



**BLAW 2203 – Legal Environment of Business
Spring Term 2018**

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

Instructor: William V. Vetter, J.D., LL.M.
Section # and CRN: P01 - 22259; P02 - 20386
Office Location: Rm. 456, Ag-Bus. Bldg.
Office Phone: 936-261-9265
Email Address: vetterlaw@hotmail.com
Office Hours: T/R 7:30 - 8:00 am, 9:20 am - 12:20 pm, 3:30 - 4:00 pm
Mode of Instruction: Face to Face

Course Location: Agri-Business Bldg.
Class Days & Times: P01 - T/R 12:30 - 1:50 p.m. [Room XXX]
P02 - T/R 2:00 - 3:20 p.m. [Room XXX]

Catalog Description: 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: Prerequisite: Pass reading section of TSIA.

Co-requisites: None

Required Texts: **Business Law and the Legal Environment of Business (3th Edition), by V.D. Lopez**
(© 2017) **Publisher: Textbook Media Press**
ISBN: 978-0-9969962-2-8 or 0-9969962-2-2
Available in various formats: eBook only, or with various paper book options
At www.textbookmedia.com

Recommended Texts: n/a

Student Learning Outcomes:

		Program Learning Outcome #	Core Curriculum Outcome
1	State and apply the fundamental principles of the Common Law system, including the significance of precedent and the analytical methods used.	PLO 1, 3	CT
2	Identify the primary sources of U.S. and those sources' relative importance.	PLO 1	CT

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.	PLO 1	CT
4	State and apply the rules protecting “real property” and “personal property” and their differing application to items and interests.	PLO 1, 3	CT, PR
5	Identify the distinctions between “intentional” and “unintentional” torts.	PLO 1	CT, PR
6	State and apply the elements of, and defenses against, a cause of action for negligence.	PLO 1	CT, PR
7	State and apply the requirements for creating (the “elements” of) a contract under Common Law contract law rules.	PLO 1, 3	CT
8	State and apply the principal distinctions between criminal law and civil law.	PLO 1, 3	CT, PR

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
1) Three Exams	24% each	72%
2) Quizzes		28%
Total:		100%

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 90.00 – 100

B = 80.00 – 89.99

C = 70.00 – 79.99

D = 60.00 – 69.99

F = < 60.00

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement

Quizzes

Description

Unannounced objective-question quizzes, 6 - 10 per term, graded on total points. (See additional details below.)

Exams

Standard exams (multiple choice and short essay questions) covering assigned and covered chapters in text and class discussions. (See additional details below.)

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

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.” The “One Sheet of Notes Rule” (see eCourses) applies to all exams.

There will be NO “MAKE-UP” for any missed exam. *Prior arrangements* may be made for an alternative exam date – “prior” means at least two class days (i.e. one calendar week) BEFORE the scheduled exam day.

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.

An **OPTIONAL** Comprehensive Exam will be given during the regular university final exam period. “Comprehensive” means that the exam will cover all of the material covered during the term. *The Comprehensive Exam is ENTIRELY OPTIONAL.* A student’s score on the Comprehensive Final exam will be substituted for the student’s lowest score on a regular exam, *even if it is lower than the regular exam score.*

The purpose of the Comprehensive Exam is to: (1) Render the no-make-up rule non-punitive, recognizing that **a very few, unavoidable and unpredictable things do happen,** (2) allow an opportunity to overcome a “bad day” that just happens, and (3) *encourage students to vigorously prepare for regular exams and thereby avoid having to take a Comprehensive Exam.*

QUIZZES

There will be NO “MAKE-UP” for any missed quiz. The “Quizzes” score for the term is based on total points earned in all quizzes, not on individual quiz scores. Students with plans that require missing one or more classes can make prior arrangements concerning quizzes on a quiz-by-quiz basis. Refer to the policies and procedures stated in the “Policy re Absences for Planned Activities” in eCourses.

EXTRA CREDIT :

There is only one means through which students may gain “extra credit” points in this course. Extra credit “points” will be added to the final grade calculated as indicated above. **Details are provided in a separate handout** (also available on eCourses)

CLASS ATTENDANCE – Closed Door Policy :

Both the University and the College of Business have official class attendance policies. Those can be found in the University catalog and/or University or COB websites. Obviously, those policies apply to this course.

Additional policies apply to this course. Late arrival in the classroom is unprofessional, disrespectful, and arrogant – demonstrating a total lack of interest in graduating . The material for this course, in whole and within each part, is highly progressive. Missing the beginning makes it highly unlikely that the middle or end will be understood. Postponing the beginning of class until the final student deigns to grace the room with his or her presence significantly lessens the time available for learning. **THE DOOR MAY BE LOCKED DAILY.** There will be **no admissions or re-admissions** after the doors are locked.

When the doors are locked, **DO NOT KNOCK, RATTLE DOOR, WAVE, MAKE GESTURES (OBSCENE OR NOT), OR OTHERWISE DISTURB THE CLASS** – be on time next time. If you are in the room when some classmate does those things, **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.**

“PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS,” EXCUSES, PERMISSIONS, APPROVALS AND DOCUMENTATION

The meaning of “with the instructor’s prior approval [or “permission”]” or the like, wherever stated, is not mysterious. When approval is subject to receiving documentation, the document(s) must be produced or authenticated by a third-party. “Third party” does not include a roommate or fellow student (the credibility of parents and spouses is questionable). A copy of the third-party document is acceptable only if the has never been in the student’s possession, such as the “copy” one receives from a police officer or doctor.

OTHER POLICIES & INFORMATION

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

UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN SYLLABUS:

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

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve 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. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) 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. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and 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 Affairs

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: Evans Hall Rm. 323. 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, whether excused or unexcused, 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. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

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 Undergraduate 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, Safari, Internet Explorer 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 and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning 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.

Legal Environment of Business – Spring 2018
Schedule of Classes

BLAW 2203-P01 – T/R 12:30 - 1:50 p.m., Room **TBA**
BLAW 2203-P02 – T/R 2:00 - 3:20 p.m., Room **TBA**

(ver. 1.0)

DATE	Chap.	Topic	Due Dates, etc.
01-16		Course Intro, requirements, etc.	
01-18	1	Law, Language, Logic	
01-23	3	Courts, Jurisdiction & Precedent	
01-25	3	Civil Procedure, Trials (General Student Assembly 10-12:30?)	
01-30	5	Administrative Law	
02-01			
02-06	2	Commerce Clause Constitution Conflicts & Analysis issues	
02-08			
02-13	Exam 1	Chaps. 1, 2, 3, 5, lectures, handouts	
02-15	6	Criminal Law - Facts & "Intent"	
02-20	6	Criminal Law - Constitutional Issues	
02-22			
02-27	31, 32	Real Property	
03-01	31, 32	(cont.)	
03-06	28, 30	Personal Property & Bailment	
03-08	28, 30	(cont.)	
03-12 - 16	SPRING BREAK		
03-20	29	Intellectual Property	

03-22	7	Intentional Torts – Trespass & its progeny	
03-27	7	Intentional torts in business activities	
03-29	8	Unintentional torts (Negligence)	
04-03	8	Elements of Negligence	
04-05	Exam 2	Ch. 6, 7, 8, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	
04-10	9 – 18	Common Law Contracts	
04-12		(cont.)	
04-17		(cont.)	
04-19		(cont.)	04-20 = Last Day to submit Extra Credit
04-24		(cont.)	
04-26		(cont.)	
05-05	Exam 3	Ch. 13 – 20	
05-07	Comp. Final	OPTIONAL	

(1/16/18)