

Legal Issues in Sport & Physical Activity Programs

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SPM4723 | Class #14621 | 3 Credits | Spring 2026

Course Info

INSTRUCTOR

David C. Lucier, Ph.D.

Office: 302 FLG

Office Phone: 352-846-3455

Email: dlucier@ufl.edu

Preferred Method of Contact: Email through Canvas

OFFICE HOURS

T/R 10:30am to 11:30am, W 9:30am to 10:30am or by appointment

MEETING TIME/LOCATION

FLG 210 T periods 2-3, R period 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the U.S. legal system, statutes, standards, and case law that establish legal responsibilities, rights, privileges, and controls related to the field of sport management. Students will study and analyze the law as it pertains to sport/physical activity programs, as well as examine how courts have interpreted and applied laws.

PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

SPM 2000 & junior standing or higher

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Required Textbook:

Spengler, J.O., Anderson, P., Connaughton, D.P., & Baker, T.A. (2023). *Introduction to Sport Law (3rd ed.)*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. ISBN: 9781450457002

Recommended Textbook:

Kaufman, R. & Moiseichik, M.L. (2013). *Integrated Risk Management for Leisure*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics. ISBN: 9780736095655

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

COURSE FORMAT

Attendance is expected at all classes. Professional behavior is also expected, and please be considerate of others by not talking during lectures. Please silence all ringers or alarms prior to class. All electronic devices are to be used for class purposes only (e.g. taking notes). If you must answer a call or attend to non-class matters, please quietly step outside so as not to distract anyone else.

There will be 2 lectures each week to provide an overview and key points of the topics covered that week. The primary purpose of the lectures is to introduce the topic and set the stage for your readings, assignments, and class discussions where you'll further explore and learn about the topics. Abbreviated PowerPoint (PPT) slides will be available to you, prior to class, on the Canvas course site. The in-class lectures will provide you with the information missing on the abbreviated PPT slides, and will likely include additional new/updated information not present on the abbreviated slides. If you miss class, ask a classmate for the notes as the instructor will not provide the notes/full slides.

You are expected to read all reading assignments, attend all classes, listen to lectures, actively participate in discussions, view materials presented, and take notes. Material from assignments, lectures, PPT slides, guest and student presentations, videos, and readings may be included on the exams, graded assignments, and quizzes.

Course readings will be assigned for each week, and you will be responsible for material in the readings, even if it is not covered in the lecture. You are expected to read assigned materials for the week prior to attending class. Reading assignments will involve textbooks, case law, and other material. The law has a language of its own and it takes some effort to learn it. It is important to keep up with the reading so you can learn the key terms and concepts, be better prepared for the exams, and contribute to class discussions.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, you will be expected to:

- Understand the basics of the U.S. legal system
- Describe the role of law and its relationship with sport and physical activity programs
- Describe legislation, standards, concepts, and other issues related to legal aspects common to most sport and physical activity programs
- Conduct research, analyze, and further explore legal issues related to sport and physical activity programs

Course & University Policies

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolices>

ATTENDANCE

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See [UF Academic Regulations and Policies](#) for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

PERSONAL CONDUCT & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The [Student Honor Code and Conduct Code \(Regulation 4.040\)](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course.

APPROPRIATE USE OF AI TECHNOLOGY

The UF Honor Code strictly prohibits [cheating](#). The use of any materials or resources prepared by another person or Entity (inclusive of generative AI tools) without the other person or Entity's express consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity is considered *cheating*. Additionally, the use of any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty / Instructor has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a student, constitutes *cheating*. The use of any AI tools on work or assignments submitted for this course is strictly prohibited.

IN-CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. You may find more information here: <https://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. Any student who is absent from class or misses any required class-related activity, including assignments or exams, due to illness should contact the instructor as early as possible prior to the missed class or activity and provide documentation to verify illness. See [UF Academic Regulations and Policies](#) for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.

ACCOMMODATING 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 their Get Started page at <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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. Students can complete evaluations in three ways: (1) The email they receive from GatorEvals, (2) Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or (3) The central portal located [here](#). Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at [the gator evals site](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are also available at [the gator evals site](#).

Getting Help

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- ***U Matter, We Care:*** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- ***Counseling and Wellness Center:*** Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) 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 the [Student Health Care Center website](#).
- ***University Police Department:*** Visit [UF Police Department website](#) 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; or visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- ***GatorWell Health Promotion Services:*** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

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.
- ***Library Support:*** 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.
- ***Writing Studio:*** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- ***Student Complaints & Grievances:*** Students are encouraged to communicate first with the involved person(s), but [here](#) is more information on the appropriate reporting process.

Grading

Evaluation Components	Percent of Total Grade
Exams (3)	67%
Assignments (13)	14%
Quizzes (4)	11%
Risk Management Project	8%

Exams – You will be tested over course materials covered in class and through lectures, readings, class notes, and assignments. These exams are comprised of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer essay-type questions, and will consist of approx. 40 questions per exam. Exams are closed-book exams. No notes, PPT slides, textbooks, webpages/websites, scratch paper, or any other material is allowed, or to be used, during the exam. Peer collaboration and/or outside assistance of any kind is strictly prohibited. Exams will be administered in class on the dates listed in the syllabus, and late/make-up exams will NOT be given.

Assignments – Throughout the course, you will submit 1-2 page reports that illustrate understanding and comprehension of course content. Assignments will include case briefs and article reviews related to lecture topics and class discussions.

Quizzes – You will be tested over course materials covered in class and through lectures, readings, class notes, and assignments. These quizzes are comprised of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer essay-type questions, and will consist of approx. 5-10 questions per quiz. Quizzes are closed-book. No notes, PPT slides, textbooks, webpages/websites, scratch paper, or any other material is allowed, or to be used, during the quiz. Peer collaboration and/or outside assistance of any kind is strictly prohibited. Quizzes will be administered in class on the dates listed in the syllabus, and late/make-up quizzes will not be given.

Risk Management Project – This project is a hands-on, practical assignment where you will use your negligence and risk management knowledge obtained from the course to complete an actual risk management audit of instructor-approved sport/fitness/recreation facilities. The grade for this project will be determined using the following categories and percentages: risk and standard of care identification and documentation (40%), risk classification (20%), risk treatment (20%), and photographs of potential risks (20%). A more detailed rubric will be provided in CANVAS.

GRADING SCALE

You may find the University grades and grading policies here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Letter Grade	Percent of Total Points Associated with Each Letter Grade	GPA Impact of Each Letter Grade
A	93.00-100%	4.0
A-	90.00-92.99%	3.67
B+	87.00-89.99%	3.33
B	83.00-86.99%	3.0
B-	80.00-82.99%	2.67
C+	77.00-79.99%	2.33
C	73.00-76.99%	2.0
C-	70.00-72.99%	1.67
D+	67.00-69.99%	1.33
D	63.00-66.99%	1.0
D-	60.00-62.99%	0.67
E	0-59.99%	0

Weekly Course Schedule

CRITICAL DATES & UF OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

- January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Monday)
- March 16 – 20: UF Spring Break
- April 23 – 24: UF Spring Semester Reading Days (Thursday – Friday)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic and Assignments	Due Dates
1	1/12-1/16	Course Introduction & U.S. Legal System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the syllabus & Chapter 1 	
2	1/19-1/23	Legal Research & Emergency Action Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation Quiz: 1/19 • <i>Assignment #1: 1/20</i> • <i>Assignment #2: 1/22</i>
3	1/26-1/30	Tort Law/Negligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assignment #3: 1/28</i>
4	2/2-2/6	Negligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assignment #4: 2/4</i> • <i>Assignment #5: 2/6</i>
5	2/9-2/13	Defenses to Negligence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 & 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilities for RM Project: 2/9</i> • Quiz #1: 2/10

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #6: 2/11
6	2/16-2/21	Product Liability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #7: 2/18
7	2/23-2/27	Exam #1 & Constitutional Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 7 	Exam #1 – Tuesday 2/24
8	3/2-3/6	Constitutional Law & Gender Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 7 & 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Project: 3/4
9	3/9-3/13	Gender Equity & Disability Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 6 & 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2: 3/10 • Assignment #8: 3/11
10	3/16-3/20	UF Spring Break	
11	3/23-3/27	Agency Law & Contract Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4 & 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #9: 3/25 • Assignment #10: 3/27
12	3/30-4/3	Exam #2 & Contract Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5 	Exam #2 – Tuesday 3/31
13	4/6-4/10	Contract Law & Employment Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #11: 4/8 • Assignment #12: 4/10
14	4/13-4/17	Employment Law, Governing Bodies, & Intellectual Property Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapters 6 & 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3: 4/14 • Assignment #13: 4/15
15	4/20-4/25	Exam #3	Exam #3 – Tuesday 4/21
Backup for Exam #3: 4/28 @ 10:00am			

SUCCESS AND STUDY TIPS

Most importantly, please attend class. If you must miss a class, please ask a reliable classmate to share notes with you. Please also read all assigned readings prior to attending the course lecture discussing those readings. The lectures will provide clarity and add dimension to the information you have already read. Lectures will be easier to follow if you have already been introduced to the concepts and terminology through the readings. Download the PPT slides from Canvas prior to the lecture and fill in blanks/take notes.