

*Instructor:* Prof. Roger Meiners

Office phone 817-272-3116; e-mail: [meiners@uta.edu](mailto:meiners@uta.edu)

E-mail is preferred form of communication.

*Instructor's Background:* BA (Washington State), MA (Arizona), PhD (economics, Virginia Tech); J.D. (law; U. Miami). Faculty and administrative appointments prior to UTA: Texas A&M, Emory, Miami, and Clemson. Visiting professor at U. Francisco Marroquin, Guatemala, Univ. Aix-en-Provence, France, and U. Kansas MBA program in Italy. Government service: Director, Atlanta Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission (responsible for antitrust and consumer protection cases for eight southern states); Member, S.C. Insurance Commission. Other affiliation: Senior Fellow, Property and Environment Research Center, Bozeman, MT. Publications include numerous books, scholarly journal articles, and articles in popular press.

*Class Goal and Content:* For students to learn the basic structure and processes of the legal system and many key common law rules and major regulatory rules that impact business. The focus is on a practical, working knowledge of the law that has the greatest impact on business today and how you can relate the substance of the law to co-workers. No legal background is presumed, nor is it presumed that you intend to take further courses in law. You take the class at your own pace.

*Topics covered include:* Structure of the Legal System; The Court System and Trial Process; Constitutional Law and Business; Criminal Law and Business; Torts; Property Law; Intellectual Property Law; Contract Law; Domestic and International Sales; Negotiable Instruments; Credit; Bankruptcy; Business Organizations; Agency; Regulatory Process; Employment and Labor Regulations; Employment Discrimination; Environmental Law; Consumer Protection; Antitrust Law; Securities Regulation; and International Legal Environment of Business.

*Student Learning Objectives:* To become comfortable with the application of legal terminology as it relates to business and to be able to make reasoned analysis of the law and it applies in business situations. You will have a better understanding of the functioning of the legal system.

*Method of Evaluation:* There are five multiple-choice exams of equal weight. Exams are open book. There is no comprehensive final exam as the material in this class does not build as the course proceeds. The final exam is simply the 5<sup>th</sup> exam. The exams count for 70% of your grade. The exams will be taken using the Respondus LockDown Browser, This ensures the integrity of the exam process so no one can assert someone else could be doing the work, a common worry with online classes. At the bottom of the syllabus is a detailed explanation of the Respondus browser and how you download it so it is ready to go when you need it. You must also have a Web camera. The exams are time limited—you need to keep an eye on time as when time is up, it stops. The other 30% of your grade is based on two short research papers that will be explained each one counts the same. Grades on them take into consideration quality of discussion and writing.

*Required Reading:* Textbook: *The Legal Environment of Business* (12th edition, Cengage, 2015 by Meiners, et al.). This is online and is available in loose-leaf print or hardbound. You will be reading the entire book, from start to finish. There are self-test quizzes in each chapter that are highly recommended for exam preparation but are not counted toward the grade, but are built into the grade center. Everything is reported to be through Blackboard.

Here is what the bookstore tells me about getting the book (although you can get it elsewhere):

Students should visit: <http://www.utashop.com>

Click on Books (left side of the page)

Term: Spring 2017

Academic Session: 1

Dept: BLAW

Course: 5330

Section: 006

Submit

Next screen will displays their options to order and either pick up at the store (if they're local) or have it ship to them. Option one is the least costly paper version; the second option is the hardback; the third option, at \$60, is the online version.

Some people do not like to read a book only online, so prefer paper. That is your choice. When you take the exams you cannot look at anything on your computer except the exam (see details of Respondus LockDown Browser below). So you would need to have the book on another device, such as a laptop, next to your computer. In any case, you do not have a lot of time to look for stuff in the book.

*The Wall Street Journal* is highly recommended as it covers all areas relevant to business. You get it at low cost as a student by going to [wsj.com/studentoffer](http://wsj.com/studentoffer). Note that I am the referring professor. I will no do any grading based on the *Journal* but for managers, it provides many insights into developments in a wide-range of business matters.

*Reading Assignments:* As the course objectives indicate, you proceed through all 22 chapters. The chapters are broken into 5 units with an exam after each unit. Each chapter also has a pre-assessment quiz. I do not grade these. They are for your information.

*Class Method and Policy:* This is an online class with required reading and videos. The videos with me introduce each unit of the class. Other videos are instructional and help cover the material in the chapter. They are short and most are very well done, so they are not like watching long boring lectures.

*Attendance Policy:* You will work through the material at your own pace. You do each exam when you are ready. Attendance is your going online to complete assignments and exams so you finish by the end of the semester.

*Real World Note:* Because you work, and because life can have its problems, send an email if something comes up unexpectedly, so we can try to make it through the class. Don't let life problems ruin getting through this class properly—let me know if there is a problem.

*Grade Grievances:* You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. There is a form on the College website. The normal academic channels are department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

## Using Respondus LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam feature is referred to as Respondus Monitor. You will be recorded during the test to ensure you're using only permitted resources. Watch this [short video](#) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.

### Computer Requirements

- Your computer must have a functioning webcam and microphone. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable.
- Windows users need to have Adobe Flash Player installed to Internet Explorer, even if a different browser is normally used.
- Mac users must have Adobe Flash Player installed to Safari.
- A broadband connection is also required.
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### Download Respondus LockDown Browser

If you haven't already, download and install LockDown Browser from this link: [Download Browser](#).

Note: Don't download a copy of LockDown Browser from elsewhere on the Internet; those versions won't work at our institution.

### Test-taking Guidelines

When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
- You are also advised to not take any online quizzes on a wireless system as students have been dropped and used up their time trying to reconnect.
- The webcam and microphone must remain connected for the entire exam. Your instructor will be notified if and when a webcam has been disconnected during the test. **If your webcam is disconnected during the test, your exam may be subject to a penalty.** This will be handled and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc.
- Clear your desk of all external materials except for your hand-written "cheat sheet."
- Make sure the webcam and microphone is plugged in or enabled before starting LockDown Browser
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

### Opening a Test with Respondus LockDown Browser

1. Close all programs, unless one is used to connect you to the Internet.
2. Locate the "LockDown Browser" shortcut on the desktop and double-click it. (For Mac users, launch "LockDown Browser" from the Applications folder.)

3. If prompted, either close a blocked program (e.g. screen capture, instant messaging) by choosing Yes. Or, close LockDown Browser and close the blocked program before restarting.
4. Login to your Blackboard course.
5. Navigate to the test and select it.  
At this point the Startup Sequence for the webcam begins.
6. You will first need to review and agree to the Terms of Use.
7. The Webcam Check will confirm that your webcam and microphone are working properly. The first time the Webcam Check is performed on a computer, Adobe Flash Player will require you to **select Allow and Remember**.
8. The remaining steps of the Startup Sequence will depend on settings chosen by your instructor. Follow the instructions and note your progress along the top of the screen.

If you encounter a problem, select the "It's not working" link for troubleshooting tips. The test will begin after the Startup Sequence is complete. You cannot exit LockDown Browser until the test is submitted for grading.

#### **IMPORTANT: Before you Begin the Test**

**After LockDown Browser is started and before you have access to the test, you must scan your entire surroundings with the webcam before beginning the test.**

Note: The time it takes to complete this task is NOT counted towards your exam time. Take all time necessary to complete this task.

I need to see a 360° view of your area and your desk to verify there are no prohibited materials (ex. other people, other computers, etc.).

If you are unable to pick up and move the webcam to show this, you may use a mirror to show your surroundings.

If you do not scan your entire surroundings, your exam may be subject to penalty.

**You will also be asked to show a photo ID to the camera.**

**Remain at your desk for the duration of the test.** If there is any movement away from the desk or if it appears you are accessing prohibited materials, your exam may be subject to penalty. (Be sure to use the restroom, get yourself a glass of water, etc. before the exam). The exams are relatively short, so this should not be a problem.

#### **University Boilerplate:**

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising

Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's

feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, [which is right in front of you](#). When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Writing Center.** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).