

Syllabus: Commercial Law General Business (GENB) 7305, 5305, and 4320

Fall 2022 (August 25 - December 14)

Instructor: Troy Hopkins, JD, PHR, SHRM-CP

Textbook: TBD

Class Meetings: Thursdays 6:00-9:00 PM **In Person (This is not an online course.)**

NOTE: This is a Preliminary Syllabus - All assignments and exams are To Be Determined.

Contact the Instructor

- By email: tdhopkins@uh.edu
- By Phone at 832-842-6131
- Office Hours by appointment

About This Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus during the semester as the need arises without prior notice. **This is NOT a contract.** The instructor will email and announce to class members notice of the changes as soon as possible if they need to be made.

Course Description

Application of basic legal principles to contracts, sales, insurance, commercial paper, agency, business organizations, real property, personal property, trade regulation, secured transactions, and bankruptcy.

Course Objectives

1. Survey the legal environment as it relates to commerce, focusing on the laws and legal system of the United States.
2. Enable each student to establish a sustainable working knowledge base of the core legal terms and concepts necessary for making informed business judgments throughout their subsequent career.
3. Enable each student to develop an appreciation of the wide range of legal constraints which affect decision-making in business.
4. Enable each student to appreciate the implications of the increasing use of criminal sanctions to oversee business activities.
5. Course Objectives (Cont'd)

This course includes assignments related to the Texas Board of Public Accountancy's CPA eligibility standards as they relate to business law, including study of the Uniform Commercial Code. This course also incorporates the Goals of a Master of Science in Accountancy to provide graduates with

- a) oral communication skills (through classroom interaction),
- b) written communication skills in the form of short answer or essay questions on some exams,
- c) research skills (through learning how to integrate commercial law concepts into a functional personal knowledge base),
- d) ethics awareness (through consideration of the relationship between ethics and law),
- e) global awareness (by examination of, and tests covering, materials addressing international law),
- f) technological skills (by examination of and tests covering, materials addressing the commercial law interface with changing technology),
- g) analytical problem-solving skills (through heavily analytical problem solving focused exams covering commercial law topics), and
- h) financial risk assessment skills (through focus on evolving compliance requirements in commercial law).

This course incorporates the following Accounting Program Learning Goals:

- a) capacity to record, analyze, and interpret financial and other information (mechanics/journal entry) through a broader understanding of the underlying legal framework for various transaction types.
- b) capacity to identify and diagnose accounting problems through a wider understanding of the legal context of transactions.
- c) capacity to recognize ethical and regulatory dilemmas through readings and discussions focused on the role of law in such dilemmas; and
- d) basic understanding of accounting and financial concepts (theoretical) through their relationship to the legal environment.

Organization of the Course

1. The scope of the material covered by the course is **extremely broad**.
2. Consequently, this course will stress breadth of exposure to the legal environment.
3. The assigned readings are not for show and are not a topics list to be scanned from a “canned outline”.
4. You are expected to carefully read the assigned materials (**especially the cases**) **before class**.

Academic Honesty

1. All applicable university policies apply. It is the duty of the student to be aware of these policies.
2. The instructor will aggressively pursue academic dishonesty to the maximum extent allowed by the university.
3. The University of Houston Academic Honesty Policy is strictly enforced by the C. T. Bauer College of Business. No violations of this policy will be tolerated in this course. A discussion of the policy is included in the University of Houston Student Handbook. Students are expected to be familiar with this policy.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

1. The C. T. Bauer College of Business would like to help students who have disabilities achieve their highest potential. To this end, in order to receive academic accommodations, students must register with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) (telephone 713-743-5400), and present approved accommodation documentation to their instructors in a timely manner.
2. Students are urged to let me know early in the semester so that any needed accommodations can be arranged in a timely manner. Note: Exams are already built to accommodate for extra time.

DISCLAIMER

1. NOTHING THAT IS SAID OR PROVIDED IN THIS COURSE CONSTITUTES LEGAL ADVICE.
2. This course provides general legal information so that you can better understand the legal context of business.
3. Determining the exact applicable law for a specific legal problem is very complex and requires careful professional review of all relevant facts.
4. I cannot and will not be your attorney under any circumstances.
5. Nothing that I say to you should be interpreted as a legal answer to a specific legal problem.
6. Our discussions (both in and out of class) are too superficial for you to rely on for your personal or business legal problems.
7. Please DO NOT ask for specific legal advice about a situation confronting you or someone you know.
8. If you need legal advice, please consult a licensed attorney. I recommend <http://www.findlaw.com/>

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