

## LEGAL ISSUES SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Thomas A. Baker III, J.D., Ph.D.

**Office:** 359 Ramsey

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meetings by appointment outside of office hours are also possible, and encouraged if needed.

**Phone:** 352-514-8113

**E-Mail:** tab3@uga.edu

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce the student to the legal system;
2. To provide the student with experience in conducting legal research;
3. To introduce the student to the role of law in sport and other physical activity programs;
4. To provide the student with the opportunity to study the United States Constitution, legislation, case law, and contracts that pertain to sports.

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the legal doctrines, major statutes, standards, and case law that establish legal responsibilities, rights, privileges and controls related to the field of exercise and sport sciences.

### **Course Topics:**

- The United States legal system
- Research skills for the study of law
- Case analysis and relevance to profession
- League disciplinary authority
- Negligence liability
- Risk management
- Constitutional law
- Contract law
- Employment law
- Legislation affecting physically/mentally challenged
- Gender issues
- Drug testing issues

### **Required Text:**

*Sports and the Law*, Weiler and Roberts 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (mandatory)

### **Course Evaluation:**

Class Assignments- 25% of grade

Exam 1 (midterm)- 25% of grade

Exam 2 (final)- 25% of grade

Class Project- 25% of grade

### **Course Description:**

Class Assignments- Include reading assignments for each class (case briefings and answers to questions in the book). Students must be prepared for each and every class. Students who are not prepared for class on 3 separate occasions will receive ½ letter-grade deduction for class assignments. Another ½ letter grade will be deducted on the 5<sup>th</sup> occasion. Each missed assignment from that point on will incur a ½ letter-grade penalty. Preparation requires students to adequately brief all cases covered in class and answer all questions in the text. Students must be prepared to demonstrate work product in class. Instructor has discretionary authority to determine whether the student adequately prepared for class based on material presented in class.

Exams- Will not be cumulative. Exam questions will come from material discussed in class.

Attendance- Each absence (not excused by University Policy) counts as one missed assignment. See Class Assignments (above) for the effect of missed class on Class Assignment grade.

### **Grading Scale**

A	93 – 100 %
A -	90 – 93 %
B +	87 – 90 %
B	83 – 87 %
B-	80 – 83 %
C +	77 – 79 %
C	73 – 77 %
C -	70 – 73 %
D +	65 – 69 %
D	60 – 65 %
F	59 and Below

## Course Policies:

1. All assignments, quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination are to be taken at the time assigned. No make-up assignments or examinations will be given. Any assignment, quiz/exam missed will be recorded as a zero. Should a student have written proof of a medical problem, or a UGA varsity athletic contest which prevents taking a quiz/exam, such quiz/exam will not have a score recorded for grading purposes. No make-up is possible for a missed assignment, quiz, midterm, or final examination.
2. All examinations must be completed in the assigned time. Therefore, **DO NOT BE LATE TO CLASS ON THE DAY OF ANY QUIZ OR EXAM.** If a student arrives late for an exam and the first student finished with the exam has left the room, the late student will not be permitted to take the exam and will receive a zero for that exam.
3. A sign-in sheet will be completed for each class. It is the student's responsibility to insure that the sheet is signed each class period. Should a student miss excessive classes and do poorly as a result, the daily sign-in sheet will give clear evidence of this. **NOTE:** *An absence is defined as any day when you are not present in class and/or fail to sign the sign-in sheet. There are no exceptions to this policy.*
4. Numerically quantifiable performance on quizzes, examinations, assignments will be the only criteria used for grade calculation.
5. You are expected to read any/all reading assignments, attend all classes, listen to lectures, view AV materials presented, and take notes on all of the foregoing. All lectures, guest and student presentations, films, and readings may be included on any of the examinations.
6. Should an exam, project, or presentation be scheduled on a day prior to a holiday or vacation day, the exam will be administered and your presentation will be expected as scheduled. Do not ask for special permission to take an exam, or deliver a paper/presentation early or late, or for any other special consideration so that you may leave campus early.
7. Students requesting classroom accommodation(s) must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
8. All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines, which are summarized in the undergraduate catalog. The guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following statement which all students agree to when they register for classes:

I understand that the University of Georgia expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the University.

Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation) will not be tolerated. Any student guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade (F) for the course, and written documentation will be placed in their College and University files.

9. If at any time you feel the need for help, information concerning the course, and/or your standing (grade, attendance, etc.) in the course, SEE YOUR INSTRUCTOR as soon as possible!
10. There is no provision for any individual extra credit assignments.
11. Final grade notification will be provided by the University Registrar's Office via the final grade report mailed to your home. Grades will be posted on WebCT.
12. By teaching this course I am not providing legal advice. I am not licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia and at no time will an attorney/client relationship exist between my students and myself. I recommend that any student in need of legal advice seek competent legal representation.