



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**BUSINESS LAW  
BUSI 2301.02**

**HARVEY L. COX**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

## BUSINESS LAW

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### **Course Description:**

Discusses principles of law that form the legal framework for business activity, including applicable statutes, contracts, and agency. Examines the principles of the law of contracts, sales, the Uniform Commercial Code, business organizations, conveyance of property, and other topics of business law.

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Recommendation: Students should have passed the TSI Assessment or be currently enrolled in or have credit for READ 0302 before enrolling in this course.

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

The textbook is an integral part of the course. You will need to read the assigned chapters to gain a thorough understanding of the material discussed in class as well as to prepare for exams.

Studying outside the classroom will most likely be necessary to pass the course.

You will need to listen in class for updates to the course, changes in assignments, and other information related to your requirements for this course. If you miss class, please get with a colleague to find out what updates you missed.

### **Instructor Information:**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Instructor Name:                 | Harvey L. Cox                                       |
| MCC E-mail:                      | hcox@mclennan.edu                                   |
| Alternate E-mail:                | harvey@harveylcox.com                               |
| Office Phone Number:             | (254) 230-0843                                      |
| Office Location:                 | 1600 Lake Air Drive, Suite 102<br>Waco, Texas 76710 |
| Office/Teacher Conference Hours: | By Appointment                                      |
| Other Instruction Information:   |   |

### **Required Text & Materials:**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Title:     | Business Law Today                        |
| Author:    | Roger LeRoy Miller                        |
| Edition:   | 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition – The Essentials |
| Publisher: | South-Western Cengage Learning            |
| ISBN:      | 978-0-357-03817-8                         |

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)

([www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements))

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Lecture, in-class discussion of cases and text materials, and exams.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Enable you to understand the basic concept of law as it pertains to the business environment;
2. Acquaint you with the essential processes by which law is created and changed, and through which legal disputes are resolved so that you can be more effective participants in these processes;
3. Equip you to recognize legal issues and manage legal risks in business decision making by providing you with fundamental knowledge of relevant legal principles;
4. Increase your ethical sensitivity by exposing you to business-related legal problems that have ethical issues;
5. Determine the bodies of law applicable to various business situations;
6. Develop your critical thinking, negotiation, and oral communication skills; and
7. Contribute to your general education by enhancing your understanding of the nature and limits of law as a social institution.

**Course Competencies:**

1. Define law.
2. Identify provisions under the U.S. Constitution that impact the conduct of commercial business activity.
3. Identify the various courts found in the U.S. at the federal and state level and their function and authority.
4. Identify the required elements to form a valid contract.
5. Define the performance aspect of a contract.
6. Identify what constitutes a breach of contract.
7. Identify the remedies available for breach of contract.

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8. Identify the primary difference between a contract under Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code and other contracts.
  9. Recognize when Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code is applicable to a sales transaction.
  10. Identify when title and risk of loss as to goods passes from seller to buyer.
  11. Identify the different types of commercial paper found under Article 3 of the Uniform Commercial Code and under what circumstances they are used.
  12. Explain the function of commercial paper.
  13. Identify the process for negotiating and discharging negotiable instruments.
  14. Understand the purpose of a secured transaction under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
  15. Identify the difference in a secured transaction between attachment and perfection.
  16. Understand the different remedies available under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
  17. Identify the process of filing a bankruptcy petition under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.
  18. Describe what debts are not dischargeable in bankruptcy.
  19. Identify other credit liens common to many business transactions.
  20. Explain the basic concepts of agency law.
  21. Identify under agency law the responsibility of the principal and agent for contract and torts of the agent.
  22. Describe the rationale in selecting a particular business entity, i.e., sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, Limited Liability Company or limited partnership.
  23. Define the concept “scope of the agency authority.”
  24. Describe the difference between personal property and real property.

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25. Describe the different forms of personal property ownership.
26. Describe the different forms of real property ownership.
27. Explain the rights and duties associated with the landlord-tenant relationship.

### **Course Outline or Schedule:**

| Date                 | Chapters              | Subject   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Tue, January 14      | Introduction          | Orientation – Review Course Requirements & Syllabus |
| Thu, January 16      | 1                     | Legal & Constitutional Foundations of Business      |
| Tue, January 21      | 1                     | Legal & Constitutional Foundations of Business      |
| Thu, January 23      | 2                     | Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution             |
| Tue, January 28      | 2                     | Courts & Alternative Dispute Resolution             |
| Thu, January 30      | 4                     | Tort Law  |
| Tue, February 4      | 5                     | Intellectual Property Rights                        |
| Thu, February 6      | 7                     | Criminal Law & Cyber Crime                          |
| Tue, February 11     | 8                     | Agreement & Consideration in Contracts              |
| Thu, February 13     | 9                     | Capacity, Legality & Enforceability                 |
| Tue, February 18     | 10                    | Contract Performance, Breach & Remedies             |
| Thu, February 20     | 10                    | Contract Performance, Breach & Remedies             |
| Tue, February 25     | 11                    | Sales & Lease Contracts                             |
| Thu, February 27     | 12                    | Performance and Breach of Sales & Lease Contracts   |
| Tue, March 3         | 12                    | Performance and Breach of Sales & Lease Contracts   |
| Thu, March 5         | 12                    | Performance and Breach of Sales & Lease Contracts   |
| <b>Tue, March 10</b> |                       | <b>Spring Break</b>                                 |
| <b>Thu, March 12</b> |                       | <b>Spring Break</b>                                 |
| Tue, March 17        | 13                    | Negotiable Instruments                              |
| Thu, March 19        | 14                    | Banking in the Digital Age                          |
| Tue, March 24        | 15                    | Creditor's Rights & Bankruptcy                      |
| Thu, March 26        | 16                    | Agency Relationships in Business                    |
| Tue, March 31        | 17                    | Employment Law                                      |
| Thu, April 2         | 18                    | The Entrepreneur's Options                          |
| Tue, April 7         | 19                    | Corporations  |
| Thu, April 9         | 21                    | Antitrust Law & Promoting Competition               |
| Tue, April 14        | 22                    | Consumer Law  |
| Thu, April 16        | 23                    | Personal Property, Bailments & Insurance            |
| Tue, April 21        | 23                    | Personal Property, Bailments & Insurance            |
| Thu, April 23        | 24                    | Real Property and Environmental Law                 |
| Tue, April 28        | Review for Final Exam |   |
| Thu, April 30        | Open Date             |   |
| <b>Tue, May 5</b>    | <b>Final Exam</b>     |   |

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The schedule as described above is subject to change. Notice of change will be provided whenever possible and will be communicated by an announcement in class or by electronic mail. Test dates will not change without sufficient notice.

### **Exams & Comprehensive Final:**

There will be four (4) chapter exams giving throughout the semester. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will be primarily in a true/false and multiple-choice format, but there may be some short answer questions as well. Here are the rules regarding exams:

1. All matters discussed in class (*even if not in the assigned reading*) and all subjects covered in the assigned reading (*even if not discussed in class*) are subject to examination.
2. All exams will be on Brightspace.
3. Each exam will be available at noon on the exam available date and must be completed by midnight on the exam due date.
4. You will have two hours to complete the exam.
5. You must complete the exam once you start it. The clock does not stop ticking if you take a break.
6. You can consult your books and notes for exams.
7. You must work alone. Collaboration with anyone else is not permitted and will be deemed a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Exams will be as follows:

| Exam No. | Chapters Covered      | Exam Available Date | Exam Due Date    |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1        | Chapters 1, 2, 4, & 5 | Tue, February 4     | Sun, February 9  |
| 2        | Chapters 7-10         | Thu, February 20    | Tue, February 25 |
| 3        | Chapters 11-14        | Thu, March 19       | Tue, March 24    |
| 4        | Chapters 15-19        | Tue, April 7        | Sun, April 12    |
| Final    | Comprehensive         | Fri, May 1          | Wed, May 6       |

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Quizzes will be as follows:

| Quiz No. | Chapters Covered  | Quiz Available Date | Quiz Due Date    |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1        | Chapters 1-2      | Tue, January 28     | Wed, January 29  |
| 2        | Chapters 4, 5 & 7 | Thu, February 6     | Fri, February 7  |
| 3        | Chapters 8-10     | Thu, February 20    | Fri, February 21 |
| 4        | Chapters 11-12    | Thu, March 5        | Fri, March 6     |
| 5        | Chapters 18-19    | Tue, April 7        | Wed, April 8     |

### **Course Grading Information:**

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Requirements Summary</u> | <u>Points</u> |
| 4 Exams (100 pts each)      | 400           |
| 5 Quizzes                   | 100           |
| Comprehensive Final         | <u>200</u>    |
| <b>Total Points</b>         | <b>700</b>    |

To determine your grade, divide the number of points you have to-date by the total possible number of points to-date.

Please note that I do not *give* grades; you *earn* them. Accordingly, if you need to achieve a particular grade to graduate, keep a scholarship, etc., you must put in the work necessary to earn that grade. I will not give you something for nothing.

If you do not agree with a grade, you have one week from the time it is posted to review it with me.

### **Extra Credit/Replacement Points (75 points):**

In the working world, you do not have to be the smartest person to be successful. You do, however, have to show initiative, work hard, and prove that you care about the business. I am applying those same principles to this class. You have the opportunity to put in additional effort and earn extra credit points.

#### ***1. Earn up to 50 points by writing a paper on the commerce clause.***

We will study the commerce clause of the United States Constitution in chapter 1. The United States Supreme Court has made it clear that the commerce clause applies to interstate commerce and purely intrastate commerce. The expansion of federal power using the commerce clause means that the federal government has the power to regulate almost every commercial enterprise in the United States.



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Write a paper discussing what expanded federal government power over commerce means for businesses that operate only within the borders of one state. Pay particular attention to answering the question: “Does the expansion of federal power by means of the commerce clause promote or discourage intrastate commerce?”

The paper must be a minimum of 3 pages double spaced 12-point font with 1-inch margins. It is due on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

### **2. Earn 25 points for perfect attendance.**

If you come to class late, it is your responsibility to get with me after class to correct your attendance record. Being consistently late, however, will affect your ability to receive extra credit points for attendance. Three tardies count as one absence.

#### **Allocation of Letter Grades:**

|                  |               |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|
| 627 – 700 points | 90% and above | A |
| 557 – 626 points | 80% - 89 %    | B |
| 487 – 557 points | 70% - 79%     | C |
| 417 – 487 points | 60% - 69%     | D |
| <416 points      | <60%          | F |

#### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

In the business world, due dates are important. If you miss a critical deadline, it could cost your company a significant opportunity or a substantial amount of money. For that reason, late work will not be accepted. All work is expected to be done on time.

Class attendance is important and highly recommended. I recognize that life events (e.g., births, deaths, illness, work and other outside obligations, etc.) can interfere with class meetings and exams. This does not change once you’ve entered the business world. Events often occur that make it difficult to arrive at work on time (or at all), to finish projects as scheduled, or to deliver products or services as promised. As business owners and employees, however, you will still be expected to perform in the face of adversity.

With that reality in mind, I have adopted a “No-Excuse” policy regarding class attendance and performance. I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. An absence is an absence. If you find it necessary to miss a class, you are still responsible for the material, and you will be expected to perform on an exam in spite of the lost class time. But, you do not have to come up with an excuse to explain to me why you have missed class.

You are paying to take this class and preparing for life in the business world. If you want the best education you can get, you will show up, and you will participate.

We will be following MCC's attendance policy.

\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](http://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies)

([www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies](http://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies))

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

### **Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.

#### **Cell Phone Usage**

Answering a phone and texting during class is rude behavior. It is disrespectful to other students and the instructor. You must either turn your phone off or put on vibrate mode and put it away. If an emergency arises, please leave the classroom so you can handle the situation without disturbing the class.

If I see you texting, tweeting, or otherwise using your phone during class time, I will ask you to leave the class for that day and mark you as absent.

#### **Computer Usage**

You may use computers and tablets in class for taking notes. You cannot use your computer or tablet to surf the web or Facebook. If I see you using your computer or tablet for anything other than taking notes, I will ask you to leave the class for that day and mark you as absent.

### **MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

The Center for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as “commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.”

Students who commit violations of academic integrity should expect serious consequences.

\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Instructor/Class Academic Integrity Statement:**

In the business world, you will immediately lose your job if you are caught stealing. The same premise applies to our class. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade. Additionally, you will be reported to Student Discipline.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

**Title IX**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC

Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/))