Syllabus, Business Law I, SPRING 2010  
ACC, Cypress Creek Campus, Mondays, 6:00 p.m.

Name of course and prerequisites:

Business Law I, Sec. 001, Course BUSI 2301, synonym #04234, Room 2228, Cypress Creek; reading prerequisite but no course prerequisite. This is a sophomore level course. English comprehension is critical. (In "BUSI 2301" the "2" connotes sophomore level; the "3" connotes a 3-hour course.)

Instructor: Rob Robertson, law office telephone: 335-0208; email: rvrobertson@msn.com. Type in the SUBJECT LINE: “ACC YOUR NAME” in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS without the quotation marks. (Do not email at ACC email address as it is not monitored regularly or rely on email for notice or discussion.) If you email and do not hear back within 24 hours, call me. Again, I prefer phone calls over emails.

College Office Hours of Instructor, General Contact, Course Grade and Information Website:
Office hour is before class, room 2200A, Cypress Creek. Students who are conferring for the first time, or who have conferred less than others, will be seen first. If special arrangements need to be made, telephone me at 335-0208 far enough in advance to allow for scheduling. Also, I am on campus prior to class even if I have no appointments. If you have no appointment, locate me and I will try to accommodate you. Last, students often want to confer during short breaks in the lecture. I attempt to accommodate that also.

Counseling and general discussion of your status in the course is reserved for the office hours period which precedes each class meeting and will not be conducted on the phone or in email.

The BLACKBOARD Learning and Community Portal System on the Internet at http://acconline.austincc.edu/ is a helpful tool. It contains grades, class announcements, this syllabus, articles of interest to business students, and a discussion forum. To view Blackboard courses, students enter their ACC Online User ID into the User ID field. The password is student’s date of birth which should be entered in the following format: MMDDYY. For example:. January 2, 1986 = 010286. PLEASE notify me or your other instructors if you see any problems with Blackboards sites for this or any other course.

Contact Accountability: Contact with me by email is not reliable. I do not consider email to be notice to me of anything. Telephone. If you do not reach me when telephoning, leave a message with your name and purpose of the call and repeat your phone number or numbers at least twice. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours you must keep trying to call me until we speak. I am not responsible for repeatedly trying to call you back if a call-back fails to reach you. If you do not receive a phone message, voice mail, etc., from me, try again. That is, the only way to be sure about our communications is to ultimately confer in a live telephone call with me. The burden is on you, the student, to be sure we confer in a live conversation.
Phone calls or email are for sole purpose of asking the assignment, notifying of absence, and that sort of administrative information. Phone calls and email in the afternoon before the class meeting are not reliable as I may be away from the phone or not see or receive the email.

**Course Objective:** To teach and learn basic rules or principles applicable to commercial or business transactions involving businesses, other entities and individuals. The rules and principles are commonly referred to as "business law." The course should equip the student to recognize and use the rules in a variety of contexts such as business or commercial transactions and one-on-one dealings with individuals throughout your life that might not ordinarily be thought of as "business." Subjects to be addressed include the legal and social environment of business, contracts, accountant liability, personal property and bailments, sales, and estates/wills/trusts. Examples of day-to-day legal matters will be mentioned in order to breathe life into the course content. **NOTE:** The intent is to expose students to basic rules and principles and not to teach "the law" of Texas on any particular point.

(The Texas statutes can be found at [http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html). That site is updated about 18 months after amendments by the Texas legislature.)

**Your Objective(s) in this course and at ACC:** The following web site is an excellent starting point for you to determine if this course is part of your degree plan, if it transfers to certain other institutions, if it is an appropriate elective, and so forth. The time to be careful about this is now and not after you have invested possible wasted time in this course. The web site is the site of the ACC Management Department: [http://www.austincc.edu/mgmt/](http://www.austincc.edu/mgmt/). That site has an excellent degree plan worksheet link. If this web address is not good please notify me in class and provide the corrected address.

**Textbook:** *Business Law and the Legal Environment 20e*, Comprehensive Volume, Twomey and Jennings 20th ed., South-Western Pub. Co., **ISBN** 0-324-63818-3, 1,446 pages, casebound, 2008, Go to and in the search field type "twomey" and press enter. It will pull up the a list. You want the comprehensive edition. The site is an excellent resource and study tool. If purchased online be sure it is the correct version, has all 52 chapters, etc. Click on "companion site." It has interactive quizzes for each chapter, Internet applications resources (spotty), and student resources links such as the study guide (about $42.00). [NOTE: The study guide is not reviewed or used by your instructor in composing exams.] If you find errors or ambiguities or have suggestions, please put them on paper and give them to your instructor. The *Preface*, at pages xxiii to xxviii has helpful resources and Internet links. (Textbook sites: [http://www.cengagebrain.com/market/index.html](http://www.cengagebrain.com/market/index.html) [www.bestwebbuys.com/books/](http://www.bestwebbuys.com/books/); [www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com); iPhoneApp, [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com); TAX CREDIT, [www.textbookaid.org](http://www.textbookaid.org). Please notify me if an address does not work.)

**Grading:** First Examination, Second Examination, Third Examination, Fourth Examination, short essays, true-false and multiple choice, 25.00% of final grade each. Bring No. 2 pencils with erasers and at least two SCANTRON cards. Do not mark SCANTRON card with "blobs" larger than the space provided because the over-sized marks cause the reading machine to malfunction. Also, DO NOT mark anywhere on the card except in the information blanks and the answer ovals because stray marks cause scanning errors. If an exam question is unclear, vague or ambiguous you are responsible for asking your instructor about it during the exam. Regarding essay questions, you will not be graded down by pointing out alternate answers. For example, if the question is not clear to you,
you can answer as follows: "If the seller of the product did not do such-and-so, then the result would be X, but if the seller did this-and-that, then the result would be Y." **BE SURE SUB-QUESTIONS IN ESSAY ARE ANSWERED.**

Except for the last examination of the semester, there will be one chapter of lecture after each examination. You are responsible for verifying that each SCANTRON card contains your name and that you have answered each question. **Missing lectures becomes apparent on exams.** Also, you are responsible for assuring that each essay question answer sheet bears your name and that you have numbered and answered the required number of questions. The last opportunity for inquiry about each exam is the class period after the exam when exam grades are announced and exams are passed back for the exam post-mortem. **THE TOP POINT-LOSS MISTAKE IN EXAMS IS INCOMPLETE ESSAY DISCUSSION.**

**Instructional Participation:** Classroom discussion of assignments, discussion of case problems and unannounced short examinations will be a consideration regarding final grades. Side discussions with other students during class, rude behavior, etc., will also be considered regarding final grades. **Your grade point average at ACC affects whether a university may accept you, so your final grade is important. Otherwise, your credit transfers but the grade does not. If this in not correct, please let me know.**

Grammar and punctuation errors will be subject to penalty. Attention in class, attendance, participation and forthrightness will be considered. Use of "win-win" or "proactive" in written or spoken form and other meaningless popular *jargon du jour* do not impress me. Also, be advised that the terms in contemporary use by print, television, computer and radio commentators, and yes, judges, lawyers, and professors such as "parameter," "consensus," "radical," "conservative" and "liberal" are often used when other terms would communicate more clearly. Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Classroom humor, satire, sarcasm, nuance, banter, joking, politics, religion, etc. **will not and do not factor into grading.** Be loose and enjoy the class as well as learn. Attached to this syllabus (with the Blackboard iteration only; not with the paper iteration) are definitions and discussions of some of these terms taken from *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* Copyright ©© 1995 and a thesaurus [I had to look up the spelling of this word!] contained on Infopedia, a compact disc published by Future Vision Multimedia Ind. Copyright ©© 1995. After consideration of the comments in the attachment, were past communications you have heard or read made clearly? This is a college course about business law. One of the main points to be learned in the course is that unclear, ambiguous terminology can cost you or your business lots of money ($$$) or lost income($$$). I hope the attachment helps to enlighten on this point. I invite you to share with the class your experiences and comments regarding unclear communication and its consequences, impact, *etc.*
Examinations will be discussed in the next class period, so to participate in the exam post-mortem, students must be present and on time/punctual at the period following the exam period. Exam documents will be returned to the instructor after student review and class discussion. Scoring questions can be discussed in class or in a conference with me. Lecture time will not be used to discuss prior exams except at the start of the period following the exam period. GRADES will be posted in Blackboard about 10 days after the exam.

There is a study guide available for purchase online (see web address in textbook section on page 2) and possibly through the book store, but it is optional. You may wish to consider it if you earn a low first-examination grade. The study guide, however, is not a substitute for the textbook. If the study guide conflicts with the textbook, the textbook prevails regarding disputed exam answers. Test-taking and study skills may need your attention. The time to work on skills is NOW, not late in this term.

ACC TV. Business Law I lectures on video are broadcast once or more each week on the ACC TV cable channel, or at least they used to be. Please notify if cable no longer has this. The material on TV makes the same points that are made in our text and in our lecture. Viewing those lectures should help reinforce your learning. Check these out: http://dl.austincc.edu/ITV/,
http://dl.austincc.edu/ITV/schedule/AustinCooksCalendar.pdf

Testing Centers at ACC: http://www2.austincc.edu/testctr/ Academic Testing Centers are located at the Cypress Creek, Eastview, Northridge, Pinnacle, Rio Grande, and Riverside Campuses and at the Fredericksburg, Round Rock, and San Marcos ACC Centers. Hours of operation vary by location. Students should check with their instructors on the availability of tests at the various locations. Students must be registered in classes at Austin Community college in order to take test in the Testing centers. Procedures for using this service are available from the Academic Testing Centers. In addition to an ACC Student ID, Testing Centers require a valid picture ID. Testing Centers at ACC:

Missed Examinations. If you miss an examination, you must contact me by 5:00 p.m. the day after the date of the missed examination or you risk a failing grade for the exam. Arrangement will be made for you to take an exam covering the same chapters at the testing center on the Cypress Creek campus (223-2075, Building 1, room 1139), the make-up to be taken usually no later than Thursday after the missed exam.

You are responsible for asking the testing center located on the campus of this class about its hours of operation. For example, it may be closed on Friday afternoons. Arrive at the testing center early enough to complete your exam. The monitor will demand to see your (1) ACC student i.d. (2) with an acceptable photo i.d. Bring a No. 2 pencil. You are required to obtain a written slip from the testing center at Cypress Creek if you take an exam there and if there are questions or problems about an exam. Also, they have a telephone in the room. The monitor may be able to reach me with inquiries by
telephone at 335-0208-days. The exam may consist of all essay questions and you may be required to bring with you a written assignment to be completed prior to arrival at the testing center and to be turned in at the start of the exam.

**The testing center is not available if you miss the last exam of the term. Your last exam grade and course grade will be posted to Blackboard within a week of the exam and can be mailed soon after the last exam if an addressed envelope with postage is provided by you when you turn in your exam. Your last exam grade and course grade will be mailed soon after the last exam if an addressed envelope with postage is provided by you when you turn in your last/final exam.**

**Scholastic Dishonesty.** Students are reminded that discussion of an examination prior to the taking of a make-up exam between a student who missed the exam and one who took the exam is an event of scholastic dishonesty on the part of each student. During an exam, cell phones, electronic devices, ear plugs, and the like must be kept in backpack, purse or under chair. If restroom needed, another student will be assigned to accompany you.

Acts prohibited by ACC for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework. Violations will result in appropriate discipline.

**Attendance:** It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of upcoming assignments, exams and any other class plan. Class attendance is expected, and, as stated earlier, can influence your final grade. A seating chart will be used. **WARNING:** This syllabus and assignments are subject to change. If you miss class, leave early, or are otherwise unsure or unaware of the plan for your next class meeting, you should telephone me well in advance of the next meeting. If you must leave a message on my law office answer machine make sure you include day and evening phone numbers where you can be contacted, and call again if I do not get back to you soon. Poor attendance can mean a lower course grade.

**Withdrawal, incompletes, “rule of three”:** Students who wish to withdraw must follow the official drop policy or will receive a failing final grade. If it becomes clear to you that you are not going to complete the course, I urge you to follow the withdrawal procedures to avoid a failing grade being turned in. I do not withdraw for students.

**Withdrawal** is your responsibility. This term the deadline for withdrawal is Monday, April 26, 2010, according to the printed Spring 2010 Course Schedule, at page 3, but each student is responsible for being sure of the correct date. **That is, this syllabus is not binding on the college or me as to official dates because this is prepared by your instructor and not the college.** The policy for incompletes at ACC as far as this instructor understands it will only be given if the student has substantially completed the course with a passing grade. The instructor must be notified before the end of the semester if you need an incomplete and all work must be made up as soon as possible.
**Incompletes** are not recommended as students will miss the extra credit for finishing on time. Rumor is that many incompletes are never completed.

**Rule of Three.** See [www.austincc.edu/admiss/ruleofthree](http://www.austincc.edu/admiss/ruleofthree) for details. Third attempts at same course means the tuition is significantly increased regardless of residency zone and goes back to year 2002. Having said this, the ACC website has the final word on this, not this syllabus.

**Employment, academic, scholarship references.** You may list me as a reference if you ask to list me and provide an authorization and release to provide information about you. Be advised that I will be frank about my impression of your performance, ability, attitude, etc. Attitude counts for a lot.

**Personal safety, property safety, miscellaneous:** ACC is a safe environment BUT students, particularly females, should be careful about parking location and waiting outside for a ride, etc. This class ends when it is dark outside and there are few other people on campus at that time. All students should be careful about locking vehicles, keeping property out of view, securing backpacks and purses in class, etc. Local campus policies must be followed concerning food and drinks in class. Tardy arrival is disruptive to the other students and instructor.

**Students with Disabilities** [http://www.austincc.edu/osd/index.html](http://www.austincc.edu/osd/index.html) Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this 3 weeks before the start of the semester. Written assessments should be presented to each professor.

**TEST SKILLS - STUDY SKILLS - COUNSELING CENTER** The Cypress Creek Counseling Center telephone number is 223-2010. The time to talk to the staff about study skills and test skills is NOW, not later!! Also, the staff can counsel you on many other topics, only if you initiate contact. Also, look at your course schedule to see if it mentions workshops about study skills and test skills. Campuses have tutoring labs. Make use of tutoring to see if that can help. CHECK THEM OUT !! If you take one, let me know what you think about it, if it helped, etc. Check with counseling center staff to learn if study or exam skills workshops are being offered. (The readability of this paragraph on the Flesch-Kincaid grade level scale is 11.37. The readability grade level for this entire syllabus is 13.15, which is probably determined by the content of the attachment to this syllabus.)

**I May Want to Be a Lawyer! CPA!** If you think you want to attend law school and become an attorney, I will be happy to discuss steps, entrance examinations, law school, bar admission questions, law practice experience and the like with you. Just ask. I add, I am often asked about women and law school. I understand that approximately one-half of the law students today at the good law schools are women.

Student Handbook and Calendar is online at http://www.austincc.edu/handbook. I wish you a successful and rewarding college experience. And, hey, continue your education for life. It enriches.
Course Assignments:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Subject(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/25/10</td>
<td>Orientation. Overview. Chapters 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Overview of course and orientation of students and instructor. 1. The Nature and Sources of Law, 2. The Court System and Dispute Resolution, 3. Business Ethics, Social Forces, and the Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/01/10</td>
<td>Chapters 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>4. The Constitution as the Foundation of the Legal Environment, 5. Government Regulation of Competition and Prices, 6. Administrative Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/08/10</td>
<td>Chapters 8, 52</td>
<td>8. Crimes, 52. Decedents’ Estates and Trusts</td>
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<td>- - -</td>
<td>2/08/10</td>
<td>Request 70% refund</td>
<td>Last day to request 70% refund</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2/15/10</td>
<td>Examination on Chapters 4-6, 8, 52 in first segment of class (five chapters) (followed by 1 segment of instruction covering Chapter 9)</td>
<td>9. Torts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>2/15/10</td>
<td>Request 25% refund</td>
<td>Last day to request 25% refund</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/08/10</td>
<td>Examination on Chapters 9, 10-14 in first segment of class (six chapters)(followed by 1 segment of instruction covering Chapter 15)</td>
<td>15. Consideration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
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<td>Activities</td>
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<td>- - -</td>
<td>3/15/10</td>
<td>Spring Break week</td>
<td>Spring Break; no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/22/10</td>
<td>Chapters 16, 17</td>
<td>16. Legality and Public Policy, 17. Writing, Electronic Forms, and Interpretation of Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>4/05/10</td>
<td>Chapters 20, 47</td>
<td>20. Breach of Contract and Remedies, 47. Accountants’ Liability and Malpractice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>4/12/10</td>
<td>Examination on Chapters 15 through 20, 47 in first segment of class (seven chapters) (followed by 1 segment of instruction covering Chapter 21)</td>
<td>21. Personal Property and Bailments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/19/10</td>
<td>Chapters 22, 23</td>
<td>22. Legal Aspects of Supply Chain Management, 23. Nature and Form of Sales</td>
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<td>- - -</td>
<td>4/26/10</td>
<td>Final withdrawal date</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw. This instructor does not withdraw for you. Students are responsible for following the withdrawal procedures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>5/03/10</td>
<td>Chapters 26, 27</td>
<td>26. Obligations and Performance, 27. Remedies for Breach of Sales Contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5/010/10</td>
<td>Examination on Chapters 21-27 (seven chapters)</td>
<td>Bring an envelope bearing address and postage if you want your exam score and final grade mailed to you about a week after May 310</td>
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NOTES, CORRECTIONS, REMINDERS (with date of the note):

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
Discussion of “consensus,” “conservative,” “liberal,” “parameter,” “radical”

(The following material is quoted verbatim from the sources mentioned on page 2 of this syllabus.)

**consensus** 1. The consensus of opinion among writers on usage since the 1940s is that the phrase consensus of opinion is redundant. We have added "of opinion" advisedly; this is indeed a matter of opinion and not of fact, as will appear in what follows. Consensus, it appears from *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) evidence, rather suddenly developed at least three different new uses around the middle of the 19th century. The OED suggests the word itself first insinuated its way into the language through a physiological meaning introduced in a 16th-century book on physiology apparently written in Latin.

In 1854 we have a "consensus of forces," in 1858 a "consensus of . . . evidence," in 1861 a "consensus of the Protestant missionaries," and in 1874 a "consensus of opinion." The connection between the physiologist's and the modern uses is perhaps illustrated by this citation from John Stuart Mill's *A System of Logic*. Unfortunately our nearly hundred-year-old slip does not tell us whether the passage was taken from the third edition of 1851 or the eighth of 1872; if it was the 1851, this would be an early citation indeed: There is, in short, what physiologists term a consensus, similar to that existing among the various organs and functions of the physical frame of man and the more perfect animals, and constituting one of the many analogies which have rendered universal such expressions as the "body politic". John Stuart Mill, *A System of Logic*. The early citations suggest that consensus was not then limited to opinion, and indeed it has not been since. The Merriam-Webster files have instances of "consensus of views," "consensus of preference," "consensus of support," "consensus of political comments," "consensus of advanced thinking," "consensus of experts," "consensus of agreement," "consensus of behavior," "consensus of values," "consensus of belief," "consensus of readings," "consensus of dissent," "consensus of conscience," "consensus of scholarship," and "consensus of usage." Thus, the cautious writer might well be tempted to write consensus of opinion, being aware that consensus can be used of other things.

This is the point made in the following passage, probably written by Frank H. Vizetelly: The accepted meaning of consensus is "general agreement." It is commonly defined as "a collective unanimous opinion of a number of persons," and on this account the phrase "consensus of opinion" appears to be tautological. But as there may be consensus of thought, of functions, of forces, etc., it is not tautological to speak of a "consensus of opinion." Besides, the phrase is an English idiom. Literary Digest, 1 May 1926. The opinion that consensus of opinion is redundant appears to have begun with James Gordon Bennett the younger, who ran the New York Herald from 1867 until 1918. A list of his Don'ts for use by editors of the paper is reprinted in an appendix in Bernstein 1971. The list is not dated, but consensus of opinion was probably added to the list toward the end of Bennett's tenure; none of our late-19th-century or early-20th-century usage books mention it. Even Fowler 1926 notes consensus only because he found it confused with census. Although the question must have been in the air in 1926, as the excerpt from the Literary Digest above indicates, we find little discussion of it in books until the 1940s. Since that time nearly every writer on usage has clambered onto the bandwagon. Of all our recent writers on usage, only Freeman 1983 seems to be aware of the issues discussed in the Literary Digest. He
has also read Webster's Second, which has this note: "The expression consensus of opinion, although objected to by some, is now generally accepted as in good use." Such is the consensus of opinion of the leading authorities on international law Thomas F. Bayard (U.S. Secretary of State), dispatch, 1 Nov. 1887 The following comments are indicative of the present consensus of opinion: MacCracken Sandison 1917 It was the consensus of opinion of all their speeches that there was a lot of drinking going on. Will Rogers, The Illiterate Digest, 1924. We made a systematic attempt to ascertain the consensus of usage throughout the English-speaking world. Frank H. Vizetelly, N.Y. Times, 2 Jan. 1927 ... the consensus of scholarship ... assigns the two plays to Tourneur T. S. Eliot, "Cyril Tourneur," in Selected Essays, 1932 Tennyson's reaction to the consensus of critical opinion: PMLA, September 1951 This language, according to a consensus of scholarly opinion W. K. Matthews, Languages of the U.S.S.R., 1951 It is a consensus of opinion which derives additional significance from the fact that ... Times Literary Supp., 13 Feb. 1943 In the end, without a vote, but because it seemed to be the consensus of opinion: The Autobiography of William Allen White, 1946 In place of authority in science, we have and we need to have only the consensus of informed opinion J. Robert Oppenheimer, New Republic, 26 Apr. 1954 The consensus of their opinion, based on reports that had drifted back from the border John Hersey, New Yorker, 2 Mar. 1957 ... in a manner that maintains a consensus of public opinion avoiding disruptive attack from Right and Left: Gaddis Smith, N.Y. Times Book Rev., 3 June 1973. The decision for you is whether you want to use consensus of opinion, and make your meaning perfectly clear while running the risk of being wrongly censured for redundancy, or use consensus alone and risk less than full clarity, perhaps. Technically, consensus of opinion is not a redundancy, but many nonetheless believe it is. You are safe using consensus alone when it is clear that you mean consensus of opinion, and most writers in fact do so.

2. General consensus. Some of the writers who condemn consensus of opinion as a redundancy do the same for general consensus. Their argument in this case is on a better footing, for generality is indeed part of the meaning of consensus. The added general is probably felt by the writers who use it to have an intensive effect: There is a general consensus that some social plan of production for the needs of the community, rather than for individual profit, is necessary if the routine of civilized life is to continue: Morris R. Cohn, The Faith of a Liberal, 1946. General is sometimes added to consensus of opinion, though perhaps more often formerly than nowadays. ... the general consensus of opinion in the City: The Spectator, 3 Jan. 19253. Concensus. Freeman 1983, Reader's Digest 1983, Howard 1977, and Copperud 1970 all note consensus as a frequent misspelling of consensus. We have a fair amount of evidence of its turning up in publications where it should have been detected. Perhaps the most amusing example is reported in Daniels 1983: he found it in an invitation issued by a large university for him to participate in a project to study problems of student illiteracy. The OED notes the spelling as an obsolete variant of consensus. It is no longer acceptable.

conservative [n] person who is cautious, moderate; an opponent of change bitter-end*r, classicist, conserver, conventionalist, diehard, hard hat*r, middle-of-the-road*r, moderate, moderatist, obstructionist, old guard*r, old liner*r, preserver, reactionary, redneck*r, right, rightist, right-winger, silk-stocking*r, standpat, stick-in-the-mud*r, Tory*r, traditionalist, unprogressive See ~359: POLITICIAN conservative [adj] cautious, moderate, tending to preserve the status quo bourgeois, constant, controlled, conventional, die-hard, fearful, firm, foggyish*r, furry-duddy*r, guarded, hard hat*, hidebound, holding to, illiberal, in a rut*r, inflexible, middle-of-the-road*r, not extreme,
obstinate, old guard*, old line*, orthodox, quiet, reactionary, redneck*, right, right of center*, right-wing, sober, stable, steady, timid, Tory*, traditional, traditionalistic, unchangeable, unchanging, uncreative, undaring, unimaginative, unprogressive, white bread*

**liberal**  1 lib•er•al \\ˈli-b(e-)rel\\ adj [ME, fr. MF, fr. L liberalis suitable for a freeman, generous, fr. liber free; perh. akin to OE leodan to grow, Gk eleutheros free] (14c) 1 a : of, relating to, or based on the liberal arts ← education> b archaic : of or befitting a man of free birth

2 a : marked by generosity : OPENHANDED <a ~ giver> b : given or provided in a generous and openhanded way <a ~ meal> c : AMPLE, FULL
3 obs : lacking moral restraint : LICENTIOUS
4 : not literal or strict : LOOSE <a ~ translation>
5 : BROAD-MINDED; esp : not bound by authoritarianism, orthodoxy, or traditional forms
6 a : of, favoring, or based upon the principles of liberalism b cap : of or constituting a political party advocating or associated with the principles of political liberalism; esp : of or constituting a political party in the United Kingdom associated with ideals of individual esp. economic freedom, greater individual participation in government, and constitutional, political, and administrative reforms designed to secure these objectives

lib•er•al•ly \\ˈli-b(e-)rel-ə-lē\\ adv _ lib•er•al•ness n syn LIBERAL, GENEROUS, BOUNTIFUL, MUNIFICENT mean giving or given freely and unstintingly. LIBERAL suggests openhandedness in the giver and largeness in the thing or amount given <a teacher liberal with her praise>. GENEROUS stresses warmhearted readiness to give more than size or importance of the gift <a generous offer of help>. BOUNTIFUL suggests lavish, unremitting giving or providing <children spoiled by bountiful presents>. MUNIFICENT suggests a scale of giving appropriate to lords or princes <a munificent foundation grant>. 2 liberal n (1820) : a person who is liberal: as a : one who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional, or established forms or ways b cap : a member or supporter of a liberal political party c : an advocate or adherent of liberalism esp. in individual rights

**parameter** Sometime in 1958 New York Times columnist James Reston included parameter in a list of baffling technical terms he did not like. The newspaper in June of that year reported the list had brought in a large number of protests from "scientific gentlemen," several of whom essayed to define the term for laypeople. A typical definition, said the Times, was this: A parameter is a point of the domain of a mapping, this domain frequently being an interval on the real line, and the range of the domain being a subset of Euclidean space of several dimensions or even of Hilbert space 9 June 1958 If that is what a parameter is, it is hard to disagree with this comment: Parameter is a mathematical term with a precise meaning which, it is safe to say, not one in ten of those who use it understands Sir Bruce Fraser, in Gowers 1973 But by 1973 parameter was, in fact, much more than a mathematical term with a precise meaning. The spread of usage had begun much earlier, but unlike later usage spread, the earlier was done chiefly by people working in technical fields:In polyatomic molecules the nuclear configuration is described by several parameters, and variation of two parameters is sufficient to establish degeneracy Francis Owen Rice Edward Teller, The Structure of Matter, 1949 The parameters (a 3% price change, and 10% growth change) were intentionally selected so that the growth effect on working capital retention would offset the price effect Felix Kaufman Alan Gleason, Accounting Rev.,
October 1953 The general picture of the carbonskeleton was thus provisionally defined by the three parameters mentioned above (aromaticity, ring condensation index and aromatic area) P. H. Hermans, translation of D. W. Van Krevelen J. Schuyer, Coal Science, 1957 The satellite has light sensitive elements which alter the radio frequencies of the signals and the correlation between their durations and intermissions as soon as the temperature or other parameters of the satellite change Science, 18 Oct. 1957 There has been a good deal of monitoring of circulatory and respiratory parameters of native highlanders Nature, 9 Aug. 1969 Even the spread to more general use was prefigured: ... pondering the fact that the whole parameter of personal success bulks very small indeed in a world which is earnestly trying to find out whether the human race must necessarily destroy itself John G. Jenkins, Science, 11 Jan. 1946 ... the space-fiction cosmos of fantasy, with ... its invisibility, immortality and freedom from all other limiting parameters Jonathan Norton Leonard, Flight into Space, 1953 If James Reston's list was the distant early warning of parameter's creeping into more general use, usage writers were not quick to respond. No commentator seems to have noticed the term until the 1970s. If we take as the earliest of these Fraser in Gowers 1973, Newman 1974, and Nickles 1974, we will see that all three subscribe to the theory that parameter is a misused mathematical term, which, as noted earlier, is not an adequate description. Fraser and Nickles both put forward the notion that parameter is frequently used where perimeter is meant. Such confusion may occur in speech, but it is an odd observation to make of edited prose, for perimeter (before 1973) was quite rare in extended use, and whereas parameter in the criticized use is usually plural, perimeter in figurative use (before 1973) was usually singular. (The possible effect of parameter-avoidance on the figurative use of perimeter is discussed at PERIMETER.) The use of parameter most likely to attract comment about misuse for perimeter is that in which it is used in the plural in the sense of "limits." Note that in the first two examples below parameters clearly means "limits," but perimeter or perimeters could not be used; in the second two you could force perimeters in, but other words such as bounds or range or confines would work as well or better.In the event that temperature levels exceed parameters, the system will warn the operator Datamation, February 1976 ... [it] is clearly within the parameters of Yariv's simple formula that Mr. Kissinger would seek to concoct his own equation for bringing Israel and the P.L.O. together Edward R. F. Sheehan, N.Y. Times Mag., 8 Dec. 1974 The Teachings of Don Juan and Fire on the Moon both fall within the parameters of science fiction as an attitude Michael Baron, Real Paper, 3 Dec. 1975 Eno's eccentric music doesn't stray beyond rock's accustomed borders so much as it innovates within those parameters Charley Walters, Rolling Stone, 6 May 1976 You may also notice that things tend to be within parameters. This was not the idiom with perimeter(s) before the middle 1970s. By the time that most of the usage commentators were coming down hard on parameter, the computer had established itself in the powerful position it now holds, where it can meddle with the lives of every one of us. With the computer came parameter, stronger than ever. It is unlikely to be dislodged until a swankier term comes along. Just look at the publications, largely general in nature, where it is entrenched:With these formulas in place, Grycz can change any parameter (book length, typesetting costs, royalty) and project the net impact on all costs automatically Robyn Shotwell, Publishers Weekly, 5 Feb. 1982 But a true novel is an extended piece of fiction: Length is clearly one of its parameters Anthony Burgess, N.Y. Times Book Rev., 5 Feb. 1984 For the technically oriented, this approach, among other parameters, involves careful consideration of the distance from the woofer to reflective surfaces Henry Hunt, Houston Post, 26 Aug. 1984 ... the infinite fantasies of the imagination, the divine and the wretched parameters of the human condition Leo Rosten, Harper's, July 1972 ... the ... cliché expert, Dr.
Arbuthnot, revealed the parameters of the new Presidentialese to the official translators  William Safire, N.Y. Times, 18 Nov. 1976
At the beginning of the planning process that generated the current options, the parameters were established not by the requirements of defending the nation but the requirements of reaching a strategic arms agreement Wall Street Jour., 31 Aug. 1981 ... exploring the possibilities of sounds in space, revealing how one can transubstantiate one musical parameter into another Jonathan Cott, American Poetry Rev., vol. 3, no. 5, 1974 ... the airlines compete vigorously in every other parameter of service including schedule frequency Anthony Lewis, N.Y. Times, 8 Nov. 1976 The two basic parameters of the industry production index and price index also point up the flat state of the West German chemical economy Dermot O'Sullivan, Chemical Engineering News, 22 Feb. 1982The adverse criticism of parameter took the wrong direction from the start, based as it was on outdated dictionary definitions ("a term in mathematics") and the assumption that perimeter must have been intended. More telling criticism, perhaps, would have been to point out that parameter was unnecessarily displacing such words as factor or criterion. But it is too late now. You need not use the word if you dislike it, naturally, but you will probably not be able to avoid seeing it, often used in ways that are less than illuminating: Calm, powerful prose explores the parameters of reason and emotion, of growing up and growing old and how these mesh into a continuum of a life lived N.Y. Times Book Rev., 14 Nov. 1976

**radical** [n]  person who advocates significant, often extreme change agitator, anarchist, avant-garde, extremist, fanatic, firebrand, freethinker, iconoclast, insurgent, insurrectionist, leftist, left-winger, militant, mutineer, nihilist, nonconformist, objector, pacifist, progressive, rebel, reformer, renegade, revolter, revolutionary, rioter, secessionist, subversive, ultraist  See: POLITICIAN

1. **radical** [adj] fundamental, basic basal, bottom, cardinal, constitutional, deep-seated, essential, foundational, inherent, innate, intrinsic, meat-and-potatoes*, native, natural, organic, original, primal, primary, primitive, profound, thoroughgoing, underlying, vital See: NECESSITY, ORIGINAL deviating by extremes advanced, anarchistic, complete, entire, excessive, extremist, fanatical, far-out*, freethinking, iconoclastic, immoderate, insubordinate, insurgent, insurrectionary, intransigent, lawless, leftist, militant, mutinous, nihilistic, progressive, rabid, rebellious, recalcitrant, recusant, refractory, restive, revolutionary, riotous, seditious, severe, sweeping, thorough, ultra, ultraist, uncompromising, violent, way out*