

REVISED 12/21/2020

BLAW 495

Sports Law

Overview

Sports Law (BLAW 495). This course provides an overview of the business and legal issues that arise in professional and amateur sports. You will analyze how law applies to factual settings. You will read appellate court decisions and prepare written briefs of the decisions. You will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on changing circumstances in various cases and hypotheticals. You will learn to argue alternate sides of a dispute regardless of personal belief. You will learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law, and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

Coursework

This course is fully online, asynchronous, which means that we will not have face-to-face class meeting, neither in-person nor on Zoom. All work will be done online in a Canvas course and with the use of the textbook which is available in hard copy or online.

The assignments are listed below. They include reading from the text, online videos, a midterm exam, and writing case briefs, discussions, and a final paper. If you have questions about the assigned material, please ask. Please note that on Canvas, [Course Summary](#) contains only those assignments that need to be submitted. There are additional reading and briefing assignments, so please be sure to follow this syllabus.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on Canvas by the due date. Emails will not be accepted for any reason, so don't wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report the amount of your final paper that is copied.

How to Brief a Case - IRAC

To brief cases, use the "IRAC" format, which is explained on Canvas. Most briefs that you prepare for class will be about one typewritten page. If you choose to handwrite them, they will be longer. Please note that I have specific requirements for your briefs that may be different than the what you have experienced in other classes. Please be sure to follow the requirements as I have described them on Canvas. Stating "I've always done it this way" will not be a successful strategy. It is an important skill to be able to adapt, just like on the job where you adapt to different managers or clients.

**Spring 2020 – Section 14052
Online – Asynchronous (no
class meetings)**

Instructor: Professor Carr
E-Mail: nanci.carr@csun.edu
Phone: 818/677-3984

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11am-
2pm (on Zoom) and by appointment



Textbook

Please see [Textbook information](#) in the Overview and Resources module on Canvas.



Professionalism

You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. For any video virtual class meeting, you must be dressed, and do not wear any type of Halloween mask that may startle classmates. If you are eating, please turn off your video. You may be asked to leave a video meeting for disruptive behavior, and you may be required to speak with the Student Conduct Coordinator before being invited to another video class meeting. Please maintain a professional tone in both online chat sessions and in emails to your professor and classmates.



Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment, quiz, or exam. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and turnitin will report on the amount of your turned-in briefs that are copied. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Mission Statement, Learning Goals and Objectives

Our mission is to equip students with the academic knowledge, problem solving, analytical and professional skills in the areas of business law, business ethics, and real estate necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals.

This course requires students to articulate, develop and defend positions, to think critically and to engage in problem-solving. Students learn to formulate an effective legal analysis by synthesizing information, identifying legal issues, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant facts, using facts and law to support argument, reasoning by analogy and reaching conclusions based on analysis. In addition, students in all BLAW courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.

General Instructions on Taking the Exam

The midterm exam is composed of one or more fact patterns which you will brief using IRAC. It will require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases.

Answer each question fully, clearly, and in the order given. Mere conclusions receive no credit. You must base your conclusions on complete and intelligent applications of the facts to the legal principles involved. Thoughtful arguments and detailed analysis are more important than the conclusion that you reach.



Technology Requirements

Since this is an online course, reliable internet is required. (Please see <https://www.csun.edu/it/internet-connectivity-users-who-do-not-have-it> for information on acquiring internet service.) You'll also need Microsoft Word (available at no charge from CSUN) for submitting written assignments. You will need access to a computer or tablet; please contact the bookstore for purchasing and borrowing options if needed.



It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.

Legal Advice

Faculty members may not provide legal advice or legal services to students. If you need legal advice or information regarding the law, resources can be found on the Department of Business Law web page at <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>.

Grading

Your grade is based upon assignments, quizzes, and two exams. Grade allocation is as follows:

Assignments:	100 points
Midterm exam:	45 points
Final paper:	<u>55 points</u>
Total:	200 points

Grading Scale: A-/A – 90% and above
B-/B/B+ – 80% - 89%
C-/C/C+ – 70% - 79%
D-/D/D+ – 60% - 69%

Plus/minus grading may be used. The grade reached after calculating the grades above will be the minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your course grade may be raised based on effort and/or improvement.

****Late work will not be accepted.****

Disability Resources and Educational Services

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office <http://www.csun.edu/dres> or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) <http://www.csun.edu/ncod>. The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at 818/677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at 818/677-2611. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment.



Questions

If you have any questions about the material contained in this syllabus, please contact Professor Carr.

Your continued enrollment in the course evidences your agreement to the policies contained herein.

This syllabus is subject to change as circumstances require. I will notify you of any such changes.

Course Topics and Assignments - Tentative
Please note that all online assignments are available on Canvas.

Week (from Mon-Sun)	Date	Topics	Reading videos, etc. Add'l materials may be posted in the modules	Work due (Unless otherwise noted, all work is due on Sundays at 5pm)
One	1/25-1/31	Introduction	Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • Plagiarism materials • How to Brief a Case Watch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plagiarism video • Truths/myths about online education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Yourself
Two	2/1-2/7	Sports Agency	Read Ch. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Oliver v NCAA, Bloom v NCAA</i>
Three	2/8-2/14	Sports Contracts	Read Ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>O'Brien v Ohio State University</i> • Complete Discussion #1
Four	2/15-2/21	Sports Torts	Read Ch. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Loughran v The Phillies and Anand v Kapoor</i>
Five	2/22-2/28	Sports Crimes	Read Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Washington v Shelley</i> and <i>Stark v Seattle Seahawks</i> • Complete Discussion #2
Six	3/1-3/7	Title IX and Gender Issues	Read Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Parker v Indiana HS Athletic</i>
Seven	3/8-3/14	Catchup, review and take Midterm		
Spring Break	3/15-3/21	Enjoy!		
Eight	3/22-3/28	Disabilities and Sports	Read Ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Sisson v Virginia HS League</i> and <i>McFadden v Grasmick</i> • Complete Discussion #3
Nine	3/29-4/4	Drugs in Sports	Read Ch. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Slaney v IAAF and USOC</i> • Paper topic due
Ten	4/5-4/11	International Issues	Read Ch. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>USOC v Tobyhanna Camp Corp.</i> • Complete Discussion #4
Eleven	4/12-4/18	Antitrust and Labor Issues	Read Ch. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief <i>Bassett v NCAA</i>
Twelve	4/19-4/25	Intellectual Property Issues	Read Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Discussion #5
Thirteen	4/26-5/2	Religion and Sports	Read Ch. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Fourteen	5/3-5/9	Managing disruption	Read materials posted on Canvas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Discussion #6
Fifteen	5/10-5/16	Finish writing paper		
Final Exam week	5/17	Final paper due by 5pm on 5/17		