Syllabus
Summer I 2024
BLAW 3355-500: Sports and Entertainment Law (Online)
Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor:

Drew Thornley
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B.A., The University of Alabama
EMBA, Quantic School of Business and Technology
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Rusche College of Business
Stephen F. Austin State University

Office Hours (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Via Zoom: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays, 8:00-10:40 AM

NOTE: If you desire an online meeting during (and/or outside) this designated time, you must schedule an appointment with me, in advance.

Course Text(s):

   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 understand the following items covered during classes:

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 each of 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. 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

Course Calendar (Each item below opens at 8 AM Central and closes at 5 PM Central on the respective dates listed.):

- Module 1
• Module 2
  o Discussion
    ▪ Opens: June 10
    ▪ Closes: June 14
  o Assignment
    ▪ Opens: June 10
    ▪ Closes: June 17
  o Quiz
    ▪ Opens: June 10
    ▪ Closes: June 14
• Module 3
  o Discussion
    ▪ Opens: June 14
    ▪ Closes: June 21
  o Assignment
    ▪ Opens: June 17
    ▪ Closes: June 21
  o Quiz
    ▪ Opens: June 14
    ▪ Closes: June 20
• Module 4
  o Discussion
    ▪ Opens: June 19
    ▪ Closes: June 26
  o Assignment
    ▪ Opens: June 21
    ▪ Closes: June 26
  o Quiz
    ▪ Opens: June 20
    ▪ Closes: June 26
• Module 5
  o Discussion
    ▪ Opens: June 26
    ▪ Closes: July 3
  o Assignment
▪ Opens: June 26
▪ Closes: July 3

〇 Quiz
▪ Opens: June 26
▪ Closes: July 3

**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

**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:

**Student Conduct (University Policy 4.106, [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-106.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/04-106.pdf))**:

*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 prohibition 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. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.*

**Academic Integrity**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity 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.

Use of any artificial intelligence (AI) software or tool, such as ChatGPT, to complete any assignment, including but not limited to any exams, research projects, or written work produced in the class, is considered a violation of the Academic Dishonesty policy and will be treated by the instructor as such.

Withheld Grades

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/docs/hops/02-206.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/.

**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)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741