The university Texas Rio Grande Valley
Blaw 3337-02: Business Law I
Spring 2020

Instructor: Gabriel Guzman, JD
Classroom Location: Music, Science & Learning Center 1.120
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 blawutrgv.guzman@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 devise. 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:

Required Text: Clarkson, Kenneth W.; Miller, Roger LeRoy; Cross, Frank B.; Business Law, Text and Cases,

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<tr>
<th>eText</th>
<th>Print</th>
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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 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, in class quizzes, 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 15% 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 (total of 30 %). 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: THERE WILL BE A WRITTEN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WHICH PERTAINS TO UNIT THREE MATERIAL. DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY.

This writing assignment total 15% of the final course grade. No make-ups are available.
D. In Class Quizzes: There will be six (6) quizzes that will be completed during class hours and after completing the discussion of each unit. The dates for these quizzes will be assigned during the semester. These quizzes total 20% of the final course grade. **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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six Unit exams</td>
<td>30% (5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</table>

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](https://www.utrgv.edu/_files/documents/admissions/utrgv-academic-calendar.pdf). Important dates for Spring 2020 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
• Mar. 09 – Mar. 14 (Mon. – Sat.) Spring Break. No classes.
• 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling and Related Services</td>
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<td>List</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
<td>BCAVL 101 &amp; 102</td>
<td>EUCTR 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:FoodPantry@utrgv.edu">FoodPantry@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-7126</td>
<td>(956) 665-3663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Center</td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118</td>
<td>ELCTR 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td>(956) 882-8208</td>
<td>(956) 665-2585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Class Unit One: The Legal Environment of Business

Chapter 1. Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning, 2

Business Activities and the Legal Environment, 2
Ethics and Business Decision Making, 3
Sources of American Law, 4
The Common Law Tradition, 7

Schools of Jurisprudential Thought, 13

Classifications of Law, 14

How to Find Primary Sources of Law, 15
How to Read and Understand Case Law, 21

Chapter 2. Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution, 28

The Judiciary’s Role in American Government, 28
Basic Judicial Requirements, 29
The State and Federal Court Systems, 37
Alternative Dispute Resolution, 41
International Dispute Resolution, 46

Chapter 3. Court Procedures, 50

Procedural Rules, 50
Pretrial Procedures, 52

The Trial, 62
Post-trial Motions, 66

The Appeal, 67

Enforcing the Judgment, 70

Chapter 43. Law for Small Business, 837

The Importance of Legal Counsel, 837

Selection of the Business Organization, 839

The Limited Liability Company, 840

How to Form a Business Entity, 842

Intellectual Property, 843

Raising Financial Capital, 845

Buy-Sell Agreements and Key-Person Insurance, 848

Contract Law and Small Businesses, 849

Employment Issues, 849

Chapter 5. Ethics and Business Decision Making, 93

Business Ethics, 93

Ethical Transgressions by Financial Institutions, 99

Approaches to Ethical Reasoning, 100

Making Ethical Business Decisions, 104

Practical Solutions to Corporate Ethics Questions, 105

Business Ethics of a Global Level, 106

UNIT ONE FOCUS ON ETHICS: ETHICS AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS, 111

Class Unit Two: Torts, Crimes and Consumer Law

Chapter 6. Intentional Torts, 116
The Basis of Tort Law, 116
Intentional Torts against Persons, 117
Business Torts, 124
Intentional Torts against Property, 126
Cyber Torts, 129

Chapter 7. Negligence and Strict Liability, 136
Negligence, 136
Defenses to Negligence, 141
Special Negligence Doctrines and Statutes, 145
Strict Liability, 147

Chapter 45. Consumer Law, 880
Deceptive Advertising, 881
Labeling and Packaging Laws, 884
Sales, 886
Credit Protection, 887
Consumer Health and Safety, 892

Chapter 9. Criminal Law and Cyber Crime, 174
Civil Law and Criminal Law, 174
Criminal Liability, 176
Types of Crimes, 178
Defenses to Criminal Liability, 186
Criminal Procedures, 187
Cyber Crime, 193
UNIT TWO FOCUS ON ETHICS: ETHICS AND TORTS AND CRIMES, 200

Class Unit Three: Contracts and E-Contracts


An Overview of Contract Law, 206

Elements of a Contract, 207

Types of Contracts, 208

Quasi Contracts, 212

Interpretation of Contracts, 215

Chapter 11. Agreement in Traditional and E-Contracts, 222

Agreement, 222

Agreement in E-Contracts, 233

The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, 237

International Treaties Affecting E-Contracts, 239

Chapter 12. Consideration, 243

Elements of Consideration, 243

Adequacy of Consideration, 245

Agreements That Lack Consideration, 245

Settlement of Claims, 249

Exceptions to the Consideration Requirement, 250

Chapter 13. Capacity and Legality, 256

Contractual Capacity, 256

Legality, 260

Chapter 14. Mistakes, Fraud, and Voluntary Consent, 274
Mistakes, 274
Fraudulent Misrepresentation, 277
Undue Influence, 283
Duress, 283
Adhesion Contracts and Unconscionability, 284

Chapter 15. The Statute of Frauds—Writing Requirement and Electronic Records, 289
The Origins of the Statute of Frauds, 289
Contracts That Fall within the Statute of Frauds, 289
Sufficiency of the Writing, 295
The Parole Evidence Rule, 297
The Statute of Frauds in the International Context, 300

Chapter 16. Third Party Rights, 304
Assignments and Delegations, 304
Third Party Beneficiaries, 311

Chapter 17. Performance and Discharge, 319
Conditions, 319
Discharge by Performance, 320
Discharge by Agreement, 325
Discharge by Operation of Law, 326

Chapter 18. Breach of Contract and Remedies, 334
Damages, 334
Equitable Remedies, 339
Recovery Based on Quasi Contract, 342
Election of Remedies, 343

Waiver of Breach, 344

Contract Provisions Limiting Remedies, 345

**Class Unit Four: Agency and Employment**

Chapter 32. Agency Formation and Duties, 624

Agency Relationships, 624

Formation of the Agency Relationship, 627

Duties of Agents and Principals, 631

Rights and Remedies of Agents and Principals, 634

Chapter 33. Agency Liability and Termination, 639

Scope of Agent’s Authority, 639

Liability for Contracts, 645

Liability for Torts and Crimes, 647

Termination of an Agency, 651

Chapter 34. Employment, Immigration, and Labor Law, 658

Employment at Will, 658

Wage and Hour Laws, 659

Layoffs, 663

Family and Medical Leave, 664

Worker Health and Safety, 666

Income Security, 667

Employee Privacy Rights, 670

Immigration Law, 672
Class Unit Five: Negotiable Instruments

Chapter 24. The Function and Creation of Negotiable Instruments, 462

Types of Negotiable Instruments, 462

Requirements for Negotiability, 466

Factors Not Affecting Negotiability, 475

Chapter 25. Transferability and Holder in Due Course, 479

Negotiation, 479

Indorsements, 480

Miscellaneous Indorsement Problems, 485

Holder in Due Course, 486

Holder through an HDC, 493

Chapter 26. Liability, Defenses, and Discharge, 499

Signature Liability, 499

Warranty Liability, 505

Defenses, 508

Discharge, 513

UNIT FIVE FOCUS ON ETHICS: NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS, 542

Class Unit Six: Creditors’ Rights, Bankruptcy, Personal Property, Real Property and Landlord-Tenant

Chapter 28. Creditors’ Rights and Remedies, 546

Laws Assisting Creditors, 546
Suretyship and Guaranty, 550
Protection for Debtors, 553

Chapter 29. Secured Transactions, 557

The Terminology of Secured Transactions, 557
Creating a Security Interest, 557
Perfecting a Security Interest, 559
The Scope of a Security Interest, 564
Priorities, 566
Rights and Duties of Debtors and Creditors, 570
Default, 572

Chapter 30. Bankruptcy Law, 581

The Bankruptcy Code, 581
Liquidation Proceedings, 582
Reorganizations, 595
Bankruptcy Relief under Chapter 13 and Chapter 12, 596

UNIT SIX FOCUS ON ETHICS: CREDITORS. RIGHTS AND BANKRUPTCY, 620

Chapter 49. Personal Property and Bailments, 956

Personal Property versus Real Property, 956
Fixtures, 957
Acquiring Ownership of Personal Property, 959
Mislaid, Lost, and Abandoned Property, 962
Bailments, 963
Ordinary Bailments, 965
Special Types of Bailments, 969

Chapter 50. Real Property and Landlord-Tenant Relationships, 975

The Nature of Real Property, 975

Ownership and Other Interests in Real Property, 976

Transfer of Ownership, 981

Limitations on the Rights of Property Owners, 988

Zoning and Government Regulations, 991

Landlord-Tenant Relationships, 993

UNIT TEN (OUR UNIT SIX) FOCUS ON ETHICS: PROPERTY AND ITS PROTECTION, 1039