Course Title: Socio-Legal Issues in Sports

Course Number | SOCI 401.65
Pre/Co-Requisites | SOCI 313
Instructor Name | Martine Dennie
Email | martine.dennie@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy | Feel free to contact me over email. Please include your full name and the course number. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered.
Office Location | n/a
Office Hours | Tuesdays at 1 PM, or by appointment
TA Name | Bryan Kuk
Email | bryan.kuk@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location | n/a
TA Office Hours | n/a
Class Dates | Asynchronous
Class Times | n/a
Class Location | Online

Course Description
This course is designed to understand the application of some basic legal principles in the sports context. This course explores how various areas of substantive law, including contracts, torts, criminal law, labour and employment law, and human rights are applied in the sports industry – both professional and amateur. In studying the legal relationships among athletes, teams, leagues, governing bodies, sports facilities, broadcasters, and fans, students are exposed to various sociological explanations of sports violence, sports-related injuries, the commercialization of sports, and various ideologies touching on gender, race, ethnicity, and social class in sports.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes
• Analyze sports as a business, not as a fan
• Learn negotiation strategies in collective bargaining and athlete contracts
• Learn the basic principles of human rights law, labour law, tort law, and criminal law as applied in the sports context
• Understand the unique relationships between participants in the sports industry
• Analyze the legal issues that affect the operation of professional sports teams and leagues, and the rights of athletes

Course Format
This course will be delivered online asynchronously. Narrated power point slides will be posted each week.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources
A list of readings and additional resources (podcasts, documentaries, etc.) will be posted on D2L with instructions on how to access the materials.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week of June 29th</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; what is sports law?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of July 6th</td>
<td>Human Rights in Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of July 13th</td>
<td>Labour Law and Collective Bargaining in Professional Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of July 20th</td>
<td>Contract Law; Standard Players’ Contracts in Professional Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of July 27th</td>
<td>Civil liability in sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 3rd</td>
<td>Criminal liability in sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week of August 10th</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly ‘Blog’ Posts (6)</td>
<td>60% (10% per post)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open-Book Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A description of the assignments will be posted on D2L.

Final Exam Information
The final exam will be an individual take-home exam. It will be comprised of short answer questions and one long essay question. More information will be posted on D2L.
Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent range</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96 – 100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 95.99%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>85 – 89.99%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Approaching excellent performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80 – 84.99%</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Exceeding good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75 – 79.99%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70 – 74.99%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Approaching good performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67 – 69.99%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Exceeding satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63 – 66.99%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>59 – 62.99%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Approaching satisfactory performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55 – 58.99%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 54.99%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure. Did not meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one’s mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss their work and rationale. It should be noted that a reassessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

2. Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the
Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf)) and requirements of the Copyright Act ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Recording of Lectures

Note that the audio or video recording of lectures and taking screengrabs of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf).

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Note that publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf).

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct: [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html)

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another
assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory
declarations, please see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

**Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are
dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information can be found at:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be
filled out. It’s available at:
https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken
to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean
(Students).

**Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student
Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to
instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with
disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to
their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need
in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should
communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**Libraries & Cultural Resources**

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology
students go to the Sociology Library guide: https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology

To access the main Library website go to: https://library.ucalgary.ca

**Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health,
social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus
community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when
needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout
the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building
available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre,
https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services) and the Campus
Mental Health Strategy (http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/).

**Student Success Centre**

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most
of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support
staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide
tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to
all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success

Student Ombuds Office
The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information
The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: https://www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary’s Emergency Management website:

Safewalk
Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.