

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, RECREATION AND SPORT MANAGEMENT
COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

SPM 4723: Legal Issues in Sport and Physical Activity (3 Credits)

Course Syllabus, Fall 2009

Professor: Dr. John O. Spengler

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Teaching Assistant: Mary Waechter

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Office Hours: 4th Period: MTWTh

Textbooks:

- 1.) Spengler, J.O., Anderson, P. (2009). *Introduction to Sport Law*. Human Kinetics Publishing Co.
- 2.) Spengler, J.O., Connaughton, D.P., & Pittman, A. (2006). *Risk management in sport and recreation*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the legal system, including statutes, standards, and laws that establish legal responsibilities, rights, and privileges, and controls related to the field of sport management. Students will conduct a careful analysis of the law as it pertains to sport, as well as an examination of how courts have interpreted and applied these laws through case law.

Course Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of the basic legal system and be able to describe how laws are made and interpreted by the courts.
2. Know and understand basic legal terminology and how to conduct legal research
3. Gain an understanding of the role of law in sport and physical activity.
4. Provide opportunities to study legislation, torts, and other legal concepts and subject areas related to exercise, sport, and physical activity programs.

Course Requirements: Point Values (Total Points 400)

Participation: 50 Points (In-Class Assignments)

Case Brief: 10 Points

Project: 40 Points

Exam I: 100 points

Exam II: 100 points

Exam III: 100 points

Grading Scale:

360-400 points = A

320-359 points = B

280-319 points = C

240-279 points = D

239 and below points = E

****Note: There are no minus grades. Plus grades are 68-70%; 78-80%; and 88-90%.***

Requirements:

1. *Readings:* Course readings will be assigned throughout the semester. Reading assignments will involve text readings and legal case analysis. It is important to keep up with the reading so you can learn the terms and concepts. The law has a language all its own and it takes some effort to learn it. A case brief will be assigned the first week of the semester. You will be required to stand in front of the class and discuss one of your cases.
2. *Participation:* Participation will be graded through random, in-class assignments. You are responsible for the material and assignments presented in class. If you are absent when materials are distributed, it is your responsibility to obtain the information.
3. *Assignments and Projects.* Case briefs, projects and in-class assignments will account for 100 total points. The case brief will count 10 points toward your total grade. For this assignment, you brief and present a selected case to the class. In-class assignments (ICAs) will count 50 points toward your grade and will consist of a short narrative on a chosen topic during class. Each ICA will be worth at least 5 pts. You will receive one excused absence for a missed ICA. No credit will be given for additional missed ICAs. The project will be assigned at the midpoint of the semester. Project details will be provided in class. The point total for the project is 40 points.
4. *Exams:* Three exams will be given during the semester. Exam content will be based heavily on material from the lectures and associated readings. Each exam is cumulative and may contain material from any prior material covered in class. Each exam is valued at 100 points.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS will be given without an excused, approved absence, prior to the exam date.

5. *Cell Phones*: The policy on cell phones is as follows: On exam days: you will receive a zero for your exam if your cell phone rings during class, you speak or make any form of communication using your cell phone during an exam, or your cell phone is within your line of sight. On regular class days, you will lose 10 points from your final grade for each time: your cell phone rings during class, you speak on your cell phone or make any other form of communication, or play games using your cell phone. Penalties will begin with the first offense- there are no warnings.
6. *Academic Integrity*: All students must adhere to university regulations regarding academic integrity. All violations involving academic integrity will be resolved through the UF Office of Judicial Affairs.
7. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1	Introduction to Law and Law in Sport	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 1 Notes
Week 2	The Legal Process & Legal Research	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 1
Week 3	Tort Law: Negligence	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 2
Week 4	Intentional Torts & Product Liability	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 2
Week 5	Risk Management; Exam #1	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 3 Spengler (RM), assigned readings and notes
Week 6	Risk Management	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 3 Spengler (RM), assigned readings and notes
Week 7	Risk Management	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 3 Spengler (RM), assigned readings and notes
Week 8	Agency Law	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 4

Week 9	Contract Law and Waivers	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 5
Week 10	Employment Law; Exam #2	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 6
Week 11	Constitutional Law	Spengler (Sport Law) Chapter 7
Week 12	Employment and Gender	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 6,8
Week 13	Intellectual Property	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 9
Week 14	Antitrust	Spengler (Sport Law), Chapter 9
Week 15	Special Topics; Exam #3	TBA
Week 16	Special Topics	TBA

Resources:

Sports Law Blog: <http://sports-law.blogspot.com/>

Tools of the Trade: <http://data.momentummedia.com/mailreq/issue?mid=101&m=3168687>

Lexis-Nexis: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe>

Lawcrawler: <http://lawcrawler.findlaw.com/>

Findlaw: <http://www.findlaw.com/>

Sport and Recreation Law Association: <http://www.srlaweb.org/>

Wikipedia: <http://wikipedia.org/>

Tentative Exam Dates:

Wed. Sept. 23

Wed. Oct. 21

Fri. Dec. 4

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.