

Note – The following is a comprehensive list of courses offered by the Department of Business Government and Society. The semester in which a specific course is *most likely* to be offered is noted.

LEB 380.14 - Intellectual Property - Offered in Fall

Description: In our information economy, nothing is more important for business than protecting and exploiting intellectual property. This course covers trade secrets, trademarks, copyrights, and patents, giving managers the knowledge to develop and implement strategies to protect their own intellectual property, and to avoid the staggering liability that can result from infringing on the IP of other companies. Professor Allison is a leading national expert in patent law.

LEB 380.4 - Law for Finance - Offered in Spring

Description: This course could be called “The Law of Securities Regulation.” It studies the broad legal environment within which securities are issued and traded, including such matters as insider trading, mergers & acquisitions, venture capital, private equity funds, hedge funds, initial public offerings, securities fraud, shareholder rights and the like. Legal responsibilities and liabilities of investment bankers, stock analysts, hedge fund managers, auditors, and other professionals are studied. The legal ramifications of the recent Wall Street bailout will come up as will the future of world financial regulation. Sarbanes-Oxley will get a mention or two. The course is quite helpful for the Series 7 and other professional certification exams. Ethical dimensions of these issues are not ignored. Professor Prentice is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

LEB 380.26 - Law for Entrepreneurs - Offered in Spring

Description: All entrepreneurs face a raft of difficult legal issues, including how to protect their intellectual property, how to hire and retain employees, how to raise capital without violating SEC rules, how to extract wealth from their company without being sued, etc. During this class students take an idea and learn how to protect it, build a business around it and grow that business while minimizing legal and regulatory risks.

LEB 380.31 - Energy Law - Offered Fall and Spring

Description: This course will introduce students to the legal issues facing energy companies (energy generating as well as energy service companies) in a deregulating, although not fully deregulated, world. Topics will include the (de)regulation of generation, wholesale transactions, and retail service, as well as environmental regulation of energy production and the contractual and other legal issues governing the commercial market for energy. The ongoing push to develop cleaner energy sources, as well as recent events involving renewable energy, the BP oil spill, shale gas development, the California energy markets, etc. will make this a darned interesting course. Professor David Spence has done substantial research in this area. He has taught at Harvard Law School, as well as the law schools at Cornell and Vanderbilt. He does substantial teaching in UT's executive education program for ExxonMobil, Petrobras, Shell Oil and other energy companies.

BGS 380 – Law & Economics of Capital Markets and Financial Intermediation – Offered in Fall

Description: This course uses economic analysis to enable students to understand the institutional workings of the securities and investment business and its legal regulation (especially recent developments therein). Focal topics include securities trading and market regulation, banking and shadow banking, securitizations and asset-backed securities, broker-dealer duties and conflicts, and investment advisers and investment company regulation. Professor Spindler has a joint appointment at the law school and has both a law degree and a PH.D in economics.

BGS 380C - Strategic Corporate Communication - Offered in Fall

Description: Reputational capital is more important for firms than ever before. This course studies a corporation's efforts to lead, motivate, persuade and inform its various constituencies, including investors, employees, communities, and governments. It encompasses public relations, investor relations, employee relations, community relations, media relations, labor relations, and government relations.

BGS 381 - Law, Ethics, and Corporate Social Responsibility - Offered Fall and Spring

Description: This is a new class covering the intersection of business ethics and law. Its premise is that a complete business education includes the development of a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the legal, ethical, and political contexts of business. In today's global economy, this understanding needs a comparative and international perspective and must take into account how culture affects the legal and ethical expectations in different countries. The course aims to equip businesspeople in all areas with an ability to navigate the differing ethical, legal, and cultural expectations of the environments in which they will do business. The material will be taught primarily through class discussion and group and individual exercises. Professor Christopher Meakin has significant experience teaching business law and business ethics in various executive MBA programs.

BGS 380 – Corporate Political Strategy – Offered in Spring

Description: The ability to strategically shape a firm's political and regulatory environment is critical to economic success in today's highly regulated business environment. This course studies how the political and regulatory environment enables and constrains business activity and how individual firms and groups of firms can effectively lobby, create industry associations, make campaign contributions, submit amicus briefs to the Supreme Court, and engage in other political activity to gain competitive advantage.

BGS 385 - Business, Government & Public Policy - Offered in Spring

Description: This course examines the relationship between business firms and governments. We explore this relationship at all stages of the policy and regulatory processes, from policy formation (e.g., legislation) through implementation and enforcement (regulatory agencies and courts). Topics covered include the practical and ethical aspects of business' participation in the policy process, the law and politics of regulation, governmental protection of property rights, and political risk. Cases and problems are drawn from competition and antitrust regulation, the regulation of network industries, environmental, health and safety regulation, consumer protection regulation, and securities regulation.

Professor Spitzer is the former dean of the U.S.C. School of Law who now has a joint appointment with McCombs and the UT Law School.

LEB 380.3 - Law of Commercial Real Estate Finance and Development

- Offered in Fall

This course covers the legal framework for commercial real estate finance and development, including basic real estate law concepts, legal aspects of financing techniques and instruments, subdivision land-use controls, and environmental regulation of real estate development. Ethical dimensions are covered where appropriate. Professor Murray has won numerous teaching awards and a gumbo contest.

LEB 380.7 - Corporation Law - Offered in Summer

Description: This course examines the various business entities such as partnerships, limited liability companies, and limited liability partnerships, but with an emphasis on corporations. Students will learn how these entities are formed and governed, determine which entity may be appropriate for a certain types of business, and examine agency law to determine how employees create profits and liabilities. Finally, students will examine the relationships between the owners of a business such as the shareholders and the managers of the business such as the officers and at the duties and liabilities imposed on those managers.