Instructor: Prof. Roger Meiners.
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Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment.
Time: Aug. 23-Oct 11, Room 154, T, Th 7 pm

Instructor's Background: BA (Washington State), MA (Arizona), PhD (economics, Virginia Tech); J.D. (law; U. Miami). Faculty and administrative appointments prior to UTA: Texas A&M, Emory, Miami, and Clemson. Visiting professor at U. Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala, Univ. Aix-en-Provence, France, and U. Kansas MBA program in Italy. Government service: Director, Atlanta Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission (responsible for antitrust and consumer protection cases for eight southern states); Member, S.C. Insurance Commission. Other affiliation: Senior Fellow, Property and Environment Research Center, Bozeman, MT. Publications include numerous books, scholarly journal articles, and articles in popular press.

Class Goal and Content: For MBA students to learn the basic structure and processes of the legal system and many key common law rules and major regulatory rules that impact business. The focus is on a practical, working knowledge of the law that has the greatest impact on business today and how you can relate the substance of the law to co-workers. No legal background is presumed, nor is it presumed that you intend to take further courses in law.

Topics covered include: Structure of the Legal System; The Court System and Trial Process; Constitutional Law and Business; Criminal Law and Business; Torts; Property Law; Intellectual Property Law; Contract Law; Domestic and International Sales; Negotiable Instruments; Credit; Bankruptcy; Business Organizations; Agency; Regulatory Process; Employment and Labor Regulations; Employment Discrimination; Environmental Law; Consumer Protection; Antitrust Law; Securities Regulation; and International Legal Environment of Business.

Student Learning Objectives: To become comfortable with the application of legal terminology as it relates to business and to be able to make reasoned analysis of the law and it applies in business situations. You will have a better understanding of the functioning of the legal system.

Method of Evaluation: There are two exams: a mid-term and a final; the mid-term counts 40%; and the final counts 30% of the class grade. Each exam will focus on the material covered for that exam; that is, the final exam focuses on the material presented after the mid-term. Exams are open book and time limited. Note that the quality of your exposition impacts on the grade on essay questions. Mid-term date will be set after a couple weeks; final exam will be Oct. 11. These exams are strictly time limited. Grading is 90+ for A; 80+ for B, etc. Since 95 is a straight A, that is usually the highest grade I give. Additional Points Grading: Do not bother to tell me that you need a certain grade, or ask for extra assignments, or ask to be treated better than other students by asking that an exception be made to these rules.
Presentation: The other 30% of the grade is based on a presentation you make during the course. You pick a sub-topic in the business law area. You have 12 minutes to present to the audience as you specify it (that is, the class is a group of employees or members of a professional group, or whatever you presume). You must decide on your topic within the first week and get my approval for it. If you do not get a topic approved by the third class period, you drop 10 points off the presentation. The topic must be narrow. Grade will be based on effectiveness of your communication of the key concepts needed by such an audience in the time allowed. Give me a copy of the slides you use the day you make the presentation (you lose points if you do not)—black & white, six slides per page format. Your job is to get the information across to the class or work colleagues (you define the audience) in as useful a manner as possible.

More guidelines about presentation: It counts for a significant portion of your grade, so the research should be competent; the presentation should be smooth, and done in the time allowed. Failure on any one of these will pull the grade down. Slides: illustrations are good but no dancing bears or irrelevant cute junk, use 24 point font or larger so easy for people to follow—clean script such as Ariel or Tahoma, not curly font such as Times New Roman (which looks better on printed page, like this one). Do not put too much text on a page. The slide should be your notes to expand upon as you talk—not the text you read to the class (except for some foreign students who are concerned about having a strong accent—then having more text and following it more closely is fine). Follow the appendix in the back of the text about legal research. Do not rely only on stuff that pops up in a Google search—you are more likely to get weaker results there. No excuse for not finding relevant cases, etc. Get the case cites correct if you use cases—some people butcher those. Citations are explained in the text. Remember that the focus is to be on application to business—explain the relevant law and how it impacts business—give examples of that from cases, case studies, etc. Do not repeat what is in the textbook. No need to give trivial background of ancient history on a statute. You only have 12 minutes—don’t burn time on non-important matters. Grading scale a straight A is 95. Grades above that are very rare. The day you give your presentation I will write comments and have them and your grade for you to pick up at the end of the period; I don’t keep the cards, so pick it up.


The book, like all textbooks, is priced stupidly high. Search around for different sources, such as Amazon. I got the publisher to come up with this version, which will be mailed to you; it is loose leaf and I threw out two unimportant chapters to get the price down:

http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/utablaw5330 List price $165.00

You may be able to find an international edition cheaper (they are fine). There are changes from earlier editions, so using it can cause some problems, but is not fatal.

The Wall Street Journal is highly recommended (will have discount signup sheets in class), as we will refer to current issues reviewed in there and it covers all areas relevant to the MBA.

Reading Assignments: Given the length of the semester, and the fact that we need one class period for the mid-term and several periods for presentations, we need to average more than two chapters per week. The first chapters will be covered most quickly; other topics will take more
time. So the reading assignments will be given as we move along; better to learn some things well than rush through too much, but I hope to finish most of the book.

**Class Method and Policy:** Lecture with class discussion is the primary format. The first part of the book is largely background (structure of the law and court system) and will be covered quickly so that more time can be spent on substantive legal rules, at which point discussion will be particularly relevant. Comments are encouraged, as are contributions based on your experience. Attendance will be taken. I do not give private lectures for the benefit of those who do not attend. You lose 1% off your final grade for first miss; 2% for second miss; 3% for third miss; and so forth--cumulative. Show respect for others by not chattering away. If you come late or leave early, do so quietly. No eating in class. Turn off cell phone ringers. No surfing the web, emailing, or text messaging in class. No reading the newspaper. Either come to learn and participate or do not come. Violators will be told to leave. If you have a question, check the syllabus before hitting the "send button" on your e-mail. Most FAQs are covered here.

**Real World Note:** Since many of you work, and because life can have its problems, send an email if something comes up unexpectedly, so we can try to make it through the class. In any class, there will be some people who will have unexpected difficulties arise. Please try to work things out with me rather than just drop out - don’t let personal problems ruin your degree plans if possible. I know that some of you will have to miss class due to work requirements; please let me know when that is the case. If you have any disabilities that require assistance for exams, etc., please let me know.

**Grade Grievances:** You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. The normal academic channels are department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic
criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

**Student Support Services Available:** The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources) for more information.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. **Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at [http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/](http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/). There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit [https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/](https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/). If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu).