American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security & Global Studies
Legal Studies Program
LSTD601
SPORTS LAW
3 Credit Hours
8 Weeks
Prerequisite(s): None

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Instructor Information

**Instructor:** See information provided on the Home Page section.

**Email:** Please use the internal classroom messaging system.

Course Description (Catalog)

This course is an introduction to sports-related legal issues and concepts. Its focus is on providing an overview of the major legal issues associated with sports, sports management, and the sports industry. Students will conduct research, read, and write on issues associated with the sports legal industry. Topics include but are not limited to discrimination, legislation, regulation and rights, competition, contract, labor, tort and trademark law, and administrative, antitrust and constitutional law.
STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Scope

LSTD 601 is a study and analysis of legal issues that affect sports law in the United States. This course is rooted in the conviction that sports law is an intricate blend of contract law, labor law, and antitrust law. Analysis of sports law requires a working knowledge of all three areas of the law. Roles of agents, players, owners, commissioners, and other individuals and organizations greatly impact the results of issues such as strikes, employment contracts, and discrimination. Topics covered in this class will include: contract formation and negotiation, discrimination in sports, roles of commissioners, agents and players, and labor law issues.

Course Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able meet the following learning objectives:

- Analyze current issues in the business of sports
- Compare and contrast the roles of various sports commissioners
- Recognize and discuss the elements of contract law in the sports field in terms of contract formation, termination, validation, avoidance, and performance.
- Evaluate and examine sports contract negotiations, formation, enforcement, and interpretation.
- Distinguish and discuss the impact of antitrust law on sports in sports in general, baseball exemption, labor exemption, player restraints, monopolization and restraints on Inter-League competition, and equipment restrictions.
- Recognize and discuss labor law and sports in relationship to labor disputes, unfair labor practices, representation, and arbitration.
- Examine the issues involved in discrimination in sports.
- Analyze current issues in sports law in the areas of tort law and intellectual property.
- Evaluate the role and function of the player/agent and sports.

Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted.
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and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Materials

Required:

Additional Resources: The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation (Columbia Law Review Ass’n et. al. eds., 20th ed. 2015). This may be purchased at your own expense in hard copy or online at: http://www.legalbluebook.com/Purchase/Products.aspx It is a recommended resource, but not required.

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Evaluation Procedures

The grading will be based on six graded forum assignments, a case brief, a research paper, as well as an open book midterm and final examination.

1. Assignments & Forum Participation: There will be homework assignments during the course. They are selected to provide the student with hands on experience in applying the law and theories being discussed.

2. Exams: The midterm and final exams will be taken open book. The exams will be posted in the electronic classroom under "Tests and Quizzes." These examinations will cover selected sections of the textbook and assigned reading. They will consist of True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and essays.


FINAL GRADES BASED UPON:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Forum</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5.67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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| Week 2 Forum | 100 | 5.67% |
| Week 3 Forum | 100 | 5.67% |
| Week 5 Forum | 100 | 5.67% |
| Week 6 Forum | 100 | 5.67% |
| Week 7 Forum | 100 | 5.67% |
| Research Paper | 100 | 20% |
| Case Brief Project | 100 | 5% |
| Midterm Exam | 100 | 20% |
| Final Exam | 100 | 20% |
| **Total Points** | **1100** | **100%** |

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**Grading Scale**

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University’s grading scale.

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**Course Outline**

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<th>WEEK #</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READING</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Read Chapters 1-3:</strong> An Introduction to Legal Concepts</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Review the following websites:</strong></td>
<td>Week 1 Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Lawyers Association</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sports Law Blog</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://sports-law.blogspot.com/">http://sports-law.blogspot.com/</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Litigation Alert</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVES:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A. Understand the legal system</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B. Compare and contrast the management aspects of sports with the legal aspects of sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Read Chapters 4-6:</strong> Employment Issues</td>
<td>Week 2 Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Review the following websites:</strong></td>
<td>Case Brief Due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornell University Overview of Sports Law</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/sports.html">http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/sports.html</a></td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mark’s SportsLaw News</td>
<td>Proposal Due</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Read Chapters</th>
<th>Review the following website:</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES:</th>
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| 3    | 7-9: Working Conditions | http://www.washlaw.edu/subject/sports.html  
B. Recognize liability created by employees.  
C. Apply legal rules on hiring, promotion, termination, compensation and leave to real and hypothetical cases.  
D. Demonstrate an understanding of the various types of discrimination in the workplace.  
E. Apply Bluebook writing requirements in the analysis of a sports law case (write a case brief). | Week 3 Forum |
| 4    | 10: Sports Agents | Sports Agents  
http://www.jobprofiles.org/artsportsagent.htm | A. Apply legal rules on sexual harassment to real and hypothetical cases.  
B. Understand Free Speech and Free Exercise of Religion principles and how to provide reasonable accommodation.  
C. Explore the Fair Labor Standards Act as it applies to sports organizations.  
D. Recognize when occupational safety laws might create liability.  
E. Understand the application of Workers’ Compensation laws as they apply to sports organizations. | MID-TERM EXAM (Chapters 1-10) |
| 5    | 11-14: Governance in Athletics | | A. Recognize and Apply legal rules on governance to real and | Week 5 Forum |
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<th>Read Chapters</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES:</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 6    | 15-16: Liability Issues | A. Recognize and apply the actions of employees and staff which can create legal liability for sports organizations.  
B. Recognize and Apply legal rules on premises liability to real and hypothetical cases. | Week 6 Forum |
| 7    | 17: Legal Waivers and Chapter 18: Violence in Sports | A. Recognize and Apply legal rules on waivers and exculpatory clauses to real and hypothetical cases.  
B. Recognize and Apply legal rules on violence in sports to real and hypothetical cases. | Week 7 Forum  
Research Paper Due |
| 8    | 19-20 | **FINAL EXAM (Chapters 11-20 ONLY)**  
Do NOT open the exam until you are ready to take it. You can only open it once! You have three hours to complete it once you open it. It is open-book and you may want to study the PowerPoints in the Course Materials. | **FINAL EXAM (Chapters 11-20)** |

### Polices

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

### CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

The central function of legal citation is to allow the reader to efficiently locate the cited source. All courses in the Legal Studies program require that any narrative essay or composition format follow the legal citation guidelines set forth in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (Columbia Law Review...
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Ass’n et. al. eds., 20th ed. 2015). More information can be found in the Web Resources and Course Material links in the classroom.

**WRITING EXPECTATIONS**
Writing must be well organized and presented in a way that clearly conveys your thoughts, using full sentences, correct spelling, and proper grammar. I prefer that you use the active voice, and ask that you avoid military jargon, slang, abbreviations, and text-speak. All written submissions should be typewritten in single or double-spaced **Times New Roman 12 point font** and submitted in **Word** inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor). Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side margins should be **one inch**, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

**Deductions:**
Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day
Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

**NETIQUETTE**
Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**
Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.
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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. It provides access to subscription article databases, periodicals, books, video and more to support your research and studies. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources like tutoring services and Turnitin.com, which the University has contracted to boost your academic success.

- **Library Course Guides:** APUS librarians have created guides for each degree program and many courses. Each guide compiles the most relevant research tools (subscription article databases, journals and ebooks), as well as authoritative websites, multimedia and more. Explore the guides at [http://apus.campusguides.com/](http://apus.campusguides.com/).
- **Ask a Librarian:** Librarians are on duty approximately 18 hours per day, 365 days per year. At [http://apus.libanswers.com/](http://apus.libanswers.com/), you can search for answers to library questions, or use the “Ask” button to submit a question of your own.
- **Speak with a Librarian:** Librarians are now available on Adobe Connect, so that you may speak live and ask questions. You can speak with a Librarian by logging in here: [https://apus.adobeconnect.com/speakwithalibrarian](https://apus.adobeconnect.com/speakwithalibrarian)
- **Electronic Books and Journals:** You can use the online library to access over 150,000 ebooks and 40,000 journals, which are licensed for use by APUS students and faculty only. Visit the [Licensed Library Databases](http://apus.campusguides.com/tutor) guide to explore search options.
- **Research and Writing Help:** Librarians have created tutorials for college-level research and writing. [Click here to explore them all.](http://apus.campusguides.com/tutor)
- **Online Tutoring:** AMU and APU students are eligible for up to 10 free hours of online tutoring provided by APUS. Some military students are eligible for additional hours through their Armed Forces education offices. For more information, visit [http://apus.campusguides.com/tutor](http://apus.campusguides.com/tutor).
- **Interlibrary Loan and other services:** when you need a book or article not held in the APUS Online Library, you may request it via interlibrary loan (ILL). [Read more about ILL and other library services.](http://apus.campusguides.com/tutor)

Turnitin.com

**Turnitin.com** is a tool to improve student research skills that also detects plagiarism. The site provides resources on developing topics and assignments that encourage and guide students in producing papers that are intellectually honest, original in thought, and clear in expression. This tool helps ensure a culture of adherence to the University's standards for intellectual honesty. **Turnitin.com** also reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors and/or students.
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Selected Bibliography


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