

# Issues in Sport Law

**Course Number:**

**SPM 6726**

**Day/Time:**

**Online**

**Location:**

**Virtual**

**Semester:**

**Spring 2023**

**Instructor's Name:**

**Dr. Cyntrice Thomas**

**Email Address:**

[cthomas10@ufl.edu](mailto:cthomas10@ufl.edu)

**Phone Number:**

**352-294-1669**

**Office: FLG 312**

**Office Hours:**

**Wednesdays 9am-11am, Thursdays 10am-noon; and by appointment**

## Course Description

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.

## Objectives

The objectives for the course 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 (9<sup>th</sup> 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. Video lectures will be accessible through 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 you are professional and that use your school email address and include the following information when emailing me:

**Name**

**Course**

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

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

**Please allow for 24 hours for a response on the weekdays and 48 hours for a response on the weekends.**

## Course Policies

This course is primarily done in a combination of a lecture format and engagement exercises that examine current and relevant issues in sports. Opinions held by other students should be respected. Students are expected to watch the videos and complete readings and assignments for each module. Students are informed of the due dates for discussions, quizzes, and assignments well in advance on the syllabus and Canvas.

**Therefore, extensions will not be given for discussions, engagement activities or quizzes. Late assignments will only be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date and will receive partial credit. After that time assignments will be locked. Make-up quizzes will not be offered.** Exceptions are excused absences consistent with the [university policies](#)

and at the discretion of the instructor with appropriate documentation. It is the student's responsibility to arrange to make up assignments, if allowed.

***Because technical problems can arise at any time, I strongly advised that you do not wait until the last minute to turn in assignments, complete discussions, engagement activities, or 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 for this course.

### 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.2d 581 (Cal. 2007)

**Case Brief 2:** *Fox Sports Net v. Minnesota Twins Partnership*, 319 F.3d 329 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003)

**Case Brief 3:** *Atkinson v. Lafayette College*, 460 F.3d 447 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2006)

**Case Brief 4:** *Christian Heritage Academy v. OSSAA*, 435 F.3d 1025 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2007)

**Case Brief 5:** *Dryer v. NFL*, 814 F.3d 938 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2015)

**Case Brief 6:** *Mackey v. NFL*, 543 F.2d 606 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976)

### Quizzes (17%)

Each module students will take an open book/open notebook quiz on the material assigned for that class. There will be five quizzes throughout the course.

### \*Final Paper (30%)

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\*

### \*Short Paper (10%)

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.

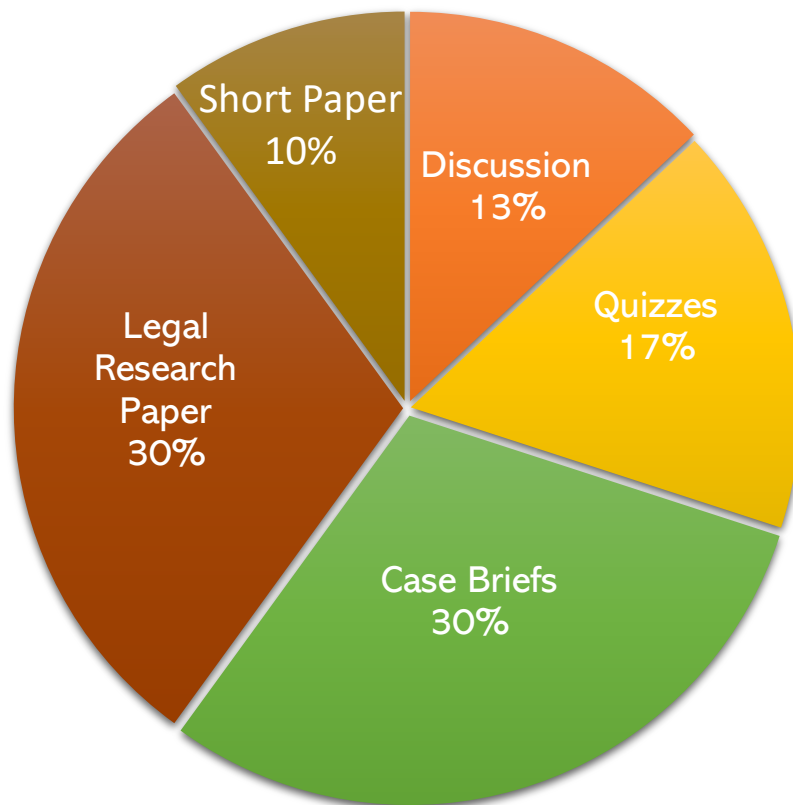
### Discussions (13%)

Because this is online course, we can't engage in traditional classroom discussions, so discussion questions are a way to provide a classroom experience online. Each student is required to make **at least 3 posts** for each discussion. **An initial discussion post in response to the discussion question must be made by Thursday (exact dates are given in each discussion prompt. Do not rely on the Canvas calendar because it will not include a date for your initial post).** The remaining to discussion posts should be in response to other students' initial discussion post. Those responses should be substantive and provide additional analysis and/or raise additional questions. Each post should be between 150-200 words.

***\* All written assignments are submitted through Turnitin via Canvas, unless otherwise instructed. Students are to work alone on all assignments. There is no group work in this course. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the Student Honor Code. If a***

*student has plagiarized, they 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 (5) x 50		250
Discussions (8) x 25 pts each		200
Case Briefs (6) x 75 pts each		450
Short Paper (1) x 150		150
Final Paper	Part I 50pts Part II 75pts Part III 75pts Part IV 50pts Part V 200pts	450
<b>Total</b>		<b>1500</b>



## Grading Scale and 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](#)

***\*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 submission, 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 grade has been posted. Do not take screenshots of quizzes. The instructor already has access to them.***

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.0-100	A	4.0
92.9-90.0	A-	3.67
87.0-89.9	B+	3.33
83.0-86.9	B	3.0
80.0-82.9	B-	2.67
77.0-79.9	C+	2.33
73.0-76.9	C	2.0
70.0-72.9	C-	1.67
67.0-69.9	D+	1.33
63.0-66.9	D	1.0
60.0-62.9	D-	.67
0-59.9	E	0

## 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 accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester to ensure full access to all accommodations.

## 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](#). 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.

## Campus Resources

### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://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/](http://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/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).
- University Police Department: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://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](https://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](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services [career.ufl.edu/](https://career.ufl.edu/)
- Library Support: [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/](https://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/](https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)
- Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)
- Student Complaints (On-Campus): [sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/)

**OR**

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



## Course Schedule

Date/Topic	Readings	Assignment
<b>Jan. 9 – Jan. 15</b> Module 1: Intro	Intro Lecture and Handouts	Module 1 Discussion <b>Due 1/15</b> Module 1 Quiz <b>Due 1/15</b>
Jan. 17 – Jan. 29 Module 2: Torts	Chapter 14 <i>Edwards v. City of Albuquerque</i> <i>Cobb v. Time Inc.</i>	Module 2 Discussion <b>Due 1/22</b> Case Brief 1 <b>Due 1/22</b>
		Module 2 Quiz <b>Due 1/29</b> Final Paper Part I <b>Due 1/29</b>
<b>Jan. 30 – Feb. 12</b> Module 3: Contract Law and Agency Law	Chapter 1 (pp. 4-14) Chapter 3 (pp. 110-130) Chapter 10 <i>Vanderbilt v. DiNardo</i> <i>Detroit Lions v. Argovitz</i>	Module 3 Discussion <b>Due 2/5</b> Case Brief 2 <b>Due 2/5</b>
		Module 3 Quiz <b>Due 2/12</b>
<b>Feb. 13 – Feb. 26</b> Module 4: Discrimination	Chapter 4 (144-188) Chapter 16 <i>Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education</i>	Module 4 Discussion <b>Due 2/19</b> Case Brief 3 <b>Due 2/19</b>
		Module 4 Quiz <b>Due 2/26</b> Final Paper Part II <b>Due 2/26</b>
<b>Feb. 27 – March 12</b> Module 5: Constitutional Law	Chapter 2, 4, & Chapter 17 <i>Vernonia v. Acton</i> <i>Manahoy Area School Dist. v. B.L.</i> <i>Hayden v. Greensburg Community School Dist.</i>	Module 5 Discussion <b>Due 3/5</b> Case Brief 4 <b>Due 3/5</b>
		Short Paper <b>Due 3/12</b>
<b>March 12 – March 19</b>	Spring Break	
<b>March 20 – April 2</b> Module 6: Intellectual Property/International Law	Intellectual Property and International Sport Law Chapter 15 Chapter 18	Module 6 Discussion <b>Due 3/26</b> Case Brief 5 <b>Due 3/26</b>
		Module 6 Quiz <b>Due 4/2</b> Final Paper, Part III <b>Due 4/2</b>
<b>April 3 – April 16</b> Module 7: Antitrust Law	Antitrust Law Chapter 6 (pp. 247-289 and 363-375) <i>Federal Baseball v. National League</i> <i>Fraser v. MLS</i> <i>USFL v. NFL</i> Chapter 5 <i>Alston v. NCAA</i> <i>USFL v. NFL</i>	Module 7 Discussion <b>Due 4/9</b> Case Brief 6 <b>Due 4/9</b>
		Module 7 Quiz <b>Due 4/16</b> Final Paper, Part IV <b>Due 4/16</b>
<b>April 17 – April 26</b> Module 8: Labor Law	Labor Law Chapter 1 (pp.25-31) Chapter 8	Module 8 Discussion <b>Due 4/23</b>
		Final Paper <b>Due 4/26</b>

