

**RICHARDS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS SYSTEMS**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**SPRING SEMESTER 2020**

**Course Number:** BUSA 2106-02  
**Course Title:** Legal and Ethical Environment of Business  
**Instructor:** Dr. Tanya Thomas  
**Office:** Miller Hall 2318  
**Cell phone:** 404-494-0519  
**E-mail Address:** [tthomas@westga.edu](mailto:tthomas@westga.edu)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Required Text:** **MindTap is required for BUSA 2106.** This subscription includes the course text, Cross and Miller, *Legal Environment of Business: Text and Cases, 10<sup>th</sup> Ed.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to the legal, regulatory, and ethical environment of business, considering the interrelationship and impact of political, social, cultural, environmental, technological, international, and diversity issues.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships among the legal, social, political, ethical, cultural, international, and technological environments and their impact on business. (BBA 4, BBA 5, BBA 6)
2. Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply major areas of law affecting business in the subject matter areas covered in the course, incorporating the influence of technology, the impact of demographic diversity, and the use of appropriate quantitative techniques, within an ethical framework. (BBA 4, BBA 5, BBA 6)
3. Demonstrate the ability to analyze issues and situations having legal implications including demographic changes with accompanying diversity issues, development and use of technological innovations, social changes, the political arena, and environmental and ethical factors, and assess the consequences of courses of action. (BBA 4, BBA 5, BBA 6)
4. Demonstrate familiarity with various legal resources and the ability to use them. (BBA 4, BBA 6)
5. Demonstrate the ability to organize and present their work in an effective and professional manner. (BBA 1, BBA 3)

**RELATIONSHIP OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES TO LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE B.B.A. DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT:**

Achievement of the Learning Objectives for this course will advance the student toward meeting the standards articulated in the Learning Outcomes for the B.B.A. Degree in Business Administration.

[UWG Mandatory Syllabus Policies](#) (required information for all UWG course syllabi)

**PREREQUISITES:** 2.0 GPA.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Delivery of information and concepts will be primarily by way of lecture and CourseDen, with supplemental class discussions. The subject matter will be drawn primarily from the course textbook, MindTap, and current legal issues in the news. Classroom time may also be scheduled for consideration

of particular court opinions, documents, guest lectures, projects, group activities, individual presentations, exercises, and special events. Note that MindTap can be purchased bundled with a hard copy of our textbook or as a standalone product that includes an e-book. **Students must purchase a MindTap subscription- this is MANDATORY for the course.**

#### **COMMUNICATION:**

Communication between student and professor will be primarily through UWG e-mail (tthomas@westga.edu). Distribution of course materials, the syllabus, important announcements, grades, etc., will be through CourseDen. **Students are advised to check CourseDen daily during the week and to keep their MyUWG e-mail inbox free of clutter to avoid auto-reject messages. In this course, students are required to set notification settings to enable real-time notifications in CourseDen (either e-mail or text).**

#### **COMMUNICATION EXPECTATION FOR MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT:**

The Management Department believes in work-life balance for both faculty and students. Faculty will typically respond to student e-mails within 24 hours, usually sooner during business hours. Students should not expect a response during non-business hours, which includes nights, weekends, holidays, and school breaks. If you have not heard back from the professor within 24 hours during the workweek, assume your e-mail was not received and resend it.

#### **COLLEGE, DEPARTMENT, AND COURSE POLICIES:**

- The use of recording devices is not permitted in the classroom without prior approval.
- Cell phones, mp3 players, iPods, and all other electronic devices must be rendered **silent** during class and **shall not** be used during class. Laptops may **only** be used for class-related activity such as taking notes. Social media, e-mailing, and web browsing are prohibited during class.
- Students are not allowed to have food or drink in the classroom. This is a UWG policy.
- **Your professor is a licensed attorney. However, do not ask your professor for legal advice.**
- Please read this syllabus carefully. Your professor is available during class and during office hours to answer any questions you may have regarding the meaning of any part of this syllabus. Consequently, excuses for failure to fulfill course requirements based upon non-understanding or misunderstanding of this syllabus will not be heard.
- The professor reserves the right to make appropriate amendments to this syllabus. With exception of minor changes to the tentative course schedule, all such amendments will be announced sufficiently in advance of the effective date of the amendment and published in CourseDen.
- If you have a disability and wish to request an accommodation, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) in the Counseling Center and follow their steps to apply.
- Links to a variety of other policies and student resources are linked to our course homepage in CourseDen and can also be found at the end of this syllabus.

#### **CREDIT HOUR POLICY STATEMENT (3 Credit Hour Course):**

For approximately 15 weeks, students in this class will generally spend 150 minutes with direct faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online) and work about 360 minutes outside the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation.

## EVALUATION AND GRADES:

Grades will be calculated and assigned on the basis of points earned on examinations, the written assignment, homework assignments, and attendance, as follows:

Type of Graded Event	No. of Graded Events	Possible Points per Graded Event	Total Possible Points for the Event
Examinations	4	100	300*
Major Project	1	100	100
Homework Average	Varies	Varies	100
Total Possible Points			500

\*The lowest examination grade will be dropped. Students who are satisfied with their grade as determined by the first three exams, homework, and the major project will not be required to sit for the final exam (these students will use the final exam as their grade to be dropped).

Additionally, as noted below in the “Attendance” section, students may earn up to a maximum of one point on the final course grade (5 points out of 500 available in the course) for exemplary attendance. Grades will be assigned on the basis of points earned as follows:

Points Earned	Letter Grade
448 - 500	A
398 - 447	B
348 - 397	C
298 - 347	D
< 298	F

Extra credit, if available at all, will be discretionary on the part of the Professor, and opportunities will be to the class as a whole and not to individual students upon request. Work completed for another course will not be accepted to meet the requirements of this course.

### **Examinations:** 300 points

Three periodic examinations and a final exam will be given, as indicated in the schedule below. The lowest exam grade will be dropped. The final exam cannot be made up (if missed, it will count as the dropped grade). Alternative exam times for the first three exams may be scheduled in cases where a student will be absent during a regularly scheduled exam, when all of the following criteria are met:

1. The absence is a UWG-authorized or Professor-authorized absence,
2. Arrangements are made **in advance** of the absence, and
3. The student provides genuine documentation to the professor from the appropriate university employee or official, physician, or other relevant individual that includes the date, time, and purpose of the absence. The professor will authorize absences only in cases where the student's attendance is made impossible by circumstances beyond the student's control.

### **Major Project:** 100 points

The standards for the Major Project's preparation will be announced in class and are posted in CourseDen at the start of the semester and you are responsible for meeting the deadline. You may begin at any time and are encouraged to complete it early in the semester. **The assignment is due by 11:59 pm on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> as posted in the course schedule, and will not be accepted late. You must submit your project as a single file attachment (MS Word or PDF, not zip) through the assignment drop box in CourseDen.** In the event of technical difficulties with CourseDen, the project may be submitted by e-mail *in advance of the deadline in CourseDen* to [tthomas@westga.edu](mailto:tthomas@westga.edu) and must contain your name and the words “Major Project” in the subject line,

for example “Jane Doe- Major Project.” E-mailed assignments that do not comply with these requirements **will not** be accepted. Assignments received any time after the deadline, even one minute late, will not be accepted.

**Homework Assignments:** 100 Points (Average of all assignments out of 100%)

There are multiple MindTap assignments associated with each chapter we cover in the course, and sometimes the assignments for TWO chapters are due in a week. MindTap is accessible from a link within our CourseDen site. Students must complete the MindTap assignments and any other homework assignments given by the professor, which will be graded and collectively will form a part of the overall grade in the course. The homework average (% correct on all assignments) will contribute 100 possible points toward the 500 total possible points in the class. Weekly **Assignment deadlines in MindTap are Sundays at 11:59 PM. No work will be accepted late, so stay caught up. They will not be reopened or extended for any reason so be sure to complete them before the deadline.** All assignments are already open and available, with deadlines posted, and it is a good idea to work ahead, so that you have some flexibility during crunch times. It is important for students to complete the homework to ensure you fully understand how to apply the concepts we cover in the course. The professor reserves the right to drop any student for lack of participation in the course assignments, at the professor’s discretion.

**Attendance:** Earn up to 1 *extra* point on the final course grade for exemplary attendance. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Students arriving late for class are marked absent unless *prior notice* has been given. “Late” is defined as any time after the scheduled start time for class. Students who leave during class without prior, excused notice to the professor may lose credit for that day’s class. Students are expected to be prepared for class and actively participate. Participation includes both quantity and quality components. Students may be called upon to discuss case law, recount knowledge of the subject matter, analyze a situation, or effectively present a point of view. **Students who are obviously unprepared for class or are caught using electronic devices during class will be counted absent for the class session.**

Students with *one or fewer excused absences* will receive an additional **5 points out of 500 available in the course** on their final course grade. This amounts to 1 point on your final average. Students with *any* unexcused absences or more than one excused absence are not eligible for attendance points. *Any student missing more than 3 class sessions may be dropped from the course.*

**Extra Credit:** Students have the opportunity to complete up to two Courtroom Observations to earn extra credit points in this course. Instructions are posted in CourseDen. Students who successfully complete the Courtroom Observation assignment will receive 5 points towards the 500 available in the course. *This assignment is available starting the first day of the semester and is open until Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM.*

Work completed for another course will not be accepted to meet the requirements of this course.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Receiving or giving help on homework, the major project, assignments, or any exams, using cell phones or other unapproved devices on exams or homework or **sharing/storing/retaining course content, assignment content, or exam content, or answers, whether online or in-class, and/or using unauthorized sources on the Major Project WILL result in failure of this course and a record of**

**academic dishonesty placed in the student's permanent records and may result in dismissal from the University.** The professor/university/USG may utilize all means available, including but not limited to IP address monitoring, login data, metadata, and other computer forensic methods to detect cheating on assignments and other graded work. In addition, UWG & USG are authorized and do monitor for evidence of cheating, including monitoring external website activity (social media websites) accessed using UWG/USG resources. You have **no right of privacy** for activity you engage in using UWG/USG equipment or services, including but not limited to computers, servers, and wireless or wired internet. Any student caught by UWG/USG personnel will be dealt with per the Academic Honesty policy. **THIS PROFESSOR WILL FAIL STUDENTS FOR CHEATING. I HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY. PLEASE DO NOT CHEAT.**

**For the purposes of this class, the following statements in the [Student Handbook](#) and [Appendix A](#) of the Honor Code will be applied:**

1. No student shall give or receive, or otherwise furnish or procure assistance not authorized in the preparation of an essay, report, examination, or other assignment in an academic course or in the fulfillment of program or degree requirements such as standardized examinations.
2. No student shall take, attempt to take, or otherwise obtain, gain access to, or alter in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the conduct of a class or to the completion of any program or degree requirement, including but not limited to tests, examinations, laboratory equipment, roll books, academic records, or electronically stored data.
3. Plagiarism is prohibited. Themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.

Failure to observe these standards will result in an "F" grade in the course and possible disenrollment from UWG. Use of electronic devices during an examination will be deemed a violation of provision 1, above, and will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Use of unapproved sources on the major project will be deemed a violation of provision 1, above, and will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

UWG utilizes an academic dishonesty database. Instances of academic dishonesty become part of the student's permanent file; this may affect graduate school admissions and future employment.

#### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND PROFESSIONALISM:**

Any student who engages in disruptive or disrespectful behavior during any meeting of this course is subject to administrative disenrollment from this course with a grade of "F." Disruptive and disrespectful behavior includes, but is not limited to, inattentiveness, disrespectful or threatening words or actions toward classmates or the professor, moving about the classroom during the class session (including entering and exiting the classroom), sleeping in class, using electronic devices in class, and the like. Students will treat each other and the Professor with the utmost respect and professionalism *at all times*. The professor is available during office hours to hear any concerns you may have concerning the class. Throughout the semester, ethical, political, cultural, international, social, technological, environmental, and diversity issues will be interwoven with a discussion of the legal topics and students are expected to show professionalism and respect to others during discussions of these issues.

**STATEMENT OF ETHICAL EXPECTATIONS:**

Richards College of Business community members are committed to: honesty and integrity in interactions and undertakings; respect for rights, differences, and dignity of others; accountability for personal behavior. The Richards College of Business has implemented the Wolf Pact to emphasize our shared commitment to academic honesty, ethics, and integrity in our dealings with one another. By choosing to remain in this course, you agree to abide by the terms of the Wolf Pact.

**ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES/POLICIES:**

[UWG Online HelpDesk Services](#): 678-839-6248 or [online@westga.edu](mailto:online@westga.edu)

[Accessibility Services](#): 678-839-6428 or [ccd@westga.edu](mailto:ccd@westga.edu)

[Excel Center](#) (Academic Support): 678-839-6280 or [helpme@westga.edu](mailto:helpme@westga.edu)

[UWG Online Student Guide](#) (contains a variety of information and resources for online learning)

[UWG Mandatory Syllabus Policies](#) (required information for all UWG course syllabi)

**COURSE CALENDAR:** This is an estimated timeline for the course and is subject to amendment.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Assignment:</b>
1/7	Introduction/Review Syllabus/MindTap	Register for MindTap
1/9	Law and Legal Reasoning	Chapter 1
1/14	Law and Legal Reasoning	Chapter 1
1/16	The Court System and ADR	Chapter 2
1/21	The Court System and ADR	Chapter 2
1/23	Court Procedure	Chapter 3
1/28	Court Procedure	Chapter 3
1/30	Business and the Constitution	Chapter 4
2/4	Business Ethics	Chapter 5
<b>2/6</b>	<b>Exam #1 (covers Chapters 1-5)</b>	<b>Study for your exam!</b>
2/11	Administrative Law	Chapter 23 (Note: out of sequence)
2/13	Intellectual Property Law	Chapter 8
2/18	Internet Law, Social Media, and Privacy	Chapter 9
2/20	Criminal Law and Cyber Crime	Chapter 10
2/25	International and Space Law	Chapter 11
<b>2/27</b>	<b>Exam #2 (covers Chapters 23, 8-11)</b>	<b>Study for your exam!</b>
3/3	Formation of a New Business in Georgia	Chapters 16-18
<b>3/5</b>	<b>Virtual Class: Overview of Business Entities</b>	<b>Major Project Due TODAY by 11:59 PM</b>
3/10	Formation of Contracts	Chapter 12
3/12	Formation of Contracts	Chapter 12
<b>3/17</b>	<b>No class: Spring Break</b>	<b>Enjoy your break!</b>
<b>3/19</b>	<b>No class: Spring Break</b>	<b>Enjoy your break!</b>
3/24	Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	Chapter 13
3/26	Contract Performance, Breach, and Remedies	Chapter 13
3/31	Tort Law	Chapter 6 (Note: out of sequence)
4/2	Tort Law	Chapter 6
4/7	Strict and Products Liability	Chapter 7
<b>4/9</b>	<b>Exam #3 (covers Chapters 12-13, 6-7)</b>	<b>Study for your exam!</b>
4/14	Employment Law	Chapter 20
4/16	Employment Law	Chapter 20
4/21	Employment Discrimination	Chapter 21
<b>4/23</b>	<b>Exam #4 (covers Chapters 20-21)</b>	<b>Study for your exam!</b>
<b>5/1</b>	<b>Extra Credit due TODAY by 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Turn in Court Observations on CourseDen</b>