

Issues in Sport Law
SPM 6726
Fall 2009

Meeting times: Wed (8-10th period, 3:00-6:00pm)

Class location: TUR 1315

Instructor:

Dr. Dan Connaughton
Office location - 186B FLG
392-4042, Ext. 1296
danc@hhp.ufl.edu

Office Hours:

Wed: 9:15-11:15am
Thurs: 9:30-10:30am

Other office hours by appointment only.

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Course Description and Purpose:

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.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce the student to the U.S. legal system;
2. To introduce the student to legal research;
3. To introduce the student to the role of law in sport and other physical activity programs;
4. To provide the student opportunities to study specific standards, legislation, case law, governing bodies, and legal issues related to the sport industry; and
5. To provide the student opportunities to make presentations and conduct research on sport law-related topics.

Topics:

The United States legal system
Research skills for the study of law
Tort law, Negligence, Product Liability
Risk management
Constitutional law and issues
Drug testing issues
Contract law
Employment law
Legislation affecting physically/mentally challenged individuals
Gender issues & Title IX
Sport governing bodies and professional associations

Required Textbooks:

Cotten, D.J., & Wolohan, J. (2007). *Law for recreation and sport managers* (4th ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt.

Spengler, J.O., Connaughton, D.P., & Pittman, A. (2006). *Risk management in sport and recreation*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

Methods of Presentation (tentative):

1. Lecture/Discussion
2. Field Trip(s) - Law Library
3. Individual Student and Small-Group Presentations
4. Guest Speaker(s)
5. Audio Visual

Grading and Evaluation:

Exam 1: 70 pts

Exam 2: 70 pts

Research Paper: 100 pts

Presentation(s): 40 pts

RM Project: 20 pts

In/Out-class Assignments: 20 pts

Total possible course points: 320

Grades will be awarded according to the following scale:

A 288-320 points

B+ 282-287.9 points

B 256-281.9 points

C+ 250-255.9 points

C 224-249.9 points

D+ 218-223.9 points

D 192-217.9 points

E 000-191.9 points

ONLY the above grades will be allocated. Grades of "S or U" will not be given in this course.

NOTE: A daily sign-in log will be maintained throughout the course. More than 2 absences will result in a 5% reduction from total course points earned (for each absence after the second absence). Class attendance and active participation is an expectation – especially since we only meet once per week.

Course Policies:

Information presented in the course in no way represents legal advice. Likewise, the instructor will not provide any legal advice to students. Should students need legal advice, they are encouraged to contact a licensed attorney.

All quizzes and exams are to be taken at the time assigned. Any assignment or exam missed will be recorded as a zero. Should a student have written documentation of an excused absence (e.g., medical emergency, death in family)

that prevents taking an exam or turning in an assignment, it may only be made up if the student has proper written documentation of the emergency AND if the student let the instructor know in advance. If an emergency arises on the exam/assignment due day and you absolutely must miss the exam, you must send the instructor an email or leave a voicemail prior to the exam. Again, this should only happen in the case of an emergency. Make-ups will not be given if (a) proper written documentation (*e.g., record or note from a physician in the case of severe illness/medical emergency, or a funeral/obituary notice in the case of a death*) is not provided, and (b) if you don't leave or send a message prior to the exam (unless medically unable to do so).

Students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification, of one week, to the instructor.

All examinations must be completed in the assigned time. Therefore, ***DO NOT BE LATE TO CLASS ON THE DAY OF ANY QUIZ OR EXAM.*** If a student arrives late for an exam/quiz and the first student finished with the exam/quiz has left the room, the late student will not be permitted to take the exam/quiz and will receive a zero for that exam/quiz. All computers, cell phones, beepers, pagers, etc. must be turned off and secured (in a purse, backpack, pocket, etc.) during exams.

Professional behavior is expected at all times. Please be considerate to others by not talking during lectures. Likewise, turn off all cell phones, beepers, alarms, etc. prior to class. If you arrive to class late, please quietly take a seat in the back. Use of laptops (for purposes other than note taking, for example - surfing the Internet, e-mailing, instant messaging, etc.) and cell phones (texting) during class will not be tolerated. Those in violation will be asked to leave class.

Research papers and risk management projects are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date(s). A five-point penalty will be assessed to any project/paper turned in after the class period (later that day) on the due date. Ten points will be deducted for each day any project/paper is late. Late in-class and out-of-class assignments will not be accepted. Information regarding projects will be provided in class.

Attendance and active participation at all classes is expected. A sign-in sheet will be completed for each class. It is the student's responsibility to insure that the sheet is signed each class period. NOTE: An absence is defined as any day when you are not present in class or fail to sign the sign-in sheet.

Numerically quantifiable performance on quizzes, examinations, assignments, research papers, and risk management projects will be the only criteria used for grade calculation.

You are expected to read all reading assignments, attend all classes, listen to lectures, participate in discussions, view AV materials presented, and take notes on all of the foregoing. Any lectures, guest and student presentations, films, and readings may be included on any of the exams/quizzes.

Should an exam, project, or presentation be scheduled on a day prior to a holiday or vacation day, the exam will be administered and your presentation will be expected as scheduled. Do not ask for special permission to take an exam, or deliver a paper/presentation early or late, or for any other special consideration so that you may leave campus early or come back late.

Students requesting classroom accommodation(s) 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 any accommodation.

All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines, which are summarized in the graduate catalog. The guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following statement, which all students agree to when they register for classes:

I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the University.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation) will not be tolerated.

There is no provision for any individual extra credit assignments.

E-mail correspondence will occur frequently throughout the semester. It is the student's responsibility to check your ufl account regularly for announcements, assignments, and other important class information. When sending class related e-mails, include "Sport Law" in the subject line. Also, e-mails from any account other than ufl accounts may not be answered.

If at any time you feel the need for help, information concerning the course,

and/or your standing (grade, attendance, etc.) in the course, SEE YOUR INSTRUCTOR as soon as possible!

The University Counseling Center offers free psychological counseling to currently enrolled students and their partners/spouses. Individual and couples counseling is available for students experiencing personal, social, or marital difficulties, academic or career concerns. The Center offers groups and workshops designed to help students cope with common problems such as stress management, anxiety, self-confidence, relationship and family issues, eating disorders, and substance abuse. Services also are provided to deal with issues related to gender, racial and ethnic identity, physical disability, and sexual orientation. All counseling is confidential. For more information visit the website at www.counsel.ufl.edu

Phone numbers:

University counseling center: 392-1575

Student mental health: 392-1171

Student health services: 392-1161

Final grade notification will be provided by the University Registrar's Office via ISIS. Grades will not be posted.

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TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE & READING LIST			
Week 1	Aug	26	Course intro, Chapters 1.10, 1.20, 6.24
Week 2	Sept	2	Chapters 2.11, 2.12, 2.21, 2.22, 2.23, 2.24, 5.21 * Research Paper Topic Proposal due by 9/9
Week 3	Sept	9	Chapters 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, (RMSR 2, 4, & 5)
Week 4	Sept	16	Chapters 5.11, 5.22 - 5.25, (RMSR – 1, 6)
Week 5	Sept	23	Chapters 4.11 - 4.16 (RMSR- 7) Group Chapter Presentations begin
Week 6	Sept	30	Chapters 2.35, 8.14, 8.15, 8.16, 6.10, 6.21, 6.22, 6.23, (RMSR – 3); Group Chapter Presentations
Week 7	Oct	7	Chapters 7.11 - 7.15, (RMSR – 8) Research Paper Outline Due Exam 1
Week 8	Oct	14	RM Project Due, Chapter 2.34, 7.21 (RMSR – 9) Group Chapter Presentations
Week 9	Oct	21	Chapters 7.22 - 7.26 Group Chapter Presentations
Week 10	Oct	28	Chapters 8.11, 8.12, 8.13 Group Chapter Presentations
Week 11	Nov	4	Chapters 8.21, 8.22, 8.23; Group Chapter Presentations
Week 12	Nov	11	No class – Veterans Day
Week 12	Nov	18	Chapters 8.31; 8.33 Individual Research presentations
Week 13	Nov	25	Research Papers Due
Week 14	Dec	2	Individual Research presentations
Week 15	Dec	9	Individual Research presentations Exam 2

The above chapter readings appear in *Law for Recreation and Sport Managers* (4th ed.). The numbers in parentheses correspond to chapter readings in *Risk Management in Sport and Recreation (RMSR)*.