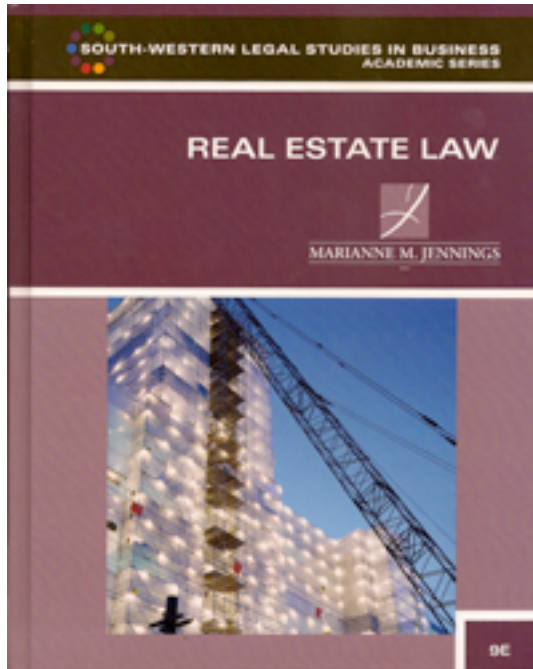




## REA 281 Syllabus



## Syllabus

REA 281 Principles of Real Estate Law

Mesa Community College Online Campus

Semester: Spring

Section Number: #####

Instructor: Nori Muster

[contact@norimuster.com](mailto:contact@norimuster.com)

(480) 275-7889

Mesa Community College, c/o Business Department

1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa, Arizona 85202

## What you need to complete this class . . .

This syllabus contains all the instructions and information for REA 281, Principles of Real Estate Law. This class is offered through the online real estate program at Mesa Community College: Mesacc.edu, Southern & Dobson campus, 1833 West Southern Avenue, Mesa, Arizona 85202. You can find additional information at the instructor's website: <http://classes.norimuster.com/>

TEXTBOOK: *Real Estate Law: Theory and Practice*, by Marianne M. Jennings, Cengage Learning (publishers), ISBN 9781439040317 or 1439040311, and is available at the student bookstore. Many students buy their books online. You can find links here: <http://classes.norimuster.com/textbooks.html>

You will use your textbook to take this class. The introductory assignment is to speed-read the book, answer a list of questions for the instructor, and turn it in. The overall structure of the class is: complete the introductory assignment, textbook assignments (with three deadlines), and the final exam.

## Grading . . .

All assignments are pass-fail (complete-incomplete). If you turn in the assignments and pass the final, you get an A. If you do not pass the final, I will contact you to discuss the material. You can then re-work your final until you pass. If assignments are missing, you will get a B, C, D, or F, respectively. I dislike giving bad grades, but I must follow the established grading policies of the MCC Business Department.

All work for this class is open-book. Although you can use your textbook and other resources, please do not plagiarize, do not "copy and paste." Do your own work, and do not share your work with other students.

## Speed reading instructions for this class . . .

When your textbook arrives, hold it in your hands, and notice how heavy it is. Open it on your desk to the middle and crease it. This may gently crack the spine. Flip through to the end, gently cracking it every few chapters; do the same for the first half. This is how you literally crack a book. This helps break in the book so the pages will wear evenly. You can skip this step if it is a used book, or e-book.

Take an hour to go through the entire book. Start on page one and go through the whole book. Look at every page. Notice the page layouts, the graphics, and the breaker heads. Get used to the book. Commit the overall lay of the book to your subconscious memory.

Next, go back to the table of contents and study it for ten or twenty minutes. This will help you grasp the full spectrum of what the book covers. In academic books, studying the table of contents is the foundation of speed reading.

To digest a chapter at a time for your assignments, first flip through and look at each page in the chapter. Spend a full minute scanning each page. After you look at each page, spend the rest of the session reading the chapter like it was a magazine. Page through it and look for topics you find interesting; read the most relevant sections in full.

## Introductory assignment . . .

After you speed-read the textbook, please fill this out and turn it in.

Your name **A:**

Age group **A:**

After reviewing the textbook, please explain how much of this material is new to you. **A:**

Have you worked in real estate before? If so, explain. **A:**

What is your goal in taking this class? **A:**

What is your goal at MCC? **A:**

What is your overall goal for college? **A:**

## Textbook assignments . . .

Write one page of notes on each chapter in your textbook, using the following guidelines:

- You can write a page on the theme, "Ten things I learned from this chapter."
- Or write a page for each chapter based on the "Chapter Problems," "Discussion Points," "Learning Objectives," "Overview," etc. These can be found at the end of the chapters in the REA 281 & 282 textbooks, and at the beginning of the chapters in the REA 283 text.
- Or, write a page on your real-world experiences with topics covered in each chapter.
- Or, use a mixture of these writing options.

I do not grade on grammar or writing style, and I leave it open-ended on what you can write. You can use these suggestions, or simply write about the things you find most interesting in each chapter. Every semester I try to make these instructions more clear. The bottom line is, turn in one page on what you learn from each chapter of the textbook.

## Schedule for turning in assignments . . .

Introductory Assignment: Informed Learning Survey DUE LAST DAY OF JANUARY  
Textbook Part 1: Chapters 1-7 (pp. 1-135) DUE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY  
Textbook Part 2: Chapters 8-16 (pp. 137-480) DUE LAST DAY OF MARCH  
Textbook Part 3: 17-22 + one page on appendices (pp. 481-677) DUE LAST DAY OF APRIL  
Final Exam (below): DUE FINALS WEEK

Turn your work in through Canvas, Canvas messenger, or email. Keep a copy on your computer. If you complete approximately two chapters per week, and aim for the deadline at the end of each month, you will keep up with the class.

Most students prefer to work according to the schedule. However, if you want to set up an alternate schedule, or something comes up to prevent you from meeting a deadline, I can grant extensions. However, you must be in contact.

## How to contact the instructor . . .

PLEASE CONTACT ME if you think you might be late with an assignment, or if you want to discuss any of the concepts you're studying. I will respond within one business day. I am available by email (contact@norimuster.com), through the Canvas messaging system, through MCC email (nori.muster@mesacc.edu), in person on campus, and by text or telephone (480) 275-7889.

## How the instructor will contact you . . .

I will contact you through throughout the semester with Canvas Announcements. To make sure you receive Announcements, log into Canvas. Click your Account tab. Then click Notifications. Scroll down to Announcements and make sure the checkmark (not the x) is highlighted. Also make sure your preferred email address shows up there. If not, you can add an email address. Go to your Account tab, then click Settings. Scroll down to where it says + Email Address. Click that and add your email address. Then go back to Notifications and make sure to highlight the checkmark under your preferred email address.

If you want to be contacted by text, use the Settings page to add your cell number. They will send you a confirmation code. Once you confirm your phone, go back to Notifications and confirm the checkmark is highlighted for Announcements, Cell Number.

I usually write to you several times at the beginning of class, then around the assignment deadlines. If you feel I'm not communicating, you may not be getting the Announcements. To access Announcements on the Canvas website, go to Canvas and click the Courses tab.

Enter the page for this class, then click Announcements. You will see all the Announcements I've sent out since the beginning of the semester.

## Final exam . . .

Note: the final is identical for REA 281 and REA 282. If you are in both classes, turn in the same exam in both classes.

### PART I: Economic Meltdown History

Study the laws below and write one page on how deregulation of financial markets led to the economic meltdown of 2008. Be sure to cite the laws.

1999 - The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act

2000 - The Commodity Futures Modernization Act.

2004 - Securities and Exchange Commission relaxes rules.

You can find more explanation of the laws here:

<http://classes.norimuster.com/law/marketcrash.html>

Read the description of the laws at this link, or do more research on the Internet.

For further research, you can watch *Inside Job* (2010 movie), *Frontline: Inside the Meltdown*, *Frontline: The Warning* (2009 documentaries), *Masters of Money* (2012 BBC documentary), or *The Big Short* (2015).

In learning why the 2008 crash happened, maybe we can prevent another one. George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

### PART II: Positive Thinking in Real Estate

If you plan to go into a profession where you will be trusted with fiduciary duty, it is good to know yourself. Part II of the final is an exercise for looking at values. You will turn in one page based on the issues at the end.

Cynicism: You may hear people say things like, "Real estate school! You will forget everything as soon as you pass the exam!" Actually that is false propaganda, probably to convince people to quickly memorize how many feet in an acre just to pass the exam. Real estate school teaches us the laws of real estate. That's a great thing to know, and remember! Even if you can't remember how many feet in an acre. My advice is to hit the book, learn the material, and build yourself a good foundation for a career. Knowledge is power, and in the field of real estate finance, knowledge gives you the power to make a good living, while you keep your license and avoid being sued, fined, or censured.

Ethics: Ethics are common courtesies that may only be implied, or written in a pledge or

code, but not specifically written into law. Ethical and honest people follow a set of personal ethical standards in addition to the laws.

Consequences: Economics is a study in ecology. Anything you do in one area affects the whole system. The world of real estate is controlled by laws and ethics. When somebody comes along and skirts the law, a civil lawsuit or criminal indictment may ensue, and the mechanisms of justice begin to answer the injustice. It can take a long time.

Poor ethics can establish bad neighbor relationships that taint a career, preventing the full abundance that can come to you by developing contacts and a good reputation. Reputations develop over years, and good friends in business are one of the rewards.

General Categories of Unethical Behavior:

Stealing

Buying influence or engaging in a conflict of interest

Hiding important information

Lying

Spreading slanderous information

Giving or allowing false impressions

Taking unfair advantage

Personal decadence

Interpersonal abuse

Violating rules

Condoning unethical actions

Permitting systemic abuse

Rationalizing ethical dilemmas

Risk: Real estate finance is volatile business, with a recent history of abuse. Learning the rules will reduce your personal risk. You can't always see what is coming, but knowing what you are doing will increase your chances of survival.

Rich: We don't need to make millions a year to feel rich. Whatever money we earn in business, if we live within our means, and have enough to pay all the bills, half of life's problems are solved. That's a good start.

Common Rationalizations:

"Everybody else does it."

"If we don't do it, someone else will."

"That is the way it has always been done."

"We will wait until the lawyers tell us it is wrong."

"It does not really hurt anyone."

"The system is unfair."

"Because we can."

"Might makes right."

"You can do anything for god."

"Business as usual."

"That's politics."

Dishonest language says nothing about "the system," but it does say something about the person who uses such language. Judges do not take kindly to rationalizations.

Please turn in one page based on these ideas:

How you feel when you notice people acting unethically, dishonestly, or relying on rationalizations like those listed above?

What could people do to make society more ethical and cooperative?

What could we do to treat all Americans equally, and all treat each other better?

I'm interested in your ideas.

So far nobody has solved these problems!

How would you do it?

## Informed learning evaluation . . .

Please complete this informed learning survey and turn it in with the final to help the instructor improve the class in future semesters.

Did you feel that this class took about the right amount of work, too much work, or too little? **A:**

Do you feel that you learned the material (or got a good review)? **A:**

Do you feel that you accomplished your goal in taking this class? **A:**

If you could change something about the class, or give the instructor constructive feedback, what would it be? **A:**



## REA 281 Syllabus

### The fine print . . .

Instructor info.: Ms. Nori Muster [contact@norimuster.com](mailto:contact@norimuster.com) (480) 275-7889  
 Yours truly (Nori Muster) will be your guide through this class. My background is in real estate, writing, teaching, and counseling. I posted my bio to the Canvas system that explains more about me.

#### Textbook:

*Real Estate Law: Theory and Practice*, by Marianne M. Jennings, Cengage Learning (publishers), ISBN 9781439040317, and is available at the student bookstore.

Marianne M. Jennings is a writer, public speaker, and ASU professor. She teaches MBA courses through the W.P. Carey School of Business. Read her bio here: <http://www.macmillanspeakers.com/mariannemjennings>

#### Work Load:

The course is based on a hefty textbook, with a lot of ground to cover. It should work out to the same amount of time you would spend in a classroom, if this were a bricks and mortar class. Taking the class online allows you to work on your computer, according to your own schedule, and develop your learning skills and powers of concentration as you learn.

You may turn in assignments through Canvas, by email ([contact@norimuster.com](mailto:contact@norimuster.com)), by dropping them off at the MCC Business Department, and notifying the instructor, or through the US Postal Service (to: Nori Muster, P.O. Box 41750, Mesa, AZ 85274). For study guides and information, go to <http://classes.norimuster.com/>

#### MCCCD Official Course Competencies

Description: Incidents of ownership and use of real estate, legal principles, procedures, and methods of acquisition and disposition of real estate. Prerequisites: REA179 or permission of Department head John Beshk - [john.beshk@mesacc.edu](mailto:john.beshk@mesacc.edu)

1. Read, comprehend and apply basic land descriptions to real property. (I)
2. Describe different estates in real estate and how they may be created and applied to transaction. (II)
3. Describe the use and application of various forms of title evidence, and the different steps and procedures involved in processing of evidence of title to real estate. (III)
4. Apply prescribed procedures for transferring title to real estate. (III)
5. Prepare the different forms of conveyances and describe the manner in which different tenancies are created. (IV)
6. Describe the transfer of title of real estate by non-conveyance methods and events. (V)
7. Describe the use and application of a contract in connection with transfers of real estate. (VI)
8. Interpret closing and/or escrow documents. (VI)
9. Describe the position and responsibilities of brokers and agents in real estate transactions. (VII)
10. Describe necessary insurance coverages for real estate. (VIII)
11. Describe various methods for and the mechanics of developing real estate. (IX)
12. Describe legal proceedings applicable to real estate. (X)
13. Describe the application and impact of taxes upon real estate. (XI)
14. Describe federal and state laws which affect real estate. (XII)
15. Describe the rights of owners and tenants in real estate transactions. (XIII)
16. Describe the use and application of the Land Trust Concept. (XIV)



In other words, we will review all the laws related to owning, using, buying, and selling real estate.

#### Required Technology

You will need a computer with an Internet connection and all the modern software to operate the programs. If your computer is out of date or breaks down during the course, you will have to make alternative arrangements.

#### Tech Support

You can ask the instructor tech support questions, but anything too complicated may have to go to the MCC techs.

Get started online learning: <http://mesacc.edu/elearning/get-started>

MCC Distance Learning Website: <http://www.mesacc.edu/eLearning/>

Distance Learning tutorials: <http://ctl.mesacc.edu/resources/canvas/canvas-tutorials/>

Mesa College Help Center tech support line: (480) 461-7217

MCC Disabilities Resources and Services: (480) 461-7447

MCC College Handbook <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/publications>

MCC Early Alert Referral System (EARS): <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/ears>

Special Instructions for Mac Users

This class was built on a MacBook, so everything should work fine. To read the files, you will need MS Word or Open Office. To download Open Office free, go to: <http://www.openoffice.org/>

The MCC website will download files to your desktop. Open the file, read it, and follow any instructions. This class was tested on an iPad and seemed to work fine, no Open Office needed. If you are using a Mac and experience any technical problems, contact the instructor for tech support.

#### Continuing Education

This class qualifies for eighteen units of real estate agent continuing education. Enter "C7658" in the AZDRE online education website when the class ends. The class dates must fall within your renewal period to qualify. You may need to call AZDRE to submit the course for credit. Contact the instructor if any questions.

#### Code of Conduct

##### Academic Integrity

Student in this course are expected to adhere to the Academic Dishonesty Policy as explained in detail in the Mesa Community College Handbook available at: <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/publications>

##### Netiquette

Netiquette refers to the rules of behavior while on the Internet. When interacting within the online course environment, please follow the below guidelines. Show professionalism and courtesy in all communications within the course. No one else should be given access to the course or conferences without the instructor's permission.

Do not use the words or text from others without acknowledging the source. Humor can easily be misinterpreted within the online environment, please be cautious with the use of humor and use emoticons to help prevent misunderstandings :) ;) etc.

Adhere to the same behavioral standards as you would in a face to face classroom and as is specified in the student handbook.

Avoid typing in all capital letters, for those of us using the Internet frequently, this can seem like you are yelling. Respect other people's time and contribute thoughtful comments and ideas to the discussions rather than simply making statements such as "I agree."

Use correct spelling and grammar. Avoid the use of abbreviations and use spell check within your word processor or within the course to check the spelling of your communications.

##### Safe Classroom Environment Statement

Disagreement within the classroom does not equal disrespect, you are encouraged to have different points of

view, different opinions and values, however, it is required that students monitor their language within discussions. Racist, sexist, or homophobic language will not be tolerated. Consult the student handbook for college policies regarding these types of behavior.

#### Learning Enhancement Center:

Many students find that college coursework provides new academic challenges. Students who wish to deepen their understanding of course concepts, extend their skills, and improve their performance in their course(s) are encouraged to use the free tutoring and other support services in the Learning Enhancement Center. The LEC Office is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Elsner Library. Phone: [480.461.7678](tel:480.461.7678)  
Web: [www.mesacc.edu/tutoring](http://www.mesacc.edu/tutoring)

#### Writing Center:

The Writing Center provides one-on-one appointments to help students during any phase of the writing process: brainstorming, prewriting, researching, drafting, and revising. The Writing Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Elsner Library. Phone: [480.461.7513](tel:480.461.7513).  
Web: <https://www.mesacc.edu/departments/english/writing-center>

#### MCC Early Alert Referral System (EARS)

Mesa Community College is committed to the success of all our students. Numerous campus support services are available throughout your academic journey to assist you in achieving your educational goals. MCC has adopted an Early Alert Referral System (EARS) as part of a student success initiative to aid students in their educational pursuits. Faculty and Staff participate by alerting and referring students to campus services for added support. Students may receive a follow up call from various campus services as a result of being referred to EARS. Students are encouraged to participate, but these services are optional. Early Alert Web Page with Campus Resource Information can be located at: <http://www.mesacc.edu/students/ears> or at the Early Alert selection at the mymcc link from MCC's home page.

#### Special Needs

To ensure equal access, all required course materials provided in web links are expected to meet AA Standard of Compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. All internal and external course links should be evaluated by the WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool. Course materials are expected to be in compliance, or an alternative option provided upon the students request.

Students with disabilities must have an equally effective and equivalent educational opportunity as those students without disabilities. Students experiencing difficulty accessing course materials because of a disability are expected to contact the course instructor so that a solution can be found that provides all students equal access to course materials and technology.

Information for Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, including a learning disability, and would like to discuss possible accommodations, please contact the MCC Disabilities Resources and Services Office at 480-461-7447 or email [drsfrontdesk@mesacc.edu](mailto:drsfrontdesk@mesacc.edu).

Please contact an advisor at disability services if you have a disability, including a learning disability. They will assist you with appropriate accommodations for you in your classes. The Disabilities Resources and Services office at Mesa Community College can be reached at (480) 461-7447.

#### Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus due to issues that may arise in the class over the course of the semester.

As your instructor, my job is to help you pass the class. Please contact me if you run into any trouble (480) 275-7889 tele/text, [contact@norimuster.com](mailto:contact@norimuster.com) or [nori.muster@mesacc.edu](mailto:nori.muster@mesacc.edu).