



## About this Course

Torts  
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Konemark  
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## Class Website

- The home for information about the course is the course website:  
[http://www.ericejohnson.com/courses/torts\\_19/](http://www.ericejohnson.com/courses/torts_19/)
- It has the syllabus and chart of assignments. It's where I'll post slideshows, handouts, info about the exam, links to supplemental reading, etc.
- I have no plans to use Canvas. If that changes, I'll let you know by e-mail or by instruction on the chart of assignments.

## Books

- *Four Trials*, John Edwards
- *Torts: Cases & Context, Volume One*
- *Torts: Cases & Context, Volume Two*

## Slides

- I don't always use slides, but when I do ...
- My practice is to read every word on every slide.
- And I will post all slides with text content to the class website after the class in which they are used.
- Therefore, I strongly urge you not to try to read the slides in class. Just listen. Then, look at the slides later to review things.

## **Syllabus**

- Read the syllabus!
- You are assumed to be on notice for everything in it.
- It is long, but reading it is worth it.
- It is your guide to how to do well in class.
- It is my guide to what I've committed to, how I grade, and how I handle any problems.
- It is posted on the class website.

## **Some key classroom rules**

- No eating.
- No audio or video recording.
- No electronic communications with others in class.
- No distracting content on screens (incl. video and animated gifs).
- Read the syllabus for all classroom rules.

## Grading

- Read the syllabus, it talks about grading in detail! What follows are highlights.
- Regular letter grades will be given for this course (A+, A, A-, B+, etc.).
- Based mostly on a final exam
  - 1/2 multiple-choice, closed-book
  - 1/2 essay, open-book/open-notes
- Also can affect your course grade:
  - things set out in the syllabus, including:
    - attendance
    - class participation (incl. classroom conduct)
    - academic misconduct

## Grading

- There is no pre-determined grade-point average or grade distribution for the class. So you are not in competition with your fellow students for a limited pool of grades! Favor cooperation.
- The initial assignment of grades will be done by seeing the raw point totals from the exam and inserting cut-offs based on clumps and my sense of how performance corresponds to letter grades.
- Alternative minimum grading: According to the schedule ( § 6-3). E.g., if you got 87% of max possible points, then you can't get lower than an B+ for the exam grade.
- You get the higher grade of the two methods.

## Grading

- The exam grade is your course grade, unless it is adjusted up or down.
- Discretionary adjustments:
  - Can go one step up (e.g., B+ to A-) for class participation. In unusual situations, two steps up.
  - Could possibly be adjusted downward the same way—one or two steps.
- Deficient attendance and academic misconduct can lower the course grade (or lead to administrative withdrawal or an F).

## Attendance Policy

- It's § 9 in the syllabus. Read it! You're responsible for knowing all of it.
- These are only highlights.
- Attendance log—fill this out only for yourself.
- Self-report early departures.
- Late slips—you must fill one out before taking seat.
- Arriving late is half an absence.

## **Attendance Policy**

- Eight absences is a step-down in grade.
- Nine absences is another step-down.
- Ten absences is another step-down.
- Eleven absences is an F for the course or administrative withdrawal.
- If you hit eleven absences, you must immediately give me written notice according to § 9-5.

## **Attendance Policy**

- If you claim special extenuating circumstances and/or excuse for religious observance, you must file an End-of-Semester Attendance Mitigation Statement according to § 9-6.
- It must be filed not earlier than the last day of class, nor later than the day after the last scheduled day of final exams for OU Law.
- Take a moment now to calendar this.