



Legal Issues in Sport Management

Dr. Cyntrice Thomas

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Office Hours via Zoom: Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00am - 1:00pm;
also by appointment

SPM 4723, Section 6599 | TR 8:30am | Virtual | Fall 2020

Course Description & Objectives

This course examines various areas of law and their application to recreational, collegiate and professional sports. We will emphasize the legal problems and issues faced by professionals in the sport and recreation industry today. Students will utilize critical and analytical thinking to develop a basic understanding of areas of law that affect these industries. Students will:

- Define with legal terms, procedures, and issues affecting the delivery of sport services.
- Describe the judicial system in the United States as it applies to sports.
- Identify and discuss litigation and legislation affecting sport organizations.
- Discuss and develop strategies aimed at reducing the probability of injuries and lawsuits surrounding sport activities.
- Analyze and evaluate the application of the law in various sport context.

Course Materials

Spengler, J.O., et al. (2016). *Introduction to Sport Law*, 2nd Ed. Human Kinetics: Champaign, IL.
ISBN: 9781450457002 ; ebook ISBN: 9781492575542

Pittman, Andrew, et.al. (2016). *Case Studies in Sport Law*, 2nd Ed. Human Kinetics: Champaign, IL

Additional readings and cases will be provided by the instructor and uploaded to Canvas.

Course Communication

All communication for the course will be disseminated either through Canvas Course messaging or through your University of Florida email address. Please make sure that when you're sending me an email that you are professional and that use your school email address and include the following information:

Name

Course

Respectful salutation (greeting: ex. Hello, Dear) and valediction (closing: ex. Sincerely, Best)

I will only send emails to your university email address so you should be checking that regularly.

Emails that come from personal accounts or contain no message in the body may not get a response.

Course Policies

This course is primarily done in a combination of a lecture format, case study exercises and team-based learning that examine the application of relevant laws to issues in sports. Video lectures and/or readings will be assigned each week for students to view and read in their own time. We will be meeting through Zoom each week to discuss the readings for that week and participate in activities that will allow students to apply and synthesize the information from the textbook and cases.

Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Students will be informed of the due dates for projects and presentations well in advance on the syllabus and Canvas. Therefore, extensions will not be given for assignments and late assignments will only be accepted for 24 hours after the due date and will receive partial credit. Make-up exams will not be offered and quizzes, cannot be made up or taken early, unless the student has an excused absence pursuant to the university policy cited below. The only exception is an excused absence consistent

with the [university attendance policies](#) and appropriate documentation is required. It is the student's responsibility schedule time to make up an exam or quiz.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Grading and Requirements

Quizzes and Assessments (15%)

Throughout the semester, several quizzes will be given to help students keep up with the readings.

Assessments are a part of team-based learning and will consist of both individual and group assessments. I will drop your lowest grade among the quizzes and assessments. All assessments and quizzes will be graded objectively.

Case Questions/Activities (9%)

Case questions are helpful for students to understand the assigned cases and talk about them during class. They also act as a valuable study tool for preparing for exams.

Exams (35%)

There will be 3 exams for this course. The exams are not cumulative but will cover all assigned reading up to each exam period. The format for the exams will be covered in class.

Case Briefs (17%)

You will have **four** cases to brief throughout the semester. During the second week of class, I will teach you how to brief a case. The purpose of the case briefs is to help students pull out the key components of a judicial decision and understand how courts interpret the law and arrive at their decisions. The due dates for each case brief are included on the schedule and are also listed below.

Case Brief #1: *Lowe v. California League of Professional Baseball*, 65 Cal.Rptr.2d 105 (Cal. App. 4 Dist. 1997) **due Wednesday**

Case Brief #2: *Horn v. University of Minnesota*, 362 F.3d 1042 (8th Cir. 2004) **due Wednesday**

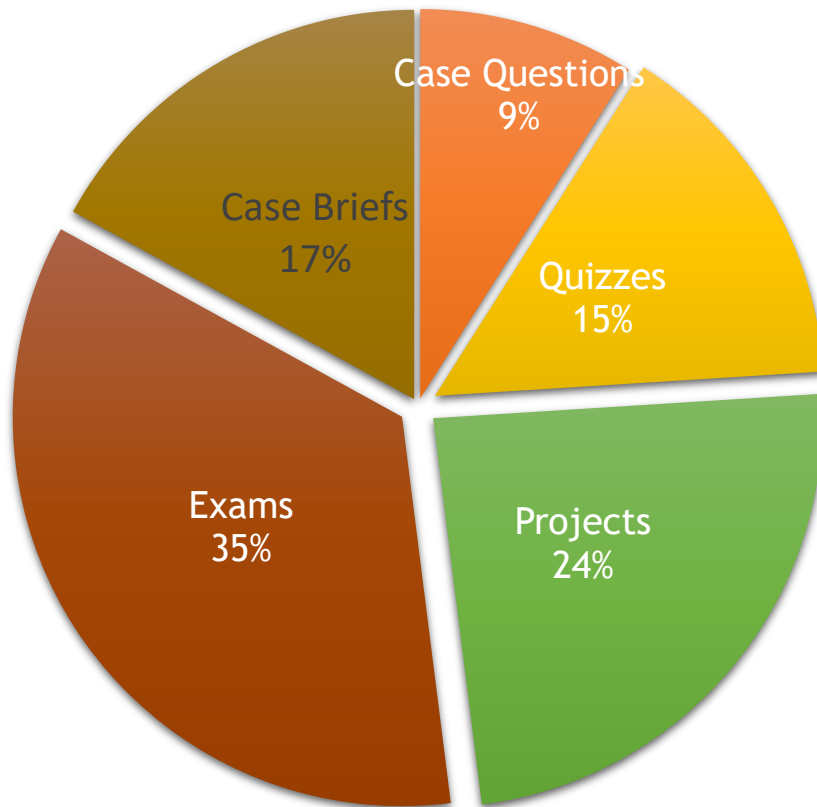
Case Brief #3: *University of Colorado v. Derdeyn*, 863 P.2d 929 (Colo. 1993) **due Wednesday**

Projects (24%)

Throughout the semester, students will work in groups to research a case and develop an argument in favor *and* against the ruling in the case. Each group will give a presentation of their case to the class. Instructions and the grading rubric regarding this project will be provided in Canvas.

The second major project for this course is an annotated bibliography. Student will work independently to collect and summarize **seven** law review articles concerning a specific legal topic in sports. Instructions and the grading rubric regarding this project will be provided in Canvas.

Assignment	Total Points
Quizzes/Assessments (5) x 50 pts each	250
Exams (3) x 200 pts each	600
Case Briefs (4) x 75 pts each	300
Projects (2) x 200 pts each	400
Case Questions (6) x 25 pts each	150
Total	1700



Grading Standards

A = 100% - 93.00%	A- = 92.99% - 90.00%		
B+ = 89.99% - 87.00%	B = 86.99% - 83.00%	B- = 82.99% - 80.00%	
C+ = 79.99% - 77.00%	C = 76.99% - 73.00%	C- = 72.99% - 70.00%	
D+ = 69.99% - 67.00%	D = 66.99% - 63.00%	D- = 62.99% - 60.00%	E = Below 60.00%

See current UF Grading Policies for further details: [Grades and Grading Policies](#)

Total Points	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
1581 - 1700	93.0-100	A	4.0
1530 - 1580	92.9-90.0	A-	3.67
1479 - 1529	87.0-89.9	B+	3.33
1411 - 1478	83.0-86.9	B	3.0
1360 - 1410	80.0-82.9	B-	2.67
1309 - 1359	77.0-79.9	C+	2.33
1241 - 1308	73.0-76.9	C	2.0
1190 - 1240	70.0-72.9	C-	1.67
1139 - 1189	67.0-69.9	D+	1.33
1071 - 1138	63.0-66.9	D	1.0
1020 - 1070	60.0-62.9	D-	.67
0 - 1019	0-59.9	E	0

Student and Teacher Expectations

My expectations for students:

- Complete weekly assigned readings before class
- Come to class prepared to participate and contribute to class discussions
- Pay attention and refrain from engaging in activity with computers and mobile devices that are do not pertain to the class
- Come to me if you are having problems with the class or material discussed in class

Your expectations for me (students will provide their expectations for the instructor)...

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [U Matter, We Care](#) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.
- University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/
- Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.
- General study skills and tutoring: teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/
- Student Complaints (On-Campus): sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code/student-conduct-code/

Course Schedule

Date	Reading	Assignment
Week 1 Sept. 1 - Sept. 3	Course Introduction Chapter 1	
Week 2 Sept. 8 - Sept. 10	Chapter 2 <i>Sanders v. Kuna Joint School Dist.*</i> <i>Dilger v. Moyles</i>	Quiz #1 Case Questions #1 Due 9/9
Week 3 Sept. 15 - Sept. 17	Chapter 3/TBL <i>Friedman v. Houston Sports Assoc.</i>	Case Brief #1 Due 9/16
Week 4 Sept. 22 - Sept. 24	Chapter 4 <i>Detroit Lions and Sims v. Argovitz*</i> Exam Review	Case Questions #2 Due 9/23
Week 5 Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	Exam 1 Chapter 5 <i>Fleming v. Kent State*</i>	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
Week 6 Oct. 6 - Oct. 8	Chapter 6/TBL <i>Moore v. University of Notre Dame</i>	Case Questions #3 Due 10/7
Week 7 Oct. 13 - Oct. 15	Chapter 7 <i>Vernonia v. Acton</i>	Case Brief #2 Due 10/14
Week 8 Oct. 20 - Oct. 22	Chapter 7 <i>Denis J. O'Connell HS v. Virginal HS League</i>	Quiz #2 Case Questions #4 Due 10/21
Week 9 Oct. 27 - Oct. 29	Chapter 8/TBL <i>Davis v. Monroe Cty. Bd of Ed.</i> <i>Kelley v. Board of Trustees</i>	Case Brief #3 Due 10/28
Week 10 Nov. 3 - Nov. 5	Exam Review Exam 2	Exam 2 (Chapters 5-8)
Week 11 Nov. 10 - Nov. 12	Chapter 9 <i>Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders v. Pussycat Cinema</i>	Case Brief #4 Due 11/4
Week 12 Nov. 17 - Nov. 19	Chapter 10 <i>Flood v. Kuhn</i>	Case Questions #5 Due 11/18 Annotated Bib. Due 11/20
Week 13 Nov. 24 - Nov. 26	Chapter 10 <i>NCAA v. Board of Regents</i> <i>O'Bannon v. NCAA</i>	Quiz #3
Week 14 Dec. 1 - Dec. 3	Chapter 11 <i>Brown v. Pro Football</i>	Case Questions #6 Due 12/2 Presentations Due 12/4
Week 15 Dec. 8 - Dec.10	Course Wrap-up	
Tuesday, December 15	Final Exam 7:30 - 9:30	Exam 3 (Chapters 9-11)

