General Course Information

TSTD 6265 - Spring 2015 Sports Law

Instructor Information

Professor Ellen M. Zavian

Email: zavian@gwu.edu

301-920-1622

Office Hours: By Appointment only

Required Text:


Kendall Hunt Publishing Company

(Please purchase text at least 2 weeks prior to class. You will be responsible for having the text at the start of the class and to have completed the reading assignment posted.)

or

Direct link from publisher:

http://www.kendallhunt.com/cotten/

Print Book:

ISBN: 978-1-4652-1054-8 $103.90

eBook:


Course Description:

This Course is a graduate level course that is 3.0 credits. Therefore, expect to spend at MINIMUM, 3+ hours a week on preparing for class. In addition, projects will be additional time.

This course shall supply a student with an overview of the business and legal issues within the areas of professional and amateur sports as well as events and facilities. Specifically, but not limited to, the following: professional clubs, professional leagues, sports marketing contracts, negotiation techniques, television, sponsorship, athletic associations, venues and event locations. All such issues covered have a
relationship to basic principles of law: antitrust, labor, contract, tort, corporate, non-profit, intellectual property, etc.

The course will involve, reading assignments, guest speakers (if scheduled), discussions, projects, quizzes, and a final exam.

The learning experience will come from student engagement. Please follow the engagement exercises listed in the Assignment Calendar, Discussions, and Group Projects (if assigned).

Due Date Calendar

Please make sure you adhere to the Calendar of Assignment dates posted in the Calendar folder.

Assignments & Testing

Textbook Readings:

Assignments will be weekly, according to calendar.

Course Documents:

These are articles that supplement the text readings that are current/relevant.

Full Case assignments:

Need to be pulled from Lexis, which is accessible from Gelman Library website.

Please make sure the case is read and briefed.

Discussions:

All FOUR discussions are posted on Blackboard and must be submitted on dates posted and times posted within calendar.

You will be required to write a response, focusing on the legal aspect, to the discussion topic posted. Post answers on Blackboard only, do not send to Professor through email.

Each response should be no less than 150 words and some outside researching is required on the topic to help support your statements and opinion.

You are required to cite all supporting case law, journals, internet URL, etc..

This is not a place to post your pure opinion or thoughts off the top of your head.

NOTE: You will naturally get better in time and focus on legal issues rather than personal opinion. Check out samples!
Legal current event assignment: Students must select a sports/events law related news story, attach/link the story/article to the 150 words (minimum)paragraph/summary, on the impact of the legal issue within the sports/event arena. The current event must be a legal issue.

Please try to stay away from the "police blotter" incidents of athletes and focus on the legal aspects within the industry (i.e.: contract dispute, anti-trust, right to compete, tort, drug testing.)

See sample Current Event posted in FILES before handing in your first event.

Submit both the article and summary directly to the Discussion section of BB.

The source can be from any source (see below).

See calendar for due dates.

NOTE: You will get better after the first two-three assignments and focus on the legal issues rather than your personal opinion. Be patient. It takes time to 'get' the legal issues. Do not expect to get it from the start. Your grades should improve over a few weeks. Posting is in the Discussion tab. Try not to repeat a fellow students article already posted. Any redundancy from the prior student will negatively impact your grade. You must read your fellow students' articles and grade them on a 1-5 star system, 5 being the highest score.

To help you with this weekly assignment, you can (not mandatory) sign up for the Sports Business Daily OR Journal. If you want the Daily and/or Journal, please fill out subscription form(s) as follows:

1. Please follow these steps for SBI/SBD Subscription:

   TSTD 6265 - Sport Law has been confirmed at a rate of 16 weeks for $65 subscription.

   Please go to sbjcollege.com/subscribe to purchase/subscribe.

   Questions can be directed to College & University Program Manager, Courtney Knowling at cknowling@sportsbusinessjournal.com

   Please print a copy of your online receipt for proof of purchase

2. Lexology: You can also sign up for a free daily legal update on sports on the following sites:

   www.lexology.com and www.findlaw.com (need to select sports as your topic area)

   Contract Review Process:

   Please make sure your review of the Agreement assignment is not about what you want to Negotiate, but about the terms and conditions that would cause you to be concerned from a legal standpoint.

   Negotiating points are endless and not the assignment. Legal concerns, as an attorney would review a contract, is the assignment.
You can take the side of the agent/player or the company... or both, if applicable to contract. Please post in Discussion Tab, where indicated.

Testing

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given through Blackboard and are all located in the TESTING tab. Quizzes will be due, as posted in schedule in the Calendar. You are tested on the reading that is assigned for the next day of class. Thus, you are tested on the topic after you read the material, but before reviewed in class/unit. They are open from the start of class until the closing date/time posted only.

You have 20 MINUTES to take the quiz, once you start and YOU NEED to keep track of your time. No clock will give you a warning! You can use any material from class. Multiple choice and True/False type questions. Quizzes focus on current chapter but can include past material from previous weeks. There are five to ten questions on each quiz. Do not wait until last minute and assume your computer or the system will be working. Leave time for break downs in the computer system. If you have a conflict, remember the quiz can be taken early, just not after the due date/time. Plan ahead if you have conflicts.

Final Exam:

A Final Exam will be given as scheduled in calendar. You will have 2.0 hours to complete it. The exam includes true/false, short answer and long essay problems. Books, notes, or outside material permitted.

Covers all reading assignments, Lexis Cases, articles, postings, handouts, distributed material. Place this date in your schedule ahead of time - so no surprises/conflicts come up - once we send out the the date notice.

Specifics:

True/False is 25% of grade, thus spend no more than 30 mins on this section.

Short Answer is 25% of total grade, thus spend no more than 30 mins on this section.

Long Essay:

Please answer only one question, only one will be graded. Allow one hour for this section as it will count for 50% of your grade. It is strongly suggested you start with the essay.

Method of Evaluation

Quizzes (10) 20 points per quiz = 200 points available

McBoyle Brief (1) 10 points = 10 points available

Current Events (6) 10 points per event = 60 points available
Legal Memorandum = 250 points available (50 of 200 to oral presentation, applicable to campus class only, not online course)

Discussions (4) 10 points per discussion = 40 points available

Contracts Reviewed (4) .0 points per assignment = 40 points available

Final Exam = 400 points available, 2.0 hours long (True & False 125 points, Short Answers (125 points) and Long Essay (150 points) format.

Total: 1000 points available (no extra credit offered)

Each student's letter grade is determined by the percentage breakdown of the total course work:
92.0-100% = A, 90.0-91.9% = A-, 88.0-89.9% = B+, 82.0-87.9% = B, 80.0-81.9% = B-, 78.0-79.9% = C+, 72.0-77.9% = C, 70.0-71.9% = C-, 69.9 and Below = F (scores are not rounded up or down)

Grading measures the ability of student performance. Grades are fairest and most accurate when they indicate achievement as follows:

F---Failure to fulfill minimum requirements
D---A low level of achievement
C---A fair level of achievement
B---A high level of achievement
A---Achievement of distinction