Syllabus
Fall 2023
BLAW 3355-001: Sports and Entertainment Law
Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor:

Drew Thornley
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B.A., The University of Alabama
Associate Professor of Legal Studies (Tenured)
Department of Business Communication and Legal Studies
Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University
McGee 229A

Class Meetings:

T/Th, 12:30-1:45 PM (McGee 161)

Office Hours (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Office:

Tuesdays: 10:50 AM-12:20 PM
Wednesdays: 8:30-11:30 AM
Thursdays: 10:50 AM-12:20 PM
Otherwise, by appointment.

Online (via Zoom):

Wednesdays: 1-5 PM

NOTE: If you desire an online meeting during (and/or outside) this designated time, you must schedule an appointment with me in advance. To do so, email me your request, along with your complete availability.

Course Texts:

   a. This book is required. You will be tested on material from it.
   a. This book is optional/supplemental. You will not be tested on material from it.
**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.

**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.

**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 Requirements:**

Each of the five modules contains the following graded items: a quiz, a discussion, and an assignment. Every assessment item will have a due date/time, after which you are **not** allowed to submit your assessment item. Using any artificial intelligence (AI) software or tool, such as ChatGPT, to draft materials for an assignment is strictly prohibited, unless expressly authorized by your instructor. **NOTE:** I reserve the right to add assignments. If I do so, the respective weights of each assignment will be adjusted accordingly. The assignments will remain equally weighted.

**NOTE:** I reserve the right to add more assessment items. If I do, I will adjust the relative grade weights of the assessment items.

- Each quiz counts 12% of your overall grade.
  - 60% total
- Each assignment counts 6% of your overall grade.
  - 30% total
- Each discussion counts 2% of your overall grade.
  - 10% total

*Updated: August 2023*
Grades: All grades are calculated by percentage. Decimals are not rounded up. For example, 79.99 = 79.

NOTE: Any graded item submitted after its deadline (even if late by only one minute) will receive no credit. Thus, I urge you not to wait until just before deadlines to submit graded items. If you wait until the day an assignment is due and are unable to submit it, due to technical issues or any other reason, your assignment will not be given credit. However, if you have a legitimate reason (i.e. sickness, with accompanying doctor’s note) for your inability to submit an assignment at any point during the window of time it is open for submission, contact me as soon as possible. As indicated above, grade weights are as follows:

- Quizzes: 60% of overall grade
- Assignments: 30% of overall grade
- Discussions: 10% of overall grade

BLAW 3355 Course Calendar

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Time.

• Module 1: Contract Law
  - Read “Getting Started, Syllabus, & Course Calendar”
  - Read assigned chapters.
  - Read all module content.
  - View PowerPoint slides.
  - Complete Module 1 Discussion (via Discussions) by Friday, September 8, at 5PM.
  - Complete Module 1 Quiz during class on Thursday, September 14.
  - Submit Module 1 Assignment (via Dropbox) by Friday, September 15, at 5PM.

• Module 2: Constitutional Law
  - Read assigned chapters.
  - Read all module content.
  - View PowerPoint slides.
  - Complete Module 2 Discussion (via Discussions) by Friday, September 29, at 5PM.
  - Complete Module 2 Quiz during class on Thursday, October 5.
  - Submit Module 2 Assignment (via Dropbox) by Friday, October 6, at 5PM.

• Module 3: Antitrust Law & Labor Law
  - Read assigned chapters.
  - Read all module content.
  - View PowerPoint slides.
  - Complete Module 3 Discussion (via Discussions) by Friday, October 20, at 5PM.
  - Complete Module 3 Quiz during class on Thursday, October 26.
  - Submit Module 3 Assignment (via Dropbox) by Friday, October 27, at 5PM.

• Module 4: Agency
  - Read assigned chapters.
  - Read all module content.
  - View PowerPoint slides.
- Complete Module 4 Discussion (via Discussions) by Friday, November 10, at 5PM.
- Complete Module 4 Quiz during class on Thursday, November 16.
- Submit Module 4 Assignment (via Dropbox) by Friday, November 17, at 5PM.

- Module 5: Torts and Intellectual Property
  - Read assigned chapters.
  - Read all module content.
  - View PowerPoint slides.
  - Submit Module 5 Assignment (via Dropbox) by Friday, December 1, at 5PM.
  - Complete Module 5 Discussion (via Discussions) by Wednesday, December 8, at 5PM.
  - Complete Module 5 Quiz in class on university-designated exam date: Thursday, December 14, 10:30-11:45AM.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

All applicable university policies are incorporated herein. For a complete list of university policies, see the following: [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies). In particular, I highlight two of these policies below:

**Academic Integrity (4.1)**

*The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity* (Policy 10.4) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining
an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)