

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SEMINAR – Law 343 A04

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE SPRING 2011

Professor Peter A. Gall, Q.C.

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Course Website: N/A
Time/location: Friday, 9:00am-11:50am, Room 204

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will examine the legal and policy issues of certain aspects of the sports and entertainment industries. In the sports field we will consider the legal relationships between the participants in sports leagues, that is, between the league, teams, players, unions and agents. This will be the main focus of the seminar. A few sessions will be devoted to providing an overview of the entertainment industry.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course the student will:

- a) Understand the legal underpinnings of the major professional sports leagues;
- b) Understand the legal problems and interactions faced by athletes, teams and leagues;
- c) Have an appreciation of contemporary legal topics in sports;
- d) Understand the functioning of collective bargaining agreements in sports; and
- e) Have a brief survey of entertainment business and the law surrounding it

III. COURSE MATERIALS

The required readings will be distributed prior to class sessions. These readings will consist of articles and cases that relate to topics that we will be covering for the week. This class will be highly focused around classroom participation. As such, it is very important that you come to class having read the required material.

IV. COURSE METHODOLOGY

A variety of teaching methods will be employed during the course including lectures, guest speakers, class discussion, group activities and problem analysis.

V. COURSE EVALUATION

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| 1. 5,000 - 6,000 word research paper on a pre-approved topic | 80% |
| 2. Participation | 20% |

Research Paper

(i) The paper is to be a 5,000 (minimum) to 6,000 (maximum) word research paper on an approved topic relating to the operation of law in the sports or entertainment businesses. The word count is all-inclusive (includes footnotes).

(ii) You must provide a one-page outline of the paper to the instructor by the beginning of class on February 11, 2010. The outline must describe the paper's thesis and major topics.

(iii) The paper must include a bibliography of all sources.

(iv) The paper should be submitted by April 22.

(v) Codenames should not be used on papers.

Grading

Papers will be graded on the following basis:

1. **Thesis:** clear articulation of argument
2. **Organization:** clear structure throughout paper
3. **Research:** breadth and depth of research
4. **Analysis:** logic, balance, depth, context, critical analysis
5. **Originality/creativity**
6. **Style:** correct legal citation, flow and grammar

Participation

Participation will be based on class attendance and participation in classroom discussions.