

SPORTS LAW
Course Introduction
Clinical Assistant Professor Mark Brittingham
Spring Semester 2020
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Room 103

HEY SPORTS FANS! Welcome to the Law School's course on Sports Law. I hope you find this class to be interesting and rewarding. In this memorandum, I will try to give you some idea of what this course is about and the nature of the material we will be studying. In addition, this Course Introduction contains most of the rules and procedures that will be in effect during the course. Please read this with care, because I will not repeat most of its contents in class.

Class Discussion: There really is no substantive body of "Sports Law." Instead, a course on Sports Law involves the study of the application of traditional bodies of law within the context of amateur and professional sports. Specifically, we *may* study administrative and constitutional law (NCAA); contract law (coaches and professional athletes); anti-trust (NCAA & professional sports), labor law (professional sports); torts (*e.g.* premises liability, worker's compensation); and discrimination law (coaches & athletes). When I was a student eons ago, I found the Sports Law course to provide an interesting setting in which to learn these areas of law. I hope you will too. I also hope that upon completion of the semester, you will have a general working knowledge of each of these areas of law. However, please remember that this is a survey course, intended only to introduce you to the major areas and issues of Sports Law. Lawyers working in the sports industry, whether at the amateur or professional level, must acquire a much greater familiarity with these different substantive areas of the law. You might find interesting the discussion of the Sports Law program at Florida Coastal School of Law which has a Center for Law & Sports and offers no less than 7 different sports law courses (the last time I checked).

Required Text: You must obtain a copy of the following:

RAY YASSER, JAMES McCURDY, PETER GOPLERUD & MAUREEN WESTON, SPORTS LAW: CASES & MATERIALS (7th Ed.)(LexisNexis 2011).

(BTW: Goplerud was once the Dean here at SIU.)

Assignments: We will typically cover a lot of material each class. This will include not only reading cases and related materials in the book, but also materials that I post on TWEN. Because this class is comprised of upper class students, I do not intend to conduct it as I would a first year class. We will learn the material by reading it and discussing it in class. In order for a discussion format to work, **you must be prepared for each class.**

Attendance: I must take attendance. The rules of the law school require it. I will do so by circulating an attendance sheet during each class. Please be sure that you sign it. Your signature on the attendance sheet establishes your presence during that class period. Correlatively, the lack of such a signature conclusively establishes your absence. Therefore, be certain to sign the attendance sheet each day. Under the rules of the School of Law, you are entitled to (6) absences during the semester. HOWEVER, if you take an absence on a day you are scheduled to lead our discussion on a case without having given me AT LEAST 24 hours prior notice, I will reduce our grade by 1/10 of a point (for each such occurrence).

Grades: I will distribute a take-home final sometime in April. We will discuss a due date in class. Because the exam is a take-home exam that you will have ample time to complete, you may not write something at the last minute or submit something that is substandard. (Remember, many of you need to pass this course to graduate in May.) I will also assign a WAC assignment at mid-semester. I have yet to decide what that will be.

Recording of Class Sessions: I understand that the Law School will automatically record this class as a matter of routine. *Your attendance at class without objection (made to a Dean) will constitute your consent to this recording.* Presumably, these recordings will be available to you. More on this during the semester as we learn more from the Associate Dean & IT folks. HOWEVER, you may NOT record the class on your own (on your phone or other recording device).

Office Hours: My formal office hours are Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to noon. I will likely be here most days. My office is Room 256 on the second floor at the north end of the hall. Feel free to stop in anytime you find me in my office.

Extracurricular Activities: If time allows, I think we should attend a sports event together, maybe a Cardinals game (Wrigley & U.S. Cellular are too far to drive). If someone can arrange tickets and transportation, the Masters golf tournament would be fun. We'll see. In the meantime, let's play ball!!! Now for the formal announcement:

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF:

PLAGIRISM: Plagiarizing another's work, in whole or in part, is a violation of the Honor Code and can lead to serious penalties, including expulsion. An Honor Code investigation must also be reported to the Bar Examiners, even if you are cleared of any violation. The Honor Code defines plagiarism as: *passing off another's ideas, words, or work as one's own, including written, oral, multimedia, or other work, either word for word or in substance, unless the student author credits the original author and identifies the original author's work with quotation marks, footnotes, or other appropriate designation in such a way as to make clear the true author of the work.*

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY: Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. <http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/>. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreement to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations.

SALUKI CARES: The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.

Mark Brittingham