COVID-19 MASK POLICY

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class, and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


Instructor: Drew Thornley, J.D.

Office: McGee Business Building, Room 229H
Email: ALL ELECTRONIC COURSE COMMUNICATION MUST BE VIA BRIGHTSPACE BY D2L. EMAILS TO MY SFA EMAIL ADDRESS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE RETURNED.

Class Days/Time/Room:
TR, 12:30 - 1:45 PM, McGee 267
Office Hours: Due to COVID-19, all office hours will be held remotely, via Zoom and/or phone. An appointment must be scheduled. If you desire a Zoom meeting or phone call during my scheduled office hours, message me via Brightspace by D2L. If none of these 10 hours works for you, message me with your availability for a meeting, and I will do my best to accommodate you. My office hours are as follows:

Tuesday: 10:55 AM-12:25 PM  
Wednesday: 8-11 AM & 1-5 PM  
Thursday: 10:55 AM-12:25 PM

Course Texts (optional):

Course Description: An introduction to the basics of the U.S. legal system and to common sport- and entertainment-law topics/issues, such as those pertaining to agency law, contract law, tort law, constitutional law, employment law, labor law, antitrust law, and intellectual-property law. Specific examples & cases will be used from the areas of sports and entertainment, to bring to life the legal doctrines and rules covered in the course. Particular attention will be paid to current events/issues in sports and entertainment, such as player protests, collective-bargaining agreements, television contracts’ impacts on players’ contracts, and issues surrounding and affecting the amateur status of collegiate athletes. Prerequisite: Junior Standing.

Program Learning Outcomes: Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Goals and Objectives: Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Possess an understanding of the structure/function of the U.S. legal system.
2. Possess an understanding of the fundamentals of sport law in the U.S.
3. Possess an understanding of the fundamentals of entertainment law in the U.S.
4. Recognize the legal terms introduced in the course and apply or relate these terms to specific situations.
5. Explain the important role law plays in the fields of sports and entertainment.
6. Analyze information to recognize legal issues and legal problems in fact situations and to determine what legal principle(s) should be applied.
7. Integrate knowledge of the legal principles that are covered to solve problems that are unfamiliar.

8. Apply problem-solving skills to legal issues, using logic and critical thinking.

9. Develop an awareness of the need for a continuing acquisition of new knowledge about changes in the law.

10. Debate controversial and/or important topics intelligently and respectfully.

**Course Calendar:** The course is divided into four stand-alone units. The semester will be divided (roughly) evenly among these four units. In other words, each unit will consume approximately 25% of the semester. The following schedule is a projection of weekly topics, subject to change. Students will be notified in class and/or electronically of any material deviation from the schedule.

- Week 1: U.S. legal system
- Week 2: Constitutional law
- Week 3: Constitutional law
- Week 4: Contracts law
- Week 5: Agency law
- Week 6: Agency law
- Week 7: Employment/Labor law
- Week 8: Employment/Labor law
- Week 9: Torts
- Week 10: Torts
- Week 11: Intellectual property
- Week 12: Intellectual property
- Week 13: Antitrust law
- Week 14: Antitrust law
- Week 15: Antitrust law

**Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** Each of the course’s four (4) exams covers only the material assigned for that exam. Thus, after the first exam, exams are not cumulative. Dates for Exams 1, 2, & 3 will be announced during class. Exam 4 will be given during the Final Exam period, on Tuesday, December 8, 10:45 AM – 1:15 PM. **If an exam conflicts with a university-excused absence, you must contact me at least seven (7) days before the exam. Failure to do so will result in an exam grade of zero (0).** (Note: Meetings for other classes’ group projects or any other choice by you to spend time working on other classes during our class meeting times are NOT excused absences.) In case such an event arises within seven (7) days of the exam, notify me immediately upon learning of it. Failure to do so will result in an exam grade of zero (0). In case of an extreme emergency that prevents you from taking an exam, contact me before the scheduled exam, if possible. (In the case of illness, a doctor’s note specifying that you are too ill to attend class is required, in order for me to consider your illness as reason for an exam.
makeup.) If it is not possible to contact me before the exam, contact me no later than 2 days after the emergency is resolved. Failure to do so will result in an exam grade of zero (0). Any excused exams must be scheduled for make-up within two (2) days of the missed exam or two (2) days after the emergency has resolved itself, or students will receive an exam grade of zero (0). It is entirely the student's responsibility to make arrangements with me to take a missed exam.

Assignments: The remainder of your grade will be comprised of various assignments. Examples of assignments are in-class writing assignments, out-of-class writing assignments, pop quizzes, attendance grades, classroom discussion, completion/participation grades, and group assignments. The number of assignments is not pre-determined. Assignments might be announced during class only, so if you miss class, you run the risk of missing the announcement of one or more assignments. It is your responsibility to find out from a classmate what you missed in class. Do not email me to ask what we covered during a class you missed. The policy for making up missed assignments is the same policy as for exams, as stated (in bold and underlined) in the section immediately above.

Grades:
Each of the four (4) unit exams will count 20% of the overall grade, and the assignments will, collectively, count 20% of the overall grade.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at https://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.