 26	Chapter 49	Creation and Transfer of Interests in Real Property
November 28	Chapter 34 Chapter 35	Employment Law/basic (Race, National Origin, Age) Religion, EEOC, Pregnancy, Disabilities Act, etc.
<b><u>Week Fifteen</u></b>		
December 3	<b>Review</b>	Review for Final Exam Last day of Class
<b>Final Exam</b>		Final Exam Comprehensive
<b>Date to Be Announced</b>		

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

### Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

#### **TASKSTREAM**

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One or more of your assignments may be required for submission as an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

#### **EXAMS**

Each exam will include "objective" questions, which may be "True/False," "Matching," and/or "Multiple Choice." Exams may also include "story" or "essay" questions without suggested answers. All exams are "closed book, closed notes."

**There will be NO "MAKE-UP" for any missed exam unless under documented emergencies. (See the Prairie View A&M University Student Handbook)**

*Cumulative scores on regular exams is used to determine the course grade.* The regular exams will be on the course material covered since the preceding exam and given on the dates shown in the Schedule of Classes.

## **EXAMS**

***There will be NO "MAKE-UP" for any missed exams.***

## **SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Each assignment must be submitted on paper, at the beginning of class on the date due.

## **OTHER POLICIES & INFORMATION**

Other class policies and information available on eCourses are incorporated in this syllabus and are equally applicable to this course's grade and other policies.

***Items, policies, information and schedules may change during the term.*** Information on any changes will be distributed via in-class handouts and/or posting on eCourses. Students are individually responsible for keeping current on all class-related matters.

## **REFERENCES**

Westlaw, Lexis/Nexis – both available through University library website

## **Student Support and Success**

### **John B. Coleman Library**

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/> Phone: 936-261-1500

### **University Tutoring Center**

The Center offers tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 307. Phone: 936-261-1561

### **The Student Academic Success Center**

The Student Academic Success Center is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724

### **Student Counseling Services**

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

### **Testing**

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Phone: 936-261-3627

### **Office of Disability Services**

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

### **Veteran Services**

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: May Hall Rm. 118. Phone: 936-261-3563

### **Office for Student Engagement**

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

### **Career Services**

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

## **University Rules and Procedures**

### **Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

### **Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

### **Forms of Academic Dishonesty:**

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

### **Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)**

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus

conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Title IX Statement**

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

**Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)**

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms.

**Student Academic Appeals Process**

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome or Firefox

**Note:** Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

**Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:**

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):**

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be



respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

**Technical Support:**

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords along with whom to contact if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Center for Instructional Innovation and Technology Services at 936-261-3283

**Communication Expectations and Standards:**

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

**Discussion Requirement:**

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

**It is strongly suggested** that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.