

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.

# SPMT608

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## Course Summary

**Course :** SPMT608 **Title :** Sports Law  
**Length of Course :** 8 **Faculty :**  
**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

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## Description

### Course Description:

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.

### Course Scope:

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## Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students will fulfill the following Learning Objectives (LO):

LO1: Summarize and describe the basic elements of the U.S. legal system including the different level of courts, torts, negligence, and resolving conflicts.

LO2: Analyze current issues in sports law in the areas of tort law and product liability.

LO3: Identify and evaluate common legal risks associated with planning and executing sports events.

LO4: Recognize and discuss the elements of contract law in the sports field in terms of contract formation, negotiation, enforcement, interpretation, and termination.

LO5: Recognize and discuss labor law and sports in relationship to labor disputes, unfair labor practices, representation, and arbitration.

LO6: Distinguish and discuss legal issues related to health and safety, compensation for injuries, disability law, and ethics in a sports context.

LO7: Examine the issues involved in discrimination in sports.

LO8: Analyze current issues in sports law in the areas of likeness and intellectual property.

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# Outline

## Week 1: Introduction to Sports Law

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### Learning Objectives

LO1: Summarize and describe the basic elements of the U.S. legal system including the different level of courts, torts, negligence, and resolving conflicts.

### Readings

THIS CLASS DOES NOT HAVE A TEXTBOOK. This class uses Open Educational Resources (OERs) rather than a textbook. Each week in the Lessons tab you will have different readings/videos that you will read/watch to learn the weekly material. Students are encouraged to augment assignments and forums with outside readings of their interest.

### Assignments

Week 1 Discussion

Week 1 Assignment

## Week 2: Risk Management, Negligence, and Product Liability

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### Learning Objectives

LO2: Analyze current issues in sports law in the areas of tort law and product liability.

LO3: Identify and evaluate common legal risks associated with planning and executing sports events.

### Readings

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### Assignments

Week 2 Discussion

## Week 3: Contract Law, Collective Bargaining, and Antitrust Issues in Sports

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### Learning Objectives

LO4: Recognize and discuss the elements of contract law in the sports field in terms of contract formation, negotiation, enforcement, interpretation, and termination.

LO5: Recognize and discuss labor law and sports in relationship to labor disputes, unfair labor practices, representation, and arbitration.

### Readings

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read/watch to learn the weekly material. Students are encouraged to augment assignments and forums with outside readings of their interest.

## Assignments

Week 3 Discussion

Week 3 Assignment

## **Week 4: Health and Safety, Compensation for Injuries, and Disability Law in Sports**

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### Learning Objectives

LO6: Distinguish and discuss legal issues related to health and safety, compensation for injuries, disability law, and ethics in a sports context.

### Readings

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## Assignments

Week 4 Discussion

## **Week 5: Gender, Title IX, and Other Social Issues**

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### Learning Objectives

LO7: Examine the issues involved in discrimination in sports.

### Readings

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## Assignments

Week 5 Assignment

## **Week 6: Agency Law in Sports: The Athlete-Agent Relationship**

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### Learning Objectives

LO5: Recognize and discuss labor law and sports in relationship to labor disputes, unfair labor practices, representation, and arbitration.

### Readings

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## Assignments

### Week 6 Discussion

## Week 7: Intellectual Property, Likeness, Media, and Sponsorship

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### Learning Objectives

LO8: Analyze current issues in sports law in the areas of likeness and intellectual property.

### Readings

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### Assignments

#### Week 7 Assignment

## Week 8: Violence, Gambling, and Drug Use in Sports

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### Learning Objectives

LO6: Distinguish and discuss legal issues related to health and safety, compensation for injuries, disability law, and ethics in a sports context.

### Readings

THIS CLASS DOES NOT HAVE A TEXTBOOK. This class uses Open Educational Resources (OERs) rather than a textbook. Each week in the Lessons tab you will have different readings/videos that you will read/watch to learn the weekly material. Students are encouraged to augment assignments and forums with outside readings of their interest.

### Assignments

#### Week 8 Discussion

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## Evaluation

### Grading:

Name	Grade %
Discussions	30.00 %
Week 1 Discussion: Introductions & Intercollegiate Sports Governance	5.00 %
Week 2 Discussion: Legal Waivers & Torts	5.00 %
Week 3 Discussion: Mediation and Arbitration	5.00 %
Week 4 Discussion: Duty to Trespassers	5.00 %
Week 6 Discussion: Sports Agency	5.00 %

Week 8 Discussion: Governing Issues of Athlete Behavior	5.00 %
Research Paper Topic	10.00 %
Week 1 Assignment: Sports Law Research Paper Proposal	10.00 %
Case Brief	35.00 %
Week 3 Assignment: Case Brief - Antitrust	17.50 %
Week 5 Assignment: Case Brief - Amateurism	17.50 %
Research Paper	25.00 %
Week 7 Assignment: Final Project - Sports Law Research Paper	25.00 %

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## Materials

**Book Title:** Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the course eReserve.

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** ERESERVE NOTE

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## Course Guidelines

### COURSE DELIVERY METHOD

This course is delivered via distance learning, enabling 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.

Please note that everything is based on Eastern Time (ET). Many of you are located in other time zones. The clock at the top of the main classroom page is set to ET. Please use this as your guide.

### WRITING AND FORMATTING EXPECTATIONS

Students will follow the APA Style Manual, 7th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in all work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Any references used to complete assignments must be identified with properly formatted text citations and a reference page regardless of submission format (Word, PowerPoint, etc.).

APA formatting requires assignments to be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format. A few of the most common APA requirements include the following.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by

the professor).

- 12-point font size and Times New Roman style is preferred.
- Page margins (top, bottom, left and right) should be 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation made for special situations and online submission variances.

## WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS

In all discussions, students are required to submit one initial post by Wednesday at 11:55 pm ET and a minimum of two replies to classmates by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. For Week 1 only, initial posts should be at least 250 words, original in content, and demonstrate a thorough analysis of the topic. Replies should be informative, and contribute to advancing knowledge of the topic.

Participation in a Week 1 discussion serves as a student's official entry into a course and requires special attention. Students must complete the Week 1 discussion no later than Sunday at 11:55 pm ET in order to maintain registration in the course.

### Discussion Interaction Guidelines

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate, both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, occasionally can degenerate into needless insults and other unproductive conversation. 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 personal attacks or attempts to intimidate or stifle the discussion of others. Despite the best of intentions, jokes and, especially satire, can easily get lost or become unintentionally offensive. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emojicons" to help alert your readers.

## COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Instructors typically post announcements throughout a course to communication information in regard to changes in due dates, clarifications on assignments, additional resources for lessons, etc. It is the responsibility of each student to review announcements on a regular basis to stay informed on any course updates.

## ASSIGNMENT AND DISCUSSION DUE DATES AND LATE WORK

Students are expected to submit assignments and discussions by the due dates listed in the classroom. Depending on circumstances, assignments may not be accepted late or after the course end date. Submitting an assignment late may result in a penalty of up to 10% per day late, not to exceed a maximum of 50% (5 days late).<sup>\*</sup> Whether assignments are accepted late, or if a late penalty is applied, is at the faculty member's discretion.<sup>\*\*</sup> For discussions, since posting after a week has concluded provides no value to the course, no initial posts or replies will be accepted after the due date. Faculty may be more flexible if potential delays are communicated ahead of time.

<sup>\*</sup>Late penalties are applied before assignments are graded.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Programs with specialty accreditation and students with DSA accommodations may have different late policies applied.

## DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Course content may vary from the content outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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# Communications

## Student Communication

To reach the instructor, please communicate through the MyClassroom email function accessible from the

Classlist of the Course Tools menu, where the instructor and students email addresses are listed, or via the Office 365 tool on the Course homepage.

- In emails to instructors, it's important to note the specific course in which you are enrolled. The name of the course is at the top center of all pages.
- Students and instructors communicate in Discussion posts and other learning activities.
- All interactions should follow APUS guidelines, as noted in the [Student Handbook](#), and maintain a professional, courteous tone.
- Students should review writing for spelling and grammar.
- [Tips on Using the Office 365 Email Tool](#)

## Instructor Communication

The instructor will post announcements on communications preferences involving email and Instant Messaging and any changes in the class schedule or activities.

- Instructors will periodically post information on the expectations of students and will provide feedback on assignments, Discussion posts, quizzes, and exams.
- Instructors will generally acknowledge student communications within 24 hours and respond within 48 hours, except in unusual circumstances (e.g., illness).
- The APUS standard for grading of all assessments (assignments, Discussions, quizzes, exams) is five days or fewer from the due date.
- Final course grades are submitted by faculty no later than seven days after the end date of the course or the end of the extension period.

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## University Policies

Consult the [Student Handbook](#) for processes and policies at APUS. Notable policies:

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Academic Dishonesty / Plagiarism](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)
- [Student Deadlines](#)
- [Video Conference Policy](#)

## Mission

The [mission of American Public University System](#) is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

## Minimum Technology Requirements

- Please consult the catalog for the minimum hardware and software required for [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) courses.



- Although students are encouraged to use the [Pulse mobile app](#) with any course, please note that not all course work can be completed via a mobile device.

## **Disclaimers**

- Please note that course content – and, thus, the syllabus – may change between when a student registers for a course and when the course starts.
- Course content may vary from the syllabus' schedule to meet the needs of a particular group.