

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS - SPORT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Isenberg School of Management**

SPORTMGT 488 – *PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AND THE LAW* (Fall, 2006)

CLASSROOM: ISOM 125

CLASS MEETINGS: - T/Th 1:00 pm-2:15 pm

E-MAIL: gwong@sportmgt.umass.edu

WEBSITE: <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~splaw488>

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-4:00 p.m.

If there are schedule conflicts, Friday 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Wong

OFFICE: SOM Building, Room 236N

MAILBOX: SOM Building, Room 230

PHONE: (413) 545 – 5053

## **I. COURSE MATERIALS**

### REQUIRED READINGS

- G.M. Wong, *Essentials of Sports Law*, **Third Edition**, 2002 (Available at the Textbook Annex)
- Roger Fisher and William Ury, *Getting To Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*, Second Edition, Penguin Books, 1991 (Available at the Textbook Annex)
- Class web site <http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~splaw488>, supplemental readings
- Handouts in class; readings for speakers
- Current and recent newspapers, journals, articles, and magazines

### OPTIONAL READINGS

If you have an interest or if you need more information on a particular topic, various optional readings are listed in the table of contents of your supplemental reading. Some of these additional readings are law review articles, available on Lexis Nexis, free of charge to UMass students. Others are books, which would need to be purchased.

## **II. COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course focuses on the many legal issues involved in the professional team sports industry in the United States. The primary focus will be on the major professional team sport leagues, and secondarily we will touch upon some of the newer professional sport leagues, some of the non-team professional sport issues and international Olympic issues. The legal areas of focus will be contracts, antitrust law, labor law, arbitration, collective bargaining and agency issues, as they apply to professional sports teams. There will be both a current and practical approach to the class. Current and recent disputes will be the focus of the lectures and discussion in class. Therefore, the students must be prepared to read current and recent newspapers, journals, articles and magazines.

### III. TOPICS & READINGS (Tentative – some topics may change to accommodate class speakers)

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
I. Overview of Industry & Labor Relations	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 2-15
II. Agents	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 539-574, 584-90, Supplemental Reading, Website
III. Contracts	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 387-414, Supplemental Reading, Website
IV. Antitrust	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 439-472, 480-485, 664-684, Supplemental Reading, Website
V. Labor Law	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 491-538, Supplemental Reading, Website
VI. Convergence of Labor/Antitrust Laws	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 473-480, Supplemental Reading, Website
VII. Salary Arbitration	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 527-529, Supplemental Reading, Website
VIII. Grievance Arbitration	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 523-538, 305-320, Supplemental Reading, Website
IX. Olympic Arbitration	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 299-305, Supplemental Reading, Website
X. Drug Testing	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 285-287, 305-317, Supplemental Reading, Website
XI. Negotiation	<b>Getting to Yes</b>
XII. Intellectual Property Law	<i>Essentials</i> : pp. 613-658
XIII. Leagues v. Owners (Time Permitting)	Lexis-Nexis; Review <i>Essentials</i> pp. 453-460

### IV. GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

#### CLASS PREPARATION

The student will get the most out of class meetings by reading and understanding the assigned materials before class. The student may have to read decisions several times before understanding the case. Students should attempt to brief every case. This will help in understanding the case, as well as providing a reference in studying for exams. Students should highlight and take notes from all law review articles. I also encourage you to form study groups to work on the briefs, case problems and law review articles.

#### CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation is encouraged in every possible manner. Attendance is not participation. Each student should be prepared to contribute to class discussion in each class. It is important to attend every class, since many of the projects will require working in groups.

#### CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is important for the lecture, notes and the contributions from other members of the class. It is also important for class participation. For unexcused absences 2-4, the final grade will be reduced by .25 points for each unexcused absence.

For unexcused absences 5 and above, the final grade will be reduced by .33 for each unexcused absence.

### ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS/EXAMS

All assignments must be typed, unless Professor Wong indicates otherwise. A midterm examination will be held during the regularly scheduled class periods. The University will schedule the final examination during the final examination period from December 16 to 26. All final examinations must be taken during the scheduled examination times. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED.** Please prepare for **closed book exams.**

Examinable Material - all assigned readings, lectures of the professor, lectures of guest speakers, student presentations and class discussions are examinable material, unless explicitly indicated.

### V. GRADING

Participation, Class Projects, Assignments, and Attendance	35%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam (Cumulative)	35%
	100%

Effective in the fall, 2004, the University of Massachusetts implemented plus/minus grading (A-, B+, B-, etc.) to replace the midpoint grading (AB, BC,CD). The + grades are assigned grade points ending in .3 (e.g., B+ is a 3.3); the – grades are assigned grade points ending in .7 (e.g., B- is a 2.7).

**NOTE: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Action will be taken against students committing academic dishonesty in accordance with the procedures in the 2006-7 *Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities Handbook* or <http://www.umass.edu/umhome/policies/honesty.html>**

**VI. CLASS MEETINGS AND CONTENT OUTLINE (TENTATIVE – Some dates may be changed in order to accommodate guest speakers)**

<b><u>Class #</u></b>	<b><u>Day, Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topics</u></b>
1	Thu., Sept. 7	Overview of Sports Industry; Current Issues in Labor Relations
2	Tue., Sept. 12	Agency Law
3	Thu., Sept. 14	Agency Law
4	Tue., Sept. 19	Contract Law
5	Thu., Sept. 21	Contract Law
6	Tue., Sept. 26	Antitrust Law
7	Thu., Sept. 28	Antitrust Law
8	Tue., Oct. 3	Labor Law
9	Thu., Oct. 5	Library Session-DuBois Library
10	Tue., Oct. 10	Labor Law
11	Thu., Oct. 12	Convergence of Labor and Antitrust
12	Tue., Oct. 17	Convergence of Labor and Antitrust
13	Thu., Oct. 19	Midterm
14	Tue., Oct. 24	Salary Arbitration
15	Thu., Oct. 26	Salary Arbitration
16	Tue., Oct. 31	Grievance Arbitration
17	Thu., Nov. 2	Grievance Arbitration
18	Tue., Nov. 7	Olympic Arbitration
19	Thu., Nov. 9	Drug Testing
20	Tue., Nov. 14	Negotiation
21	Thu., Nov. 16	Negotiation
22	Tue., Nov. 21	Intellectual Property Law
	Thu., Nov. 25	No Class-Thanksgiving
23	Tue., Nov. 28	Intellectual Property Law
24	Thu., Nov. 30	Negotiation Project
25	Tue., Dec. 5	Negotiation Project
26	Thu., Dec. 7	Negotiation Project
27	Tue., Dec. 12	(Time Permitting) Leagues v. Owners

- **CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM TO BE SCHEDULED BY THE UNIVERSITY DURING THE FINALS PERIOD (Dec. 16 to Dec. 26)**

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