

Michael J. O'Hara

Roskens Hall 502

UNO Omaha NE 68182

(402) 554-2823 (with voice mail)

mohara@mail.unomaha.edu

<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/ohara.htm>**Office Hours:** by private appointment, as well as
after class from 11:15 AM until noon*use BlackBoard's Discussion Board for most questions*<http://myuno.unomaha.edu>

fax (402) 554-2680

Introduction to Business Law and Ethics

Spring 2004

LAWS 3910-002 # 11707 Tuesdays & Thursdays **10:00 - 11:15 AM** **RH 010A***With contract, may be taken for Honors credit.***COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

3 credit hours. "This course introduces students to the American legal system governing business. The course emphasizes selected constitutional law issues and ethics, as well as the common and relevant statutory law of torts, contracts, and property." Prereq.: ENGL 1160; SPCH 1110 or higher; ECON 2200 all with C (2.0) or better, 2.3 GPA." [NOTE: by implication, also need MATH 1310 with 'C' (2.0) or better as well as 12 hours earned.]

GRADED EVENTS:

A course letter grade of "A" is earned with a total course percentage of 90.0%; an "A-" is earned with 87.0%; a "B+" is earned with 83.0%; a "B" is earned with 80.0%; a "B-" is earned with 77.0%; a "C+" is earned with 73.0%; a "C" is earned with 70.0%; a "D" is earned with 60.0%, and an "F" is earned with less than 60.0%. In undergraduate classes, **the instructor does not use the course grades of "C-", "D+", or "D-".**

100% EXAMS

20% Unit Exam #1 (chapters 1 - 8 & 53)

20% Unit Exam #2 (chapters 1 - 18 & 53; but especially 9 - 18)

20% Unit Exam #3 (chapters 1 - 23 and 49 - 53; but especially 19 - 23 and 49 - 52)

10% Ethics Exam (all "Focus on Ethics" sections within assigned readings)

Ethics will be covered throughout the course, but will be sole focus in the last two weeks.

30% Comprehensive Final Exam: Built from questions from all prior exams.

*Any student with an "A" average after the Ethics Exam is excused from the Final Exam.***TEXTS:**

- Clarkson et al., *West's Business Law: Text and Cases: Legal, Ethical, International, and E-Commerce Environment*. **9th** (blue) **Edition**. USA: West Ed. Pub. Co., 2004.

LECTURES:

To generally understand Professor O'Hara's approach to class time management, please read the following three documents, which are hereby incorporated by reference within this syllabus.

Reasonable Expectations: <http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/ReasonableExpectations2.pdf>;Critical Thinking: <http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/CriticalThinking2.pdf>; andMemorization: <http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/MemorizationTechniques2.pdf>.

EXAMS:

There are five exams: three Unit Exams each worth 20% of the course grade, an Ethics Exam worth 10% of the course grade, and a comprehensive Final Exam worth 30% of the course grade. *All exams are comprehensive to that date in the semester.* The dates of the three Units Exams are **September 21, October 21, and November 23**. The date of the Ethics Exam is **December 7**. The comprehensive Final Exam is at the Regent's scheduled final exam time of Tuesday, **December 14** from 10:00 AM until noon.

Each Unit Exam will have 35 questions graded as if there are 33 questions. The Ethics Exam will have 11 questions graded as if there are 10. The Final Exam will have 105 questions graded as if there are 100 questions. Exam questions may be true-false and/or multiple choice. The Final Exam questions will be *developed from* the prior exams' questions. Be sure to consult Professor O'Hara's web site for copies of old exams. To correctly answer these questions will require the student to poses actual knowledge and to use attentive and thoughtful reading.

Any student with an "A" average after the Ethics Exam is excused from the Final Exam.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Make-up work is strongly discouraged. There are two **prerequisites** for make-up work.

1. 24 hour **prior notice** of your intended absence,¹
unless for sufficient reason (e.g., death of an immediate family member);

AND

2. timely, **written verification** by an impartial third party
(e.g., from the mortician, on letterhead).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Any form of academic dishonesty will earn a course grade of "F."

WARNING FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM COUNCIL:

Required language for all core-course class syllabi:

1. A student may **enroll** in a CBA **core course only two times**. Withdrawal after the first week of classes counts as an attempt.

2. All **prerequisites** for a course must be **completed before enrolling** in a course. If it is discovered that a student lacks any prerequisite, CBA has the option to administratively withdraw the student from the course.

3. A **grade of "C" (2.0)** or better is required **in all core courses**. A grade of "C-" or below in a core course prevents it from being used to satisfy prerequisites for any CBA course.

¹ Some international students, as a condition for entry into the USA, are required to purchase return flight airline tickets. These early purchase tickets often are burdened with extreme limits on the flight dates. A student must present such a ticket to the professor prior to the end of the second week of class and discuss with the professor any flight restrictions, or such flight restrictions can not be adequate justification for Make-Up Work. This footnote does not imply that all such flight restrictions are adequate justification.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	
Aug 24	introduction	
Aug 26	1	reasoning
Aug 31	2 & 3	courts & procedure
Sep 2	4 & 53	constitution & international
Sep 7	4 & 53	constitution & international
Sep 9	5 & 6	torts & liability
Sep 14	7 & 8	IP & crime
Sep 16		review for Unit Exam #1
Sep 21	Unit Exam # 1	
Sep 23	9 & 10	terminology & agreement
Sep 28	11 & 12	consideration & capacity
Sep 30	13 & 14	genuineness & Statute of Frauds
Oct 5	15	3rd party
Oct 7	16	performance
Oct 12	17 & 18	breach & e-contracts
Oct 14		review for Unit Exam #2
<i>Oct 19</i>	<i>Fall Break: no classes</i>	
Oct 21	Unit Exam #2	
Oct 26	19	formation
Oct 28	20 & 21	title & performance
Nov 2	22	remedies
Nov 4	23	warranties
		ELECTION DAY: BE SURE TO VOTE
Nov 9	47 & 48	property: personal & real
Nov 11	49 & 50	landlords & insurance
Nov 16	51 & 52	wills & professionals
Nov 18		review for Unit Exam #3
Nov 23	Unit Exam #3	
<i>Nov 25</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break: no classes</i>	
Nov 30	“Focus on Ethics”: start pages = 97, 192, 350, 443, 983, and 1087	
Dec 2	“Focus on Ethics”	
Dec 7	Ethics Exam	
Dec 9		review for Final Exam
Dec 14	comprehensive Final Exam 10:00 AM until noon in RH 010A	