Legal Issues in Sport

SADL-504
Seattle University

Contact Information: Tristan Brown
206.941.5483
brow2542@seattleu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Text required: Cotten & Wolohan, (2007). *Law for Recreation and Sport Managers* (4th Ed.). Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company

Course Rationale:

We live in a litigious society and this in no less true in the realm of sport and physical activity. As professionals, it is important understand and be able to recognize the legal implications and pitfalls as they pertain to your work. By the end of this class, a successful student will be able to recognize legal issues, take steps to limit the risk exposure of your organization, and identify when it is necessary to retain the services of an attorney.

After successful completion of this course, the students will:

Objectives	Outcomes	Assessment Tool
1. Understand fundamental legal concepts relevant to tort, contract, employment, and constitutional law.	Content Knowledge	In-class assignments, In-class participation, exam
2. Identify potential liabilities in the supervision, management and conduct of sport, recreation and physical activity, and be able to design and develop strategies for limiting liability.	Content Knowledge, Discovery and Inquiry, Critical Thinking, Communication	In-class assignments, exam
3. Analyze tort law scenarios and identify legal issues, be able to find the correct outcome in a given situation and the steps that could have been taken to avoid the legal pitfalls.	Critical Thinking, Communication	In-class assignments, exam
4. Utilize the basic elements of contract law to identify basic contract elements for a sport and physical activity application. Be able to review an existing contract for legal sufficiency.	Discovery and Inquiry, Critical Thinking, Communication, Technology	In-class assignment, In-class participation, exam
5. Identify common situations of race, sex, and disability discrimination as it pertains to sport and physical activity. Analyze the constitutional rights and liabilities from constitutional law scenarios.	Discovery and Inquiry, Critical Thinking, Communication, Technology, Social Responsibility	In-class assignments, in-class participation, exam.
6. Communicate orally legal interpretation, and be able to discuss the history, relevant court cases, future directions and implications of given legal topics.	Content Knowledge, Critical Thinking, Communication, Technology	In class participation, Group Project Assignment

General University Policies

Mission Statement
Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation, and to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.

Vision
We will be the premier independent university of the Northwest in academic quality, Jesuit Catholic inspiration, and service to society.

Values

- **Care** - We put the good of students first.
- **Academic Excellence** - We value excellence in learning with great teachers who are active scholars.
- **Diversity** - We celebrate educational excellence achieved through diversity.
- **Faith** - We treasure our Jesuit Catholic ethos and the enrichment from many faiths of our university community.
- **Justice -** We foster a concern for justice and the competence to promote it.
- **Leadership** - We seek to develop responsible leaders committed to the common good.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:
Seattle University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political ideology or status as a Vietnam-era or special disabled veteran in the administration of any of its education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics, and other school-administered policies and programs, or in its employment related policies and practices. All University policies, practices and procedures are administered in a manner consistent with Seattle University's Catholic and Jesuit identity and character. Inquiries relating to these policies may be referred to the University's Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Officer at (206) 296-5870.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT
You are expected, at all times, to act with academic integrity.
Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the educational process. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense against the academic community. Acts of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the Academic Honesty Policy. Without regard to motive, student conduct that is academically dishonest, evidences lack of academic integrity or trustworthiness, or unfairly impinges upon the rights and privileges of others is prohibited. See the following web page for additional information; http://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/page.aspx?ID=87

STUDENT SUPPORT
A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises during the quarter are encouraged to contact the Seattle University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) [*(206)-296-6090;* http://www.seattleu.edu/student/counsel/index.asp *for assistance, support and advocacy. This service is free and confidential.*

"Students with documented disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in the course or who require special accommodations are encouraged to speak with the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged."

Grading Policies and Course Elements

Course Grading and Points		**Grading Scheme:**
Assignments & Quizzes	100	>94% = A
Exam	100	90% = A-
Group Presentation	140	87% = B+
In-class Participation & Attendance	60	84% = B
		80% = B-
		77% = C+
		74% = C
		70% = C-
		< 70% = D
		< 60% = F

General Course Expectations:

1. Seattle University Policy mandates at least 80% attendance of scheduled class sessions
2. To be successful in this course, active participation in class discussions is required.
3. Assigned readings should be completed before the assigned class period.
4. Late assignments will accepted with a penalty assessed against the total score.
5. If you have questions, please ask before the assignment is due.

Quizzes and Assignments

From time to time assignments and quizzes will be done in the course of class. Points and grading will vary. In-class work may be made up if notice of the absence is given in advance. Other than in-class assignments, all assignments will be turned in electronically via e-mail. Subject line should be the students last name, first initial, and assignment title (e.g. Brown, T – Case Assignment)

Participation

Participation points will be awarded based upon my perception of how involved you are in class discussions. **If you are not in class then you will lose the opportunity to gain those points. There will not be any make-ups.** This includes voluntary contributions and compulsory participation. This is a subjective measure.

Exam

The exam will be comprehensive; students are responsible for all readings, course work, and in class presentations up to the day of the test. The constitution of the test will be predominantly multiple choice and short answer. The test will be during the testing class period as specified below.

Group Presentations

On the last day of class, groups will give presentations on a specific issue of sports and the law. The presentations will be about 10 minutes and groups and topics will be selected later in the Quarter. As a group you will choose a current issue that has sport law implications. Possible topics include:

- Religious practice and sports participation
- Title IX – monetary equity in collegiate sports
- Sexual harassment in professional sports
- Professional leagues and antitrust

Class Schedule

Unit #	Date	Topic	Readings (before)	Assignments (after)	Notes:
1	1/7	Class Introduction Introduction to the Law Corporations	Cotten 1.00 pp. 1-34	Case Assignment	
2	1/14	Negligence Law Defenses	Cotten 2.10-2.20 pp. 36-106 (no cases)	Neg. Application Presentations	
3	1/21	Martin Luther King Day	No Class		
3.5	1/26 9-Noon	Make-up Class Applications Intentional Torts	TBD Cotten Ch. 4.0 pp. 215-238, 273-285 (no cases)		Attendance not taken
4	1/28	Neg. Application Pres. Exp. of Group Projects	*Also:* §2.30 – by assignment	Risk Allocation Assessments	
5	2/4	Risk Allocation Property	Cotten 5.0 pp. 287-344 Cotten 3.0 pp. 182-216 Cotten 8.2 pp. 597- 629 (no cases)		
6	2/11	Group Assignment Time			
7	2/18	President's Day	No Class		
8	2/25	Contracts	Cotten 6.0 pp. 363-418 (no cases)	Judge Judy	
9	3/4	Constitutional Law	Cotten 7.13-7.15 pp. 439-466		
10	3/11	Sports and Legislation Title IX Discuss Test Content	Cotten 8.1 pp. 530-596 (no cases)	Test Prep	
11	3/18	**Exam** NCAA Regulations Anti-trust and Labor	**1-hour Exam** Cotten 7.2 pp. 467-528 Cotten 8.3 pp. 630-665 (no cases in 8.3)	Group Projects	
EX	3/22	[Final Exam Period] Group Presentations		**Handouts** **PowerPoint Slides**	