Instructor: Dr. Jon Travis, Professor  
Office Location: Young Education North 102  
Office Hours: Please e-mail for appointment  
Office Phone: 903-886-5609  
University E-mail Address: jon.travis@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials—Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required:  

Optional and Supplementary resources:  

Westlaw Campus Research (accessed through the library databases) or hard copies of court reporters.

Course Description: Organic structure of the law, how to use legal resources, and significant issues and trends; past, present, and future; in higher education law.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to  

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of the legal system. Specifically, the student will be able to  
   1.1 Identify and describe the sources of law in the United States.  
   1.2 Describe the jurisdiction of each level in the judicial and legislative hierarchy, and their relationship to the U. S. Constitution.  

2. Demonstrate skills in working with legal materials. Specifically, the student will be able to  
   2.1 Identify and describe the Federal case reporters.  
   2.2 Describe the meaning of each element in a case citation.  
   2.3 Locate case reports and statutes using standard citations.  
   2.4 Define commonly-used legal terminology.  
   2.5 Read and understand case reports.  
   2.6 Prepare briefs of case reports.  

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the major legal issues that impact higher education, and the approach of agencies, legislatures, and courts to these issues. Specifically, the student will be able to  
   3.1 Describe the legal governance of higher education.  
   3.2 Define academic freedom and describe its applications and limitations.  
   3.3 Discuss the relationship of the law with college faculty.
3.4 Discuss the relationship of the law with college students.
3.5 Identify the legal constraints on discrimination, including harassment, and discuss the current role of affirmative action in higher education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments

As a core class for the Higher Education doctorate, Higher Education and the Law is a rigorous course that requires superior performance by students. Hence, all students will be held to the highest expectations in all course requirements.

A serious commitment to mastery of the content. An online course inherently requires students to assume the responsibility for their own learning and to be active, self-directed learners.

Completion of a preliminary quiz over legal knowledge (to be completed online in Week 1).

Completion of an open-book proficiency test on the course syllabus and course introductory presentation and materials (to be completed prior to Week 4). [Note—this test cannot be repeated.]

Readings in the course text as assigned and in supplementary outside resources as necessary.

Participation in group discussion (per assigned groups) of reading assignments.

Participation in online threaded discussion over each text reading assignment. [Note—late participation will receive a lower grade—see below.]

Weekly tests over text reading assignments. [Note—these tests are intended to be completed ONLY after completion of each week’s reading as well as group discussion and threaded discussion of the reading.]

A final exam.

All doctoral students must submit a paper addressing four of the major concepts from the course: academic freedom, faculty role, legal relationship of students to institution, and discrimination. Papers will be evaluated on content and compliance with APA standards. [NOTE: late submissions WILL RECEIVE REDUCED CREDIT.] The length of the paper and any use of outside resources besides the text are to be determined by the student. The paper should be formatted with major headings matching the four major concepts listed above.

Grading

The following criteria will be utilized for master's student evaluation:

Legal knowledge quiz (maximum of 5 extra-credit pts.)
Proficiency Test (100 pts.)
Weekly threaded discussion (100 pts.—10 pts. maximum per assignment) (Note—points will be deducted for posts made after Friday of each week.)
Weekly tests (200 pts.—20 pts. each)
Final exam (100 pts.)
(Total possible—500 pts.)

The minimum number of points required for each grade is as follows:

A—450
B—400
C—350
The following criteria will be utilized for doctoral student evaluation:

- Legal knowledge quiz (maximum of 5 extra-credit pts.)
- Proficiency Test (100 pts.)
- Weekly threaded discussion (100 pts.—10 pts. maximum per assignment)  
  (Note—points will be deducted for posts made after Friday of each week.)
- Weekly tests (200 pts.—20 pts. each)
- Final exam (100 pts.)
- Paper (100 pts.)

(Total possible—600 pts.)

The minimum number of points required for each grade is as follows:

- A—550
- B—500
- C—450

(Please remember, no grade below a B may be applied to a doctoral degree.)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course will be using myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) for course delivery and for all student submissions and discussion. All direct communication with the class and the professor will be conducted in the appropriate week’s threaded discussion session. Group discussions may utilize any technological link preferred by the individual group.

Access to the library’s available databases via the student’s MyLeo account will be required, unless the student prefers to use the library’s holdings in person.

Browser Support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.
## Desktop Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>Supported Browser Version(s)</th>
<th>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft® Edge</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft® Internet</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explorer®</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozilla® Firefox®</td>
<td>Latest, ESR</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Google® Chrome™</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple® Safari®</td>
<td>Latest</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Tablet and Mobile Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Operating System</th>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>Supported Browser Version(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Android™</td>
<td>Android 4.4+</td>
<td>Chrome</td>
<td>Latest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple</td>
<td>iOS®</td>
<td>Safari, Chrome</td>
<td>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows</td>
<td>Windows 10</td>
<td>Edge, Chrome, Firefox</td>
<td>Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

- Pop-ups are allowed.
- JavaScript is enabled.
- Cookies are enabled.

You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

- Adobe Reader  https://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later)  https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
- Adobe Shockwave Player  https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

To access myLeo Online, students should type the following address into their internet browser: https://myleoonline.tamuc.edu

Students will need their campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log in to the course. Students who do not know their CWID or have forgotten their password should contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support
If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the Live Chat or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08—see Student Guidebook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All graduate students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty, as defined in Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10, will incur a penalty commensurate with the severity of the infraction, from failure on the applicable assignment to failure in the course. A report of each infraction also is submitted to the Graduate School for further action.

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Texas Senate Bill 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148 (StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

COURSE OUTLINE:
(Note: Subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text chapter</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal quiz; Course expectations; Proficiency test</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal governance of higher education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic freedom 2
Academic freedom 2
Law & Faculty 3
Law & Faculty 3
Law & Faculty 3
Students & Law 4
Students & Law 4
Students & Law 4
Discrimination 5
Final exam