**Course Description**
This course introduces students to a basic understanding of the American legal system and legal issues significant to construction industry professionals. While the course is designed to teach basic concepts of law and to teach you to recognize legal issues, it is not intended to give you all the tools necessary to provide legal advice. The course material is merely a survey of numerous topics covered in in-depth detail in law school. This course also covers ethical issues faced in the construction industry.

**Course Prerequisites**
C or better in CNST 2341 or CNST 2345.

**Textbook**

**Learning Objectives**
Upon the completion of the course students will demonstrate the ability to understand:
1. Legal terminology common to the construction industry
2. The general structure of the USA legal and regulatory system
3. Construction contracts, roles, and responsibilities of parties
4. The regulatory environment and licensing
5. Lien laws and the contractor’s rights
6. National and local labor law
7. Administrative procedures to avoid disputes
8. Common methods of dispute resolution

In addition to the learning objectives above, this course covers Ethics, Safety, and Oral/Written Communication.

**Schedule of topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC:</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introductions; Overview of Syllabus; Sources of Law (Legislation and Common Law); Our Legal System</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Business of Construction (Regulatory/Licensing Requirements)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contract Basics; Introduction to and Types of Construction Contracts; <em>Pearson v. Fullingim</em>, (Tex. App. – Austin 2006)</td>
<td>Chapter 1; Case</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Contract Claims and Disputes</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><em>The Port of Houston Authority v. Zachry Construction Corp.</em>, (Tex. 2014)</td>
<td>Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Selected Statutes Affecting Construction; Review for Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Negligence and Insurance; <em>LAN/STV v. Martin K. Eby Construction Co.</em>, (Tex. 2014)</td>
<td>Chapter 9, Case</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Public Contracts</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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</table>
No Representation:  
We will be discussing many legal topics in this class. Many of you will experience or have experienced such matters in your life. Legal issues are complex and for every legal rule, there can be many exceptions. Do not use the material that is covered in class as a substitute for proper informed legal advice. A lawyer can give you legal advice only after establishing an attorney-client relationship and investigating the facts and the law of a particular matter completely. What is discussed in class shall never be considered legal advice. Although both instructors are licensed attorneys, unless a formal attorney-client relationship has been established, the instructors do not represent you as your attorney. Please seek competent legal advice if you are faced with a legal issue.

Class Procedure:  
It is important that you read the assigned readings before each class. Students will be called upon to discuss the issues covered in each reading assignment. Student participation in the discussions is part of the grading criteria. The construction industry is highly competitive, fast-paced and unforgiving. The successful construction professional must have effective time management skills, punctuality, and the ability to read and follow instructions carefully. Therefore, you will be evaluated, in part, based upon arriving to each class on time and following instructions. 
Class attendance is imperative. There will be quizzes given at unannounced times during the semester to promote class attendance. There will be no opportunities to make-up any missed quizzes for any reason.

Assistance:  
The instructors' objective is to educate you regarding legal issues affecting the construction industry. We want to provide you with the knowledge to have a successful career in construction. Accordingly, we welcome your questions. However, please note that the instructors are full time professionals receiving hundreds of e-mails every day. We will respond to questions as soon as possible.

Classroom Behavior:  
High level of professionalism in the classroom is expected. The instructor has the right to set the rules in his/her classroom. A student does not have the right to make changes to the instructor’s way of managing the classroom. Disruptive behaviors, such as excessive talking, arriving late to class, and using unauthorized electronic devices during class is not permitted. Repetitive and seriously disruptive behavior may result in removal from class in accordance with policies and procedures set by the Dean of Students Office.

Academic Honesty:  
The instructors reserve the right to adjust letter grades, upward only, based on individual attendance and class participation if numerical grade warrants such consideration. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from The University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of The University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Exam Policy:  
Exams will include material covered in class discussions and homework assignments. Exam make-up will be given only in the event of a verified emergency or doctor-verified sickness. Assigned problems are to be done on Engineering Pad paper, show your work for all problems. All assignments are due
on time; late assignments will not be accepted. The student is responsible for all reading assignments and class handouts whether or not covered in class or listed on the syllabus. The last day of class is the deadline for students to verify their grades and the accuracy of their score. After this deadline, there will be no consideration for any changes.

**University Counseling and Psychological Services**
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (UH main campus [www.uh.edu/caps](http://www.uh.edu/caps), or UH Sugar Land campus [http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/](http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/)) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. UH main campus: [http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html](http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html) UH Sugar Land campus: [http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/](http://www.uh.edu/dsaes/uhsugarland/)

**Course/Instructor Evaluation**
A course/instructor evaluation will be conducted in class during the last scheduled lecture. Any suggestions you have on improving the course, however, are welcome throughout the term.

**Students with Disabilities**
University of Houston provides, upon request, appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (713/743-5400) for more assistance.
For detailed information about Disabilities, Religious Holy Days, the Academic Calendar, and Academic Honesty, and other information, please visit the following website: [http://www.uh.edu/provost/policies/student/resources/](http://www.uh.edu/provost/policies/student/resources/).