



Issues in Sport Law

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Office Hours via Zoom: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am -
1:00pm and by appointment

SPM 6726, Section 11AE | Tuesdays 1:55pm | Virtual | Fall 2020

Course Description & Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the legal structures, statutes, case law, and standards that establish legal responsibilities, rights, privileges, and controls related to the field of sport management.

The objectives include:

- Describing the U.S. legal system
- Conducting and using methods of legal research
- Analyzing the role of law in sport and other physical activity programs
- Assessing and evaluating specific standards, legislation, case law, governing bodies, and legal issues related to the sport industry
- Developing a legal argument based on legal research and case analysis
- Explaining the legal issues that arise in sport and applicable law through case studies

Course Materials

Yasser, et al. (2020). *Sport Law: Cases and Materials (9th ed.)*. Carolina Academic Press.

ISBN: 978-1-5310-1707-1

ISBN (e-book): 978-1-5310-1708-8

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 and case study exercises that examine the application of relevant laws to issues in sports

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 are expected to have readings (especially assigned cases) for each week done prior to class.

Class attendance is expected. Students will be informed of the due dates for projects and presentations well in advance of their due dates.

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. 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 policies](#) and appropriate documentation is required. It is the student's responsibility to schedule time to make up any missed assignments.

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

Your final grade for this course is based on several categories of assignments each weighted differently and listed below.

Quizzes (13%)

Each week students will take a short open notebook quiz on the material assigned for that class. There will be 11 quizzes throughout the course, and I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Final Paper (37%)

As a part of this course you will be required to pick a topic in sport law to write a research paper on. To reduce the desire to procrastinate (and also to help provide guidance along the way), the final paper is broken up into four parts to be completed throughout the semester. Instructions for the final paper and each of its parts will be provided by the instructor.

- Part I: Topic Submission
- Part II: Case briefs of 3 cases relevant to your topic
- Part III: Article summaries of 3 law review articles
- Part IV: Paper Outline
- Part V: Final Paper*

Midterm (Short Paper) (20%)

In lieu of a midterm and final exam, students will be required to write a short paper (5 pages) based on research about a given topic covered in the course. Instructions to follow.

Case Briefs (30%)

You will have **six** cases to briefs throughout the semester. During the first 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 assigned case for each case brief is also listed below.

Case Brief 1: *Benejam v. Detroit Tigers*, 635 N.W.2d 219 (Mich. App. 2001), due Wednesday, September 9th

Case Brief 2: *Yocca v. Pittsburgh Steelers*, 854 A.2d 425 (Penn. 2004), due Wednesday, September 23rd

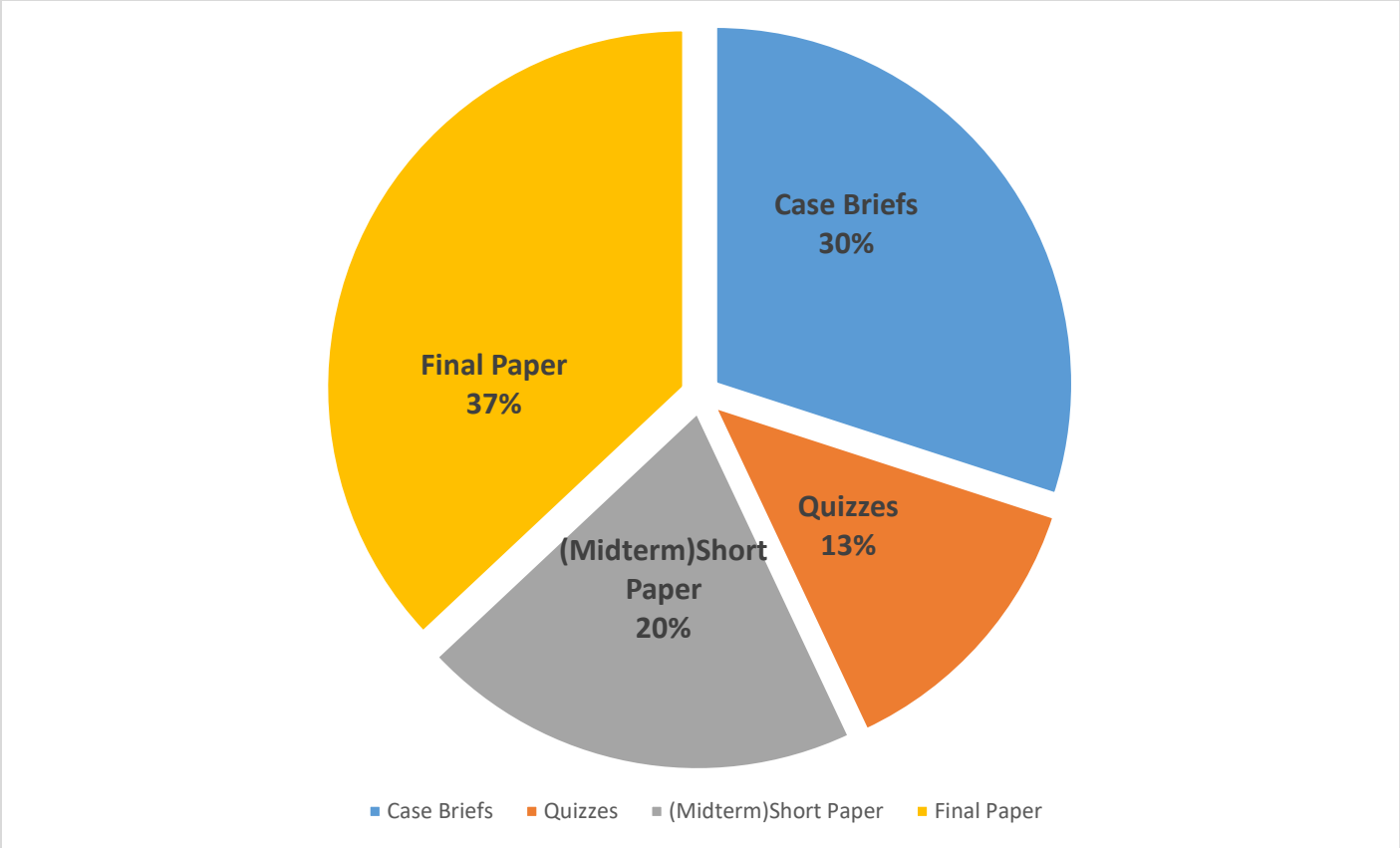
Case Brief 3: *Kelley v. Board of Trustees of Univ. Of Illinois*, 35 F.3d 265 (7th Cir. 1994), due Wednesday October 14th

Case Brief 4: *Tiffany v Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.*, 726 P.2d 231 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1986) *in textbook, due Wednesday, October 28th

Case Brief 5: *Davis v. Electronic Arts, Inc.*, 775 F.3d 1172, (9th Cir. 2015), due Wednesday, November 11th

Case Brief 6: *O'Bannon v. NCAA*, 802 F.3d 1049 (9th Cir. 2015), due Wednesday, December 2nd

Assignment		Total Points
Quizzes (10) x 20		200
Case Briefs (6) x 75 pts each		450
Short Paper (1) x 300		300
Final Paper	Part I 50pts Part II 75pts Part III 75pts Part IV 50pts Part V 300pts	550
Total		1500



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](#)

Grading Scale

Total Points	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
1395 - 1500	93.0-100	A	4.0
1350 - 1394	92.9-90.0	A-	3.67
1305 - 1349	87.0-89.9	B+	3.33
1245 - 1304	83.0-86.9	B	3.0
1200 - 1244	80.0-82.9	B-	2.67
1155 - 1199	77.0-79.9	C+	2.33
1095 - 1154	73.0-76.9	C	2.0
1050 - 1094	70.0-72.9	C-	1.67
1005 - 1049	67.0-69.9	D+	1.33
945 - 1004	63.0-66.9	D	1.0
900 - 944	60.0-62.9	D-	.67
0 - 899	0-59.9	E	0

*Graduate Final Exam Requirement (ONLY for New Fall 2020 Students and beyond)

During this course, the successful completion of the Legal Research paper will fulfill a requirement of the Graduate Final Exam which is a requirement to be completed prior to the completion of the M.S in Sport Management degree at the University of Florida. To successfully complete the Legal Research Paper, the student must earn a minimum of 80% on the assignment. A failure to meet the minimum of 80% will require the student to rewrite and resubmit the paper to the instructor by the stated deadline which will be before the end of the semester. However, the rewrite grade will not count towards the course but will count towards the successful completion of that Graduate Final Exam portion.

A failure to successfully rewrite and resubmit the paper will result in earning an “Incomplete” (I) grade for the course until the requirement has been met. (Please note: An “Incomplete” (I) grade becomes punitive to your overall GPA approximately one semester following the assigned “Incomplete” grade.) It is the student’s responsibility to arrange with the instructor and agree in writing the timeline for successfully completing the paper in fulfillment of the Graduate Final Exam portion. If the student successfully earns a minimum of 80% on the first submission of the paper, then no further action is necessary.

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 that 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/

OR

Students Complaints (Online): distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/

Course Schedule

Date	Readings	Assignment
Week 1 Sept. 1	Introduction Meeting Intro Lecture and Handout	
Week 2 Sept. 8	Torts (Part I) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 661-699) <i>Shin v. Ahn</i> <i>Edwards v. City of Albuquerque</i>	Case Brief #1 Due 9/9
Week 3 Sept. 15	Torts (Part II) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 726-745 and 754-768) <i>Cobb v. Time Inc.</i>	Final Paper Part I Due 9/16
Week 4 Sept. 22	Contract Law Lecture Chapter 1 (pp. 4-14) Chapter 3 (pp. 110-130) <i>Vanderbilt v. DiNardo</i> <i>Mendenhall v. Hanesbrands</i>	Case Brief #2 Due 9/23
Week 5 Sept. 29	Agency Law Lecture Chapter 10 NCAA Agent article	
Week 6 Oct. 6	Discrimination (Part I) Lecture Chapter 4 (pp. 144-188) <i>Simpson v. Univ. of Colorado</i> Rooney Rule Article	Final Paper Part II Due 10/7
Week 7 Oct. 13	Discrimination (Part II) Lecture Chapter 16	Case Brief #3 Due 10/14
Week 8 Oct. 20	Constitutional Law (Part I) Lecture Chapter 2 Chapter 17 <i>Vernonia v. Acton</i>	Short Paper Due 10/21
Week 9 Oct. 27	Constitutional Law Lecture Chapter 4 (pp.131-144) <i>Hayden v. Greendburg Cmty School Cor.</i> <i>Palmer v. Thompson</i>	Case Brief #4 Due 10/28
Week 10 Nov. 3	International Sports Chapter 18	Final Paper Part III Due 11/4
Week 11 Nov. 10	Intellectual Prop. Lecture Chapter 15	Case Brief #5 Due 11/11
Week 12 Nov. 17	Antitrust Law Part I Lecture Chapter 6 (pp. 247-289 and pp. 363-388) <i>Federal Baseball v. National League</i> <i>USFL v. NFL</i>	

	<i>Fraser v. MLS</i>	
Week 13 Nov. 24	Antitrust Law Part II Lecture Chapter 5 <i>Alston v. NCAA</i>	Final Paper Part IV Due 11/24
Week 14 Dec. 1	Labor Law Lecture Chapter 1 (pp. 25-31) & Chapter 8	Case Brief #6 Due 12/2
Week 15 Dec. 8	No class	Final Paper Due 12/8

