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Office Hours: by private appointment, as well as
 15 minutes before & 15 min. after class in the classroom
use BlackBoard's Discussion Board for most questions
<http://myuno.unomaha.edu>

<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/ohara.htm>

Introduction to Business Law and Ethics

Spring 2005

LAWS 3910-002 # 11789 Tuesdays & Thursdays **11:30 AM - 12:45 PM** **RH 207**

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.] [NOTE: see warning from Undergraduate Program Council at bottom of page 2.]

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 (chapter 42 & "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:

1. 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>; and
- Memorization: <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 Unit Exams are **February 8, March 8, and April 14**. The date of the Ethics Exam is **April 26**. The comprehensive Final Exam is at the Regent's scheduled final exam time of Thursday, **May 5** from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM.

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.

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.

CELL PHONES:

Prior to the start of each class meeting, turn off all your cell phone and/or pager. If a student's cell phone or pager "rings" during class, then the instructor, at the instructor's election, may either answer the phone in the fashion of his choice or may reduce the student's earned course grade by 1%. Students who provide the instructor with satisfactory documentation that the student is part of an emergency response team may allow a phone to ring during class.

DISABILITIES:

Pursuant to federal law, neither the student nor the faculty member is empowered to decide:

- [1] that a student is "disabled"; nor
- [2] that a reasonable accommodation is warranted; nor
- [3] the specific accommodation that is the legally required as the reasonable accommodation. To obtain these three decisions initiate contact with the Services for Students with disAbilities in EAB 117 or 554-2872, TTY 554-3799.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Make-up work is strongly discouraged. There are three **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. seasonable, **written verification** by an impartial third party
(e.g., from the mortician, on letterhead)
- AND**
3. **consent**² of Professor O'Hara.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

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

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.

² A student requesting Make-Up Work is requesting the instructor's waiver of the student's material breach of contract. However, the academic enterprise is predicated upon a degree of flexibility for reasonably accommodating external, unexpected events beyond the reasonable control of the student. Accordingly, consent will be granted for good cause shown by the student.

Ordinarily, in addition to prior notice, the student seeking waiver of the student's material breach will obtain the instructor's consent prior to the graded event.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
Jan 11	introduction
Jan 13	1 reasoning
Jan 18	2 & 3 courts & procedure
Jan 20	4 & 53 constitution & international
Jan 25	4 & 53 constitution & international
Jan 27	5 & 6 torts & liability
Feb 1	7 & 8 IP & crime
Feb 3	review for Unit Exam #1
Feb 8	Exam # 1
<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>no class: AEF conference</i>
Feb 15	9 & 10 terminology & agreement
Feb 17	11 & 12 consideration & capacity
Feb 22	13 & 14 genuineness & Statute of Frauds
Feb 24	15 & 16 3rd party & performance
Mar 1	17 & 18 breach & e-contracts
Mar 3	review for Unit Exam #2
Mar 8	Exam #2
Mar 10	19 formation
<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<i>Mar 17</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 22	20 & 21 title & performance
Mar 24	22 & 23 remedies & warranties
Mar 29	47 & 48 property: personal & real
<i>Mar 31</i>	<i>no class: AAEFE conference</i>
Apr 5	49 & 50 landlords & insurance
Apr 7	51 & 52 wills & professionals
Apr 12	review for Exam #3
Apr 14	Exam #3
Apr 19	42 & "Focus on Ethics" start pages = 97, 192, 350, 443, 983, & 1087
Apr 21	42 & "Focus on Ethics" start pages = 97, 192, 350, 443, 983, & 1087
Apr 26	11:30 - 12:15 42 & "Focus on Ethics" (<i>note this is new lecture, not review</i>)
	12:15 - 12:45 Ethics Exam
Apr 28	review for Final Exam
May 5	comprehensive Final Exam 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM in RH 010A
	THURSDAY