



*Dillard College of Business Administration*  
**SYLLABUS: Energy Accounting and Law (Law – second half)**  
*ACCT5313-270, M 7:30-9:50 p.m.*  
**Spring Semester 2025**  
*March 9, 2025*

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**Contact Information:**

E-mail: kris.tilker@msutexas.edu  
Dillard 295  
Office Hours: As posted and by appointment  
MSU Phone: (940) 397- 4712

**Course Materials:**

**TEXTS:**

- *Oil and Gas, Cases and Materials*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition by Martin and Kramer, Foundation Press
- *Oil and Gas Law in a nutshell*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Lowe, West Academic Publishing

**Course Description:** Focuses on providing an overview of the accounting and legal issues common in the energy industry for those who are not accountants. Accounting topics include accounting for working and royalty interests; depletion; intangible drilling costs; and the financial implications of taxation issues. Taxation issues include state ad-valorem and severance taxes as well as federal taxation issues, such as tax credits. Legal topics include property and contract law applicable to the oil and gas industry.

**Course Prerequisite:** MGMT 5313- Energy Management.

**Learning Goals:**

**1. General Learning Goals:** Students will demonstrate problem solving and decision-making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business information. Classroom discussion, problem assignments, and examinations will require students to use critical thinking skills to apply legal concepts and principles to various situations. Demonstrations of problem solving and decision-making abilities will be included in class lectures. Students will develop these skills by completing assigned homework. The development of each student's abilities will be assessed through examinations that require problem solving and decision making.

**2. Course-Specific Learning Goals:**

1. Understand the basic types of real property interests and key terms. These include: fee simple estate; fee simple defeasible; life estate; leasehold estates; easements; dominant estate; servient estate; liens; future interests; reversionary interests; tenancy in common; joint tenancy;

tenancy by entireties; community property; title examination; marketable title; general warranty deed; special warranty deed; quitclaim deed; adverse possession; and acknowledgement.

2. Understand the general purposes of the following seven types of oil and gas contracts: support agreements, farmout agreements, drilling contracts, operating agreements, gas contracts, gas balancing agreements, and division orders.

3. Understand and be able to identify the following types of oil and gas interests: fee interest, mineral interest, leasehold interest, surface interest, royalty interest, production payment, net profits interest, and carried interest. When applicable, be able to determine both net revenue interests and working interest percentages associated with the different types of oil and gas interests.

4. Understand ownership of oil and gas rights. This includes: the rule of capture; limits to the rule of capture; the doctrine of correlative rights; and conservation laws regulated by state agencies.

5. Understand legal theories associated with protection of oil and gas rights, including: damage to lease value; slander of title; and ejectment and conversion for trespass.

6. Understand the methods of creation and transfer of oil and gas interests, including those by conveyance, inheritance, judicial transfer, and adverse possession.

7. Understand joint ownership of oil and gas rights, including: concurrent owners; judicial partition; executive/non-executive owners; and life tenants/remaindermen.

8. Understand the essential clauses of oil and gas leases, including these clauses: granting, habendum, and delay rental.

9. Understand oil and gas savings clauses, including those that provide for unitization; force-majeure; shut-in royalty; and administrative.

10. Understand the oil and gas royalty clause, including: common lease royalty provisions; royalty disputes; deductions in calculating royalty; division orders; and failure to pay royalties.

11. Understand implied covenants in oil and gas leases, including: the reasonably prudent operator standard; implied covenant to test; implied covenant to reasonably develop; implied covenant for further explorations; implied covenant to protect against drainage; and the implied covenant to market.

12. When states have different approaches to oil and gas rights, give priority to the Texas approach on the subject.

## **Course Policies:**

### **1. Attendance Policy**

Attendance is deemed essential for this class. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes for the entire class period and roll will be taken. Students should read the assigned material prior to coming to class and should be prepared to discuss and ask questions relating to class material. This class is scheduled to meet 7 times. For every one unexcused absence, a student will be lowered one letter grade from the grade they earn in this class. I follow the university's undergraduate policies with respect to class attendance (See *Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog 2024-2025*). This catalog is electronic only and may be found on the MSU website using the Registrar button, then the University Catalogs button. University attendance policy is then found under Registrar then Class Attendance.

## **2. Participation**

“Learn” is a verb, which means it is an action or activity. Learning requires action, effort, and attention on your part. Participation, especially when I ask a question in class, is encouraged, and will help you learn.

## **3. Instructor Drop**

“An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, failure to present assigned law case presentations, an indifferent attitude, or for a disruptive conduct.” (*Midwestern State University Student Handbook*, p. 61). I do not want to drop anyone from the class, but I will not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful conduct.

## **4. Classroom Behavior (Zoom)**

Your requirements for each class are as follow:

- Be on time.
- Be prepared (assigned reading and case presentations).
- Remain awake and attentive and be prepared to engage in class discussions at all times.
- Mute your cell phones, laptops/tablets/similar devices that are not essential to using Zoom.
- Use live video showing your entire face.
- Audio should be muted except when you are presenting or asking a question.

## **5. Lower Grades**

I reserve the right to lower any student’s final grade two letter grades (i.e., A to C) for:

- A. Unpreparedness in class, or,
- B. A negative, rude, unreasonably argumentative, or inattentive attitude in class, or,
- C. Repeatedly disrupting the class for any reason, or,
- D. Failure to use Zoom during class with a continual livestream picture of your entire face being dressed the same as if you were attending class on campus, or,
- E. Repeatedly leaving and returning to Zoom during class, or
- F. Not showing respect for fellow classmates' questions, opinions, or,
- G. Repeated tardiness to class or,
- H. Violation of test rules and procedures, or,
- I. Violation of the Zoom attendance policy in this syllabus.

## **6. Academic Integrity**

With regard to academic honesty, students are referred to the “Student Honor Creed” in the *Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog 2024-2025*. Violation of any of the guidelines in the MSU Student Honor Creed is grounds for being dropped from the class with an F.

In short, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The term “cheating” generally means representing someone else’s work as your own and includes, but is not limited to:

1. Copying someone’s homework and turning it in as your own.
2. Soliciting answers from a fellow student during an exam.
3. Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty or staff.
4. Using artificial intelligence (AI) to prepare law case presentations or during exams.

The minimum penalty is an "F" in this course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, which may result in expulsion from the University. The full text of the Student Honor Creed in the Student Handbook is as follows:

### **Student Honor Creed**

Is attached to this syllabus is considered part of this syllabus.

### **7. Grading and Evaluation**

This course will consist of two segments, one on Petroleum Accounting and the other on Energy Law. Each segment is taught by a different instructor. Professor Cope and I will meet at the end of the semester to compare information and jointly determine your grade. For the law segment of the class, your grade will be based on your two (2) graded case presentations and the final exam. The final exam will be worth approximately 300 points.

### **8. Homework**

The main text for this class is Oil and Gas Law in a nutshell (Nutshell). You should read, study, and understand each chapter as assigned. Some of the cases referenced in the Nutshell have been assigned. The assigned cases and notes following the cases are in the Oil and Gas, Cases and Materials (Kramer) text or have been provided in class handouts. You are expected to do a written legal brief for all assigned cases and write out an answer for the note assigned for each case.

### **9. Exams**

Make-up or early exams will be given only for an extreme case in which taking the exam was impossible due to a properly documented required university activity, sickness, or emergency. Prior written approval is required in all cases where it is possible. The following examples are **not** acceptable reasons for missing the exam: wedding events, family reunion, multiple exams on the same date, business trip, prepaid vacation travel, etc.

Incomplete Grade Policy: A grade of "incomplete" is given **only** in the case of emergencies, and complete documentation for the situation is required.

### **10. Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated in class and may or may not result in document changes. The tentative schedule with case assignments will be changed as necessary to accommodate the progress of the class.

**11. Law Case Presentation:**

Each student will be assigned three (3) law cases. The first presentation does not count in calculation of your grade and is used to aid students with constructive feedback. This is so you will further understand the expectations when presenting a graded case. A total of one-hundred and forty (140) points may be earned for the second and third law case presentation. If you are unprepared or absent from class on the date of an assigned case, you will **not** receive any points. This brief must follow the format prescribed for briefing a case in the class handouts. To receive all 140 points (2x70), your case brief presentations must be an excellent delivery that communicates the required case information clearly. This involves doing more than reading your brief to the class. It should be obvious that there was a significant amount of time spent on practice and preparation. This will be evidenced by teaching the assigned law case using relevant supplements, **NOT** reading your brief to the class. A grading rubric for each case presentation is provided.

**12. Final Exam:**

The final exam will be from 7:00 to 9:50 on April 28, 2025. You are expected to take the final exam in Dillard classroom 336. For students who are unable to take the exam in the classroom because to do so would require extended travel time, arrangements will be made for you to take the exam using the lock down browser and live Zoom as you take the exam. Your final exam will be open book and open note, using your cell phone for math calculations. This means you will need to summarize and organize homework, class notes, and case briefs so they are easily accessible. Do not fall into the trap of thinking that an open book and note test does not require you to learn the material and understand the concepts. One sample final exam question is posted in D2L.

If we have unforeseen class cancellations or fall behind covering material scheduled for this class the final will be on Monday May 5, 2024 at the same time and place listed above. Do **NOT** make plans that conflict with this alternate date. See number 9. Exams above.

## **Student Honor Creed**

***"As an MSU Student, I pledge to uphold the values of this university by treating others with respect, cultivating a welcoming campus, acting with honor and integrity, embracing a spirit of innovation, and building strong connections within our university."***

We, the students of Midwestern State University, commit ourselves to placing the well-being and development of individuals at the core of our actions. We pledge to respect and celebrate the members of our community, nurturing an environment where everyone is valued and supported.

We also recognize that our university is a vibrant and interconnected community of students, faculty, staff, and administration. We are dedicated to fostering a welcoming and caring community that thrives on collaboration, cooperation, and mutual respect.

We will uphold the highest standards of honesty, ethics, and accountability in all our endeavors. We pledge to act with honor, sincerity, and transparency, understanding that our personal integrity strengthens the foundation of our university's reputation.

As students of Midwestern State University, we will embrace a spirit of innovation and forward-thinking. We aspire to be visionary in our pursuits, continually seeking opportunities to enhance the University's impact on society through education, leadership, research, and service.

Finally, we commit to building strong and enduring connections within our university, as well as with the greater Wichita Falls community. We believe in the power of networking, collaboration, and engagement to create lasting positive change.

*Written and adopted by the 2023-2024 MSU Student Senate.*