

RSA 517: Legal Issues in Recreation and Sport

Online

Dr. Lauren McCoy

- Email: lauren.mccoy@wku.edu; **Email is the best method to reach me with any questions.**
- Phone: 270-745-4321
- Office: Smith Stadium East 1001
- Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; or by appointment

Course DESCRIPTION AND ObjectiveS:

The purpose of this course is to identify basic legal principles that are applicable to sports and fitness management careers and learn how to effectively manage potential legal issues associated with injury, contracts and employment relations in intercollegiate athletics.

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Identify and analyze legal issues that could arise due to injury or other accidents
- Identify and analyze the factors needed to create a safe working environment for your employees
- Identify the key factors needed for contracts and develop strategies for creating both employment and sales contracts
- Identify and analyze strategies for avoiding discrimination, harassment, or expression claims while still maintaining a safe and effective workplace
- Communicate solutions to legal problems through an accurate discussion of the appropriate legal principles
- Utilize legal principles to develop business strategies for the purpose of avoiding legal liability

MEETING TIMES AND aVAILABILITY:

This course is **not** a self-paced course, meaning that you cannot set it aside and do it all whenever you please. There are specific due dates for assignments and sections of the course that must be followed. I suggest that you set aside a specific time or times each week that will be devoted to working on this course. Because there is reading to go along with the lectures and assignments for this course, it will only help you if the reading is done before you complete any of the assignments.

Like a regular course, I will have set office hours where I will be online to answer any specific questions you may have for the class. I will also be online throughout the week to comment on discussions posts to help keep our discussions moving or re-focus the conversation. If you would

like to talk to me in person, we can set up an appointment to meet in my office.

This class will follow a basic framework where there are readings and/or lectures, followed by related discussions, and various assignments or projects to complete the unit. You will do well in this class if you follow along with the sections, do your reading, and share your observations before completing your assignments. Everything else, discussions and assignments, will have a specific due date to be followed to receive full credit for the assignment.

In addition to preparation, it is expected that you will demonstrate decorum and respect for yourself and other students. You can do this by being considerate of the thoughts of others and sharing your ideas in class discussions and group projects.

Required MATERIALS:

Textbook:

- Mitten, M., Davis, T., Smith, R., Berry, R., & Shropshire, K. (eds.), Sport Law: Governance and Regulation (2012)
- Additional materials may be provided during the course of the semester to supplement learning. These materials will be provided on Blackboard.

COURSE TECHNICAL ISSUES:

E-mail Correspondence and Course Website:

The university uses students' Topper Mail accounts (WKU email address) exclusively for all university communication. The instructor will adhere to this policy and send messages to students' **Topper Mail addresses only**. Students are responsible for all announcements sent by the instructor and any assignments posted on the course website. **When students email the instructor, be sure to include the course title and the section number in the subject line of the email (for example everyone in this class should include RSA 517 in the subject of their email).**

All emails sent during the week (Monday-Friday) will be answered within 12 hours of when they are received. Emails sent after 5pm on Fridays and throughout the weekend **may not be answered** until the following Monday morning by 10:00am.

Using Blackboard:

It is imperative that every student be able to access the course website on blackboard so as to access materials, turn in assignments, and take exams and quizzes. Make sure to leave yourself plenty of time to turn in your assignment just in case you experience connectivity issues.

If you are unable to submit your assignment on Blackboard, you are required to email the

assignment to me with an explanation of your Blackboard problems. This email must be sent prior to the assignment due date and time. Additionally, a copy of the assignment must be submitted on Blackboard within 24 hours unless you can provide evidence from IT of a true problem with your account.

Computer problems:

If you are experiencing difficulty with your computer or the internet, please call the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Cheating / Academic Misconduct:

Student work may be checked by plagiarism detection software. If academic misconduct is discovered, disciplinary sanctions and the subsequent procedures within the WKU student guidelines will occur.

To avoid plagiarism (copying the work of another), you must acknowledge any reference or direct quotation to another's work with appropriate recognition through a noted citation style (i.e., MLA, APA, etc.) This citation must be done for websites, books, and television shows – any work that was created by another person. If you are unfamiliar with citation, you should speak with me or with a librarian. In addition, you may not hand in the work of another claiming that it is your own work or get help from another student unless the assignment states that it is group work.

Academic Accommodation:

“In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004; TTY is 270-745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.”

Assignments and Grading (subject to change):

Discussion Posts:

A substantial portion of this class will be devoted to discussions on the message board. Since we don't have face-to-face class time, these message boards will be the best way to communicate with your fellow classmates, and to increase understanding of course materials and the subject of sport law.

Case Study:

Students will be required to present a legal case to the class to continue discussion and highlight how the related legal concerns work during a real life encounter. This will prepare and assist students in understanding how to apply the law to their future work experiences.

Writing Exercises:

Throughout the semester, there will be assignments/writing exercises connected to class readings meant to further understanding of the material.

Quizzes:

It is absolutely essential that class readings be read on time. Reading quizzes over that day's chapter will be given weekly to refresh your understanding of the subject material.

Examinations:

There will be two exams, one at the midterm of the course and one final exam. Both examinations are constructed so that questions come from material presented in class and within the readings.

GRADING PROCEDURES:

The total points for each area indicated will be obtained and weighted as follows:

Assignment	Points	Points Needed	Grade
Discussion Posts	80	495	A
Writing Assignments	100	440	B
Quizzes	120	385	C
Mid-term Exam	100	330	D
Case Study	50	275	F
Final Exam	100		
TOTAL	550		

Tentative Course Outline: Assigned Readings

	Topics Covered
Week 1	Welcome, Introduction and Course Overview U.S. Legal System/ Risk Management (pg. 1 – 14)*
Week 2	Negligence / Tort Law (pg. 217 – 229; 233-256)
Week 3	Racial Equity/ Disability Concerns (pg. 263 – 274; 185 – 188; 190 – 215)
Week 4	Gender Equity (pg. 147 – 181) Assignment 1 Due
Week 5	Spring Break/No Assigned Readings
Week 6	Intercollegiate Governance: University and Student-Athlete (pg. 99 – 125)
Week 7	Intercollegiate Governance: Coaching Contracts (pg. 127 – 145)
Week 8	Intercollegiate Governance: Negotiations/ Labor Law* (pg. 313 – 333)
Week 9	Intercollegiate Governance: NCAA Governance (pg. 53 – 82) Assignment 2 Due
Week 10	Intercollegiate Governance: NCAA enforcement hearings*
Week 11	Intercollegiate Governance: Antitrust Law/ Publicity Rights (pg. 82 – 98; 334 – 341; 435 – 445)
Week 12	Intellectual Property (pg. 413 – 423; 425 – 435)

* Assigned readings available on Blackboard