

Issues in Sport Law

Course Number:
SPM 6726

Day/Time:
Thursdays 3:00-6:00

Location:
FLG 225

Semester:
Spring 2023

Instructor's Name:
Dr. Cyntrice Thomas

Email Address:
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 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.

Objectives

The objectives for the course include:

- 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

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 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 complete readings and assignments for each module before class. Students are informed of the due dates for quizzes, and assignments well in advance on the syllabus and Canvas. **Therefore, extensions will not be given for 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, activities, or quizzes. I'm less sympathetic to submission 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 (35%)**

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: *Koffman v. Garnett*, 574 S.E.2d 258 (Va. 2003)

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

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

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

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

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

Quizzes (15%)

Each week students will take a short open book/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 (35%)

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 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) (15%)

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.

Participation

A portion of your grade will be based on your participation and contribution to the learning in the course. This grade will be based on your general participation in in-class activities and your facilitation and involvement in class discussions.

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

*** 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.**



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. Asking them to round up your grade is not necessary or helpful. 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, 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 12	Introduction Meeting Intro Lecture and Handout	
Week 2 January 19	Torts (Part I) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 661-699) <i>Edwards v. City of Albuquerque</i>	Case Brief 1 Due 1/20 Week 2 Quiz Due 1/20
Week 3 January 26	Torts (Part II) Lecture Chapter 14 (pp. 726-745 and 754-768) <i>Cobb v. Time Inc.</i>	Final Paper Part I Due 1/27 Week 3 Quiz Due 1/27
Week 4 February 2	Contract Law Lecture Chapter 1 (pp. 4-14) Chapter 3 (pp. 110-130) <i>Vanderbilt v. DiNardo</i> Force Majeur: <i>UCLA v. Under Armour</i>	Case Brief 2 Due 2/3 Week 4 Quiz Due 2/3
Week 5 February 9	Agency Law Lecture Chapter 10 <i>Detroit Lions and Sims v. Argovitz</i>	Week 5 Quiz Due 2/10
Week 6 February 16	Discrimination (Part I) Lecture Chapter 4 (pp. 144-188) <i>Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Ed.</i>	Final Paper Part II Due 2/17 Week 6 Quiz Due 2/17
Week 7 February 23	Discrimination (Part II) Lecture Chapter 16	Case Brief 3 Due 2/24 Week 7 Quiz Due 2/24
Week 8 March 3	Constitutional Law (Part I) Chapters 2 and 17 <i>Vernonia v. Acton</i>	Short Paper Due 3/4
Week 9 March 9	Constitutional Law Lecture (Part II) Chapter 4 (pp.131-144) <i>Hayden v. Greenburg Cmty. School Corp.</i>	Case Brief 4 Due 3/10 Week 9 Quiz Due 3/10
Week 10 March 12-18	Spring Break	
Week 11 March 23	International Sports Chapter 18	Final Paper Part III Due 3/24 Week 11 Quiz Due 3/24
Week 12 March 30	Intellectual Prop. Lecture Chapter 15	Case Brief 5 Due 3/31 Week 12 Quiz Due 3/31
Week 13 April 6	Antitrust Law Part I Lecture Chapter 6 (pp. 247-289 and pp. 363-375) <i>Federal Baseball v. National League</i> <i>Fraser v. MLS</i> <i>USFL v. NFL</i>	Week 13 Quiz Due 4/7 Final Paper Part IV Due 4/7
Week 14 April 13	Antitrust Law Part II Lecture Chapter 5	Week 14 Quiz Due 4/14 Case Brief #6 Due 4/14

	<i>Alston v. NCAA</i> <i>NCAA v. Alston</i>	
Week 15 April 20	Labor Law Lecture Chapter 1 (pp. 25-31) & Chapter 8	
Week 16	Final Paper	Final Paper Due 4/26