Instructor: Gabriel Guzman, JD  
Classroom Location: Online  
Office Location: BPOB 1.101B  
Office Telephone:  
Office Hours: M & W 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. and by appointment  
Instructor email: gabriel.guzman@utrgv.edu or blawutrgvguzman@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ASSIGNMENTS OPEN AT 11:59 A.M. QUIZZES ARE DUE AT 11:59 P.M. EXAMS WILL OPEN AT 11:59 P.M. AND WILL BE DUE AT THE END OF THE DAY, 11:59, OF THE DUE DATE. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE. I SUGGEST YOU INPUT ALL DUE DATES ON YOUR PHONE OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE. THERE WILL BE NO REOPENING OF ANY ASSIGNMENT, QUIZ OR EXAM UNLESS THERE IS A VALID EXCUSE SUPPORT WITH EVIDENCE. IF I RECEIVE ANY REQUEST TO REOPEN AN ASSIGNMENT, QUIZ OR EXAM YOU WILL BE REFERRED BACK TO THE SYLLABUS WHERE THIS EXACT SAME NOTE WILL BE ALSO POSTED.

Contact Methods:  
You may reach me using any of the information shown above. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding content, if you need clarification or an appointment, or would like assistance.

E-mail is likely the fastest and easiest way to communicate with me. I require that you provide the course and section number in the subject line, and your name and student ID at the end of your message. As a member of the university community and an enrollee in my course, you are expected to communicate in a professional manner, which includes using complete sentences, proper grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Textbook and/or Resource Material:  

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In addition to hardcover text for purchase or rent, the book is available electronically at CengageBrain.com. A web-based access or downloadable subscription is available at: CourseSmart.com.
Course Description and Prerequisites:

The study of the development and functioning of our legal environment. The development of case law and precedents; the application of procedural and substantive law pertaining to civil and penal matters and the study and analysis of cases and rules of law relating to basic business practices. Prerequisites: Junior Standing.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course:

Upon successful completion of this course, BLAW 3337, the student should be able to:

A. understand fundamental legal terminology regarding the judicial system, contracts, business organizations, and torts;

B. identify and explain the required elements of torts and requirements of contracts; recognize the elements of agency and the consequences of agency; understand various forms of business organizations; understand the basics of employment law; understand the concepts of property in a legal framework as applied to businesses and individuals; and,

C. differentiate between business ethics and legal issues.

Evaluation and Assessment:

A. Reading Assignments: READ TEXT ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO TAKING THE CHAPTER QUIZZES. The course essentially covers two chapters every week. The course moves very quickly, and I strongly recommend that you give yourself plenty of time before Tuesday evening to read and complete the quizzes.

****Please use all the resources available. If you go under the “UNIT MODULE” you will have access to the chapter’s outline and Power Point. Review this material before taking the Quizzes and before the Final Exam.

B. Course Delivery: Required assignments include reading, quizzes, six units exams, discussions, writing exercises and a final exam. Due dates and times for each assignment or assessment are set out in the Coursework and Exam Schedule posted on Blackboard. The instructor is available via e-mail and telephone for questions and clarification of course content and concepts.

C. Quizzes: There will be a Chapter Quiz of 20 multiple choice or true/false questions for each of the Chapters assigned for reading during the course. Each Chapter Quiz, available for one hour through Blackboard, may be taken twice and the highest grade will be used for the quiz grade. Chapter Quizzes cumulatively will count for 20% of the final course grade. QUIZZES ARE DUE BY 11:59 P.M. on the due date set in the Coursework and Exam Schedule posted in the Coursework and Exams tab on Blackboard. No make-ups are available.

D. Unit Exams: There will be six (6) scheduled Unit Exams that collectively will count for 30% of the final course grade. Each exam of 50 multiple choice or true/false questions to be completed in one hour and thirty minutes online through Blackboard will count as 5% of the final course grade. Each is DUE BY 11:59 P.M. on the due date set in the Coursework and Exam Schedule. No make-ups are available.

E. Writing: Writing assignments include six (6) Discussion Board Fora and a Individual Project. The first Discussion Board is an Introductions assignment worth ten (10) points. The remaining fora are on ethics topics from each unit (except Unit Three). Each is assigned ten (10) possible points earned by responding to the
given topic and replying to at least two (2) of the postings of your classmates. Use proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and paragraph writing style. **THERE WILL ALSO BE A WRITTEN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WHICH PERTAINS TO UNIT THREE MATERIAL. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.** All writing assignments total 30% of the final course grade, 15% attributed to the Discussion Board Fora and 15% attributed to the writing assignments. **No make-ups are available.**

F. Final Exam: The final exam in this course will be administered online. It will cover all course material through 100 multiple choice or true/false questions. The final exam counts for 20% of the final course grade. **No make-up is available.**

**Grading Policies:**

UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Grades are computed as follows:

- Six Unit exams: 30% (5% each)
- Final exam: 20%
- Chapter quizzes: 20%
- Discussion Boards: 15%
- Individual Project: 15%

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- A = 90.0% and above
- B = 80.0% → 89.9%
- C = 70.0% → 79.9%
- D = 60.0% → 69.9%
- F = Below 60%

**Calendar of Activities:**

The Coursework and Exam Schedule is posted in Blackboard and found by clicking the Coursework and Exams button in the left margin. It provides the reading schedule and the open and due dates of all quizzes, discussions, and exams on Blackboard.

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://www.utrgv.edu/_files/documents/admissions/utrgv-academic-calendar.pdf. Important dates for Spring 2019 include:

- Jan. 13 (Mon.) Spring classes begin
- Jan. 16 (Thurs.) Last day to add or register for Spring classes
- Jan. 17 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Jan. 20 (Mon.) Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes.
Jan. 27 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
Feb. 4 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
Jan. 29 (Wed.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
Feb. 03 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all Spring classes) and receive a 25% refund
Feb. 04 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
Feb. 03 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all Spring classes) and receive a 25% refund
April 09 (Wed.) Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)
April 10 – April 11 (Fri. – Sat.) Easter Holiday. No classes.
April 30 (Thurs.) Study Day. No classes.
May 01 – 07 (Fri. – Thurs.) Final Exams
May 07 (Thurs.) Spring classes end; Official last day of the term
May 08 - May 09 (Fri. – Sat.) Commencement Exercises
May 11 (Mon.) Grades Due at 3 p.m.

UTRGV Policy Statements

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Module 1 Feb 19-25, 2020
Module 2 Feb 15-21, 2020
Full Spring Semester April 10-29, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty
includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, counseling services, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. In addition, services such as the Food Pantry are also provided. Locations are listed below.

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<th>Center Name</th>
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<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advising Center</td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400</td>
<td>ESWKH 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
<td>(956) 665-7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Center</td>
<td>BCRTZ 129</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-5627</td>
<td>(956) 665-2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10</td>
<td>EUCTR 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-3897</td>
<td>(956) 665-2574</td>
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