

Issues in Sport Law

SPM 6726
Section

Thursdays 3:00-6:00

FLG 225

Spring 2021

University of Florida

Department of
Sport Management



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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00am-11:00am; Thursdays 12:00pm-2:00pm; also by
appointment

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. **(Required)**

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 up to 24 hours after the due date and will receive partial credit.

Quizzes, cannot be made up, 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.

Because technical problems can arise at any time, I advised that you do not wait until the last minute to turn in assignments or complete quizzes. I'm less sympathetic to issues due to procrastination.

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.*

***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: *Shin v. Ahn*, 165 P.3d 581 (Cal. Ct. App. 2007)

Case Brief 2: *Fleming v. Kent State*, 17 N.E.3d 620 (Ohio App. 2014)

Case Brief 3: *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, 544 U.S. 167 (2005)

Case Brief 4: *Brentwood Academy v. TSSAA*, 531 U.S. 288 (2001)

Case Brief 5: *Abdul-Jabbar v. General Motors Corp.*, 85 F.3d 407 (9th Cir. 1995)

Case Brief 6: *Silverman v. MLBPRC, Inc.*, 67 F.3d 1054 (2nd Cir. 1995)

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 part can be found on Canvas.

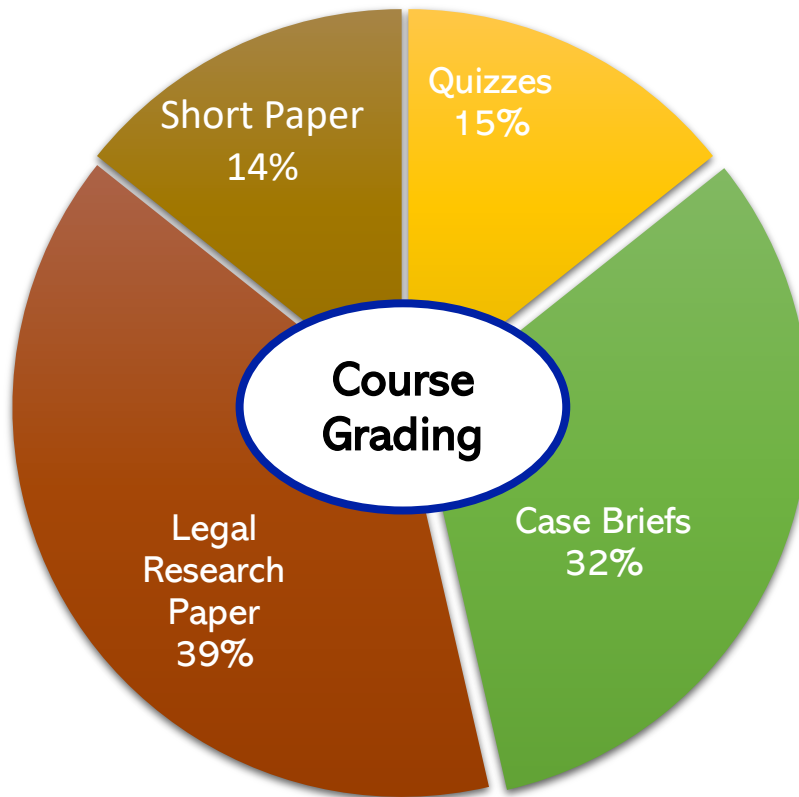
- Part I: Topic Submission
- Part II: Case briefs of 3 cases relevant to your topic
- Part III: Article summaries of 3 law review articles
- Part IV: Paper Outline
- Part V: Final Paper

*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 and grading rubric can be found on Canvas.

****All written assignments will be submitted through Turnitin via Canvas, unless otherwise instructed. Plagiarism is a violation of the Student Honor Code. If a student is deemed to have plagiarized, he or she can be given a zero for the assignment and an Honor Code Incident Report will be filed with the Dean of Students Office.***

Assignment		Total Points
Quizzes (10) x 20		200
Case Briefs (6) x 75 pts each		450
Short Paper (1) x 200		200
Final Paper	Part I 50pts Part II 75pts Part III 75pts Part IV 50pts Part V 300pts	550
Total		1400



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](#)

****Do not ask the instructor questions regarding your grade. Rounding up is completely under the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit is not offered in this course. If you want to challenge a grade of a quiz or assignment, please come to the professor with evidence from the textbook or case materials to justify your grade change request. You must do so within three days after the assignment has been graded.**

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

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.

University COVID-19 Guidelines

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

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-codestudent-conduct-code/

OR

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

Course Schedule

Date	Readings	Assignment
Week 1 January 14	Introduction Meeting Intro Lecture and Handout	
Week 2 January 21	Torts (Part I) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 661-699) <i>Edwards v. City of Albuquerque</i>	Case Brief 1 Due 1/22 Week 2 Quiz Due 1/22
Week 3 January 28	Torts (Part II) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 726-745 and 754-768) <i>Cobb v. Time Inc.</i>	Final Paper Part I Due 1/29 Week 3 Quiz Due 1/29
Week 4 February 4	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 2/5 Week 4 Quiz Due 2/5
Week 5 February 11	Agency Law Lecture Chapter 10 NCAA Agent article	Week 5 Quiz Due 2/12
Week 6 February 18	Discrimination (Part I) Lecture Chapter 4 (pp. 144-188) <i>Simpson v. Univ. of Colorado</i> Rooney Rule Article	Final Paper Part II Due 2/19 Week 6 Quiz Due 2/19
Week 7 February 25	Discrimination (Part II) Lecture Chapter 16	Case Brief 3 Due 2/26 Week 7 Quiz Due 2/26
Week 8 March 4	Constitutional Law (Part I) Lecture Chapter 2 Chapter 17 <i>Vernonia v. Acton</i>	Short Paper Due 3/5
Week 9 March 11	Constitutional Law Lecture Chapter 4 (pp.131-144) <i>Hayden v. Greenburg Cmty. School Corp.</i> <i>Palmer v. Thompson</i>	Case Brief 4 Due 3/12 Week 9 Quiz Due 3/12
Week 10 March 18	International Sports Chapter 18	Final Paper Part III Due 3/19 Week 10 Quiz Due 3/19
Week 11 March 25	Intellectual Prop. Lecture Chapter 15	Case Brief 5 Due 3/26 Week 11 Quiz Due 3/26
Week 12 April 1	Antitrust Law Part I Lecture Chapter 6 (pp. 247-289 and pp. 363-375) <i>USFL v. NFL</i>	Week 12 Quiz Due 4/2
Week 13 April 8	Antitrust Law Part II Lecture Chapter 5 <i>Alston v. NCAA</i>	Final Paper Part IV Due 4/9 Week 13 Quiz Due 4/9
Week 14 April 15	Labor Law Lecture Chapter 1 (pp. 25-31) & Chapter 8	Case Brief #6 Due 4/16
Week 15	No class	Final Paper Due 4/21

April 21		
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