

**SYLLABUS**  
**Sul Ross State University – Rio Grande College**  
**EDUC 5319 – School Law**  
**Fall, 2018 – 3 Semester Hours**

Instructor: Dorman W. Moore, Ph.D., Professor  
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Office: Uvalde – A125

Office hours: Monday – Thursday: 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Other times by appointment.

**Course Description:**

A study of general laws applying to all states concerning education; an in-depth study of cases and decisions affecting current education.

**Primary Text:**

Walsh, J., Kemerer, F., Maniotis, L., *The Educator's Guide to Texas School Law*. (8<sup>th</sup> edition), University of Texas Press, Austin. ISBN#: 978-0-292-76084-4.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will acquire a foundation and develop a philosophy of school law that will enable them to function as an educator in Texas within ethical and legal boundaries. The course will be guided by the competencies listed that are correlated to the knowledge framework for the certification of principals in Texas.

**Student Learning Outcomes (Principal Preparation Standards):**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Domain III, Competency 6:

- Implements effective, appropriate, and legal strategies for the recruitment, screening, hiring, assignment, induction, development, evaluation, promotion, retention, discipline, and dismissal of campus staff.

Domain IV, Competency 10:

- Implements strategies that enable the physical plant, equipment, and support systems to operate safely, efficiently and effectively to maintain a conducive learning environment.
- Supplies strategies for ensuring the safety of students and personnel and for addressing emergencies and security concerns, including developing and implementing a crisis plan.
- Applies local, state, and federal laws and policies to support sound decisions while considering implications related to all school operations and programs (e.g., student services, food services, health services, and transportation).
- Implements strategies for student discipline and attendance in a manner that ensures student safety, consistency, and equity and that legal requirements are met (e.g., due process, SPED requirements).
- Knows how to apply to current school issues those Federal and State laws (including constitutional provisions, agency regulations, and court decisions) that directly and indirectly affect public education.

- Knows how to ensure compliance with student and employee rights and responsibilities, statutory and assumed authority of school boards, relations with employee organizations, civil liability of school personnel, due process, and federal disability laws.
- Knows how to make presentations, participate in discussions, give and receive criticism, and prepare written documents in a professional manner.

Domain VI, Competency 11:

- The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she knows how to act with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical and legal manner.

**Course Format**

The course will require students to do independent research work and complete outside assignments independently. Timelines for due assignments must be honored. Students will be responsible for submitting all assignments on time.

It is imperative that all assignments be completed timely and individually. Any evidence of collusion or copying previous work by yourself or anyone else on assignments will be treated as cheating and plagiarism. Late work will be worth a maximum of half the available points for that assignment.

**GRADING:**

Final course grade will be determined through examinations and assignment products.

**Examinations**

There will be a mid-term exam that will assess your knowledge and understanding of principles and major concepts presented in the first half of the course.

There will be a final exam that will assess your knowledge and understanding of principles and major concepts presented in the last half of the course.

**Point System for Grading:**

Exams (Mid-Term - 46, Final - 43).....	=	89
Assignments .....	=	<u>91</u>
		180 Total points

- 162+ points = A
- 144 – 161 points = B
- 126 – 143 points = C
- 108 – 125 points = D
- Below 108 points = F

“No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by Sul Ross State University on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including, but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

*Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services.*

## **School Law Class Schedule**

### IMPORTANT DATES

### ACTIVITIES

August 28, Tues.	Explanation of syllabus; Timelines and Assignments; Legal Terminology in text Chapter 1 - Overview of Texas Law sent Chapter 3 - Special Education sent
September 18, Tues.	Chapters 1 and 3 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 2 - Student Attendance sent Chapter 8 – Student Discipline sent
September 25, Tues.	Chapter 7 – Religion in the Schools sent
October 2, Tues.	Chapters 2 and 8 due no later than 12 noon
October 9, Tues.	Meet at 6:00 pm in room 104 for review Chapter 7 due at class time Chapter 4 – The Employment Relationship sent Chapter 6 – Expression and Association Rights sent
October 16, Tues.	Meet at 6:00 pm in room 104 for review and Mid-Term Exam
October 23, Tues.	Meet at 6:00 pm in room 104 to review Mid-Term Exam

October 30, Tues.	Chapters 4 and 6 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 5 – Personnel Issues sent Chapter 9 – Privacy Issues sent
November 6, Tues.	Chapters 5 and 9 due no later than 12 noon Chapter 10 – Legal Liability sent
November 13, Tues.	Meet at 6:00 pm in room 104 for review
November 27, Tues.	Chapter 10 due no later than 12 noon
December 4, Tues.	Meet at 6:00 pm in room 104 for review and Final Exam

Note: This schedule and the activities listed are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. It is only a preliminary guide.





