

Michael J. O'Hara

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<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/ohara.htm>**Office Hours: by private appointment, as well as****before class, 5:30 PM Monday****and after class Monday**

(before and after class office hours in the classroom)

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Introduction to Business Law and Ethics

Spring 2003

LAWS 3910-004 # 01785

Monday**6:00 - 8:40 PM****RH 218***crosslisted as Honors Section LAWS 3910-099 #03745***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; SPEECH 1110 or higher; ECON 2200 all with C (2.0) or better, 2.3 GPA."

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%. For undergraduate classes, **the instructor does not use the course grades of "C-", "D+", or "D-".**

100% EXAMS

20% Exam I (chapters 1 - 9)

20% Exam II (chapters 1 - 18; but especially 10 - 18)

20% Exam III (chapters 1 - 23 and 49 - 52; but especially 19 - 23 and 49 - 52)

40% Comprehensive Final Exam: Built from questions from Exams I, II, and III.

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

EXTRA CREDIT**Deciles Report, maximum range of -2% and +2% extra credit****HONORS CREDIT:**

A student enrolled for LAWS 3910-099 will earn Honors Credit upon completing an Honors Contract. The Honors Contract will be negotiated between the student and the professor. A typical contract could include delivering the lecture on one of the textbook's chapters as well as presenting a book report on a topic covered in that textbook. Other contracts can be negotiated.

TEXTS:

1. Clarkson et al., *West's Business Law: Text, Cases, Legal, Ethical, International, and E-Commerce Environment*. **8th (maroon) Edition**. USA: West Ed. Pub. Co., 2001.

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>; and

Memorization

<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/MemorizationTechniques2.pdf>.

EXAMS:

There are four exams: three Unit Exams each worth 20% of the course grade and a comprehensive Final Exam worth 40% of the course grade. All exams are comprehensive to that date in the semester. The dates of the three Units Exams are

February 24, March 31, and April 28. The comprehensive Final Exam is at the Regent's scheduled final exam time of, respectively, **May 5.**

Each Unit Exam will have 35 questions graded as if there are 33 questions. 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 Unit Exam 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 who has an "A" average after the third Unit 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).

¹ Some international students are required to purchase return flight airline tickets 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.

EXTRA CREDIT: Deciles Report:

Each student may earn between -2% and +2% of the course grade via an Extra Credit assignment. The Deciles Reports will be graded using grades of Pass and Fail (an earned grade of Fail has the same consequence as a complete failure to perform). A student who commits, but then fails to complete the Extra Credit assignment, will earn -2% of the course grade.

A student must expressly commit to complete the Extra Credit assignment and must complete it to earn any positive extra credit. A student shall commit in a one-page typed document due **January 20**. The Extra Credit commitment document shall contain the student's name and signature as well as the student's top five preferred deciles variables.

The Deciles Report is a one-page assignment made up of six PowerPoint slides printed horizontally. The six slides will be in three sets of two slides each. The three sets will be based on the world, the USA, and Nebraska. The first slide in a set will be a graph displaying variables by population deciles for a relevant economic (e.g., income) or social (e.g., size of employer) variable. The professor will maintain a list² of approved variables that students may claim on a "first come, first served" basis. The second slide in a set will be bullets comments on the graph. If the requisite information is not available, then all three sets may be in quintiles or quartiles. All Deciles Reports are due **April 7**.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism) will earn a course grade of "F."

² This will become a live link no later than 5:00 PM on January 13.
<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/LEp2DecilesVariables.pdf>

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Chapters & Events</u>
Jan 13	introduction
Jan 20	<i>Martin Luther King Day: no classes</i>
Jan 27	1, 2, & 3 reasoning, courts, & procedure
Feb 3	4 constitution
Feb 10	5, 6, & 7 torts, liability, & IP
Feb 17	8 & 9 crime, & cyberlaw
Feb 24	6:00 - 7:00 review for exam 7:00 - 8:00 Unit Exam # 1 8:00 - 8:40 introduce next unit
March 3	10, 11, & 12 terminology, agreement, & consideration
March 10	13, 14, & 15 capacity, genuineness, & fraud
<i>March 17</i>	<i>Spring Break: no classes</i>
March 24	16, 17, & 18 3rd party, performance, & breach
March 31	6:00 - 7:00 review for exam 7:00 - 8:00 Unit Exam # 2 8:00 - 8:40 introduce next unit
April 7	<i>Extra Credit Deciles Reports due</i> 19, 20, & 21 sales, risk, & performance
April 14	22, 23, & 49 remedies, warranties, & insurance
April 21	<i>student evaluations</i> 50, 51, & 52 wills, professionals, & international
April 28	6:00 - 7:00 review for exam 7:00 - 8:00 Unit Exam # 3 8:00 - 8:40 review for Final Exam
May 5	6:00 - 6:30 review for Final Exam 6:30 - 8:40 comprehensive Final Exam