KES 4340 – Legal and Ethical Issues – 8-Week Syllabus
Department of Kinesiology & Human Performance
Sul Ross State University

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alonzo Maestas, PhD, JD, MS, MA, MLS, MCJ
Email (preferred): Axm17kg@sulross.edu (Response time: 24hrs Monday – Thursday; 48hrs Friday – Sunday)
Phone: Email instructor for phone or Zoom appointment

Syllabus Objective

The purpose of this syllabus is to outline the semester for you in a manner that is easy to read and understand. I will cover the course requirements, assignments, deadlines, grading scale, and any and all other expectations of this course. Remember that this syllabus is subject to change, but I will let you know if I will be making any changes.

Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Course Delivery

This is a fully online course. This course follows a 16-week calendar as detailed in the course schedule.

Course Description

Basic legal principles, terminology, and risk management approaches; applications of legal principles to protection of employees, and employers in kinesiology related fields, contemporary ethical issues.

Required Textbook

Title: Legal Aspects of Sports, 2nd Edition
Author: Miller and Schoepfer
Publisher: Jones & Bartlett Learning
ISBN: 9781284141337R30

You will also need to access the SRSU Library to locate and download peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. For assistance, you may Ask the Library or contact the Graduate Student Center for help.

Expectation of Students

Students are responsible for keeping up with the reading and are expected to read the assigned chapters and/or other posted readings prior to class. Handouts distributed through Blackboard should be kept in a notebook in order to be referred to as necessary.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of the course each student will be able to:

1. Explain why we live in a litigious society and the importance of managing risk.

2. Differentiate between civil and criminal law, the types of torts, and the place that negligence fits within the legal system.

3. Discuss the difference between the federal court system and the state court system, and why we find federal cases in the context of recreation, sport and tourism.

4. Analyze the elements of negligence and sources of information used to determine the standard of care.

5. Define the concept of strict liability, how it differs from ordinary negligence, and the types of situations that might give rise to a strict liability claim.

6. Summarize the defenses to negligence, which legal protections shift the responsibility to the plaintiff.

7. Describe the elements that are needed to make a valid and enforceable waiver, and pitfalls in drafting and implementing a waiver.

8. Define intentional torts, and their essential elements, where harm occurs to a person.

9. Describe the intentional torts that apply to property, both real and personal, and the essential elements of these torts.

10. Identify the common defenses to intentional torts discussed in chapters 6 and 7.

11. Discuss human rights covered in the textbook.

12. Describe the legal issues and civil legal actions that can arise associated with due process, privacy, speech and religion.

13. Discuss the protections afforded by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, in the context of discrimination, and recreation, sport, and tourism.

14. Identify each of the four steps and their components of the risk management process.

15. Describe how to protect yourself and your organization when hiring and terminating employees.

16. Identify ways to avoid the pitfalls associated with claims of sexual harassment while at the same time protecting the rights of the individual(s) making the claim.

17. Summarize the purposes, objectives, and methods in developing an employee safety and health program.

Marketable Skills
The following marketable skills are met in this course:

1. Career Management. Your Unit Short Answer assignments are designed to teach you theories that you will encounter throughout your careers as sports administrators.

2. Critical Thinking. Your Case Study Assignment is designed to enhance your critical thinking skills.

Learning Objectives
Students will learn the following standard and competency:

1. Standard X – The physical education teacher understands the legal issues and responsibilities of physical education teachers in relation to supervision, planning and instruction, matching participants, safety, first aid, and risk management.

2. Competency 013 – The teacher understands legal issues and responsibilities of physical education teachers in relation to supervision, planning and instruction, safety, first aid and risk management.

Introduction



Welcome to Legal and Ethical Issues in Kinesiology and Sport!

My name is Dr. Alonzo Maestas, and I will be your instructor for this course. I have extensive training and experience in both law and sport, and I am excited to facilitate your learning this semester. I hold a B.A., Government and English Literature, New Mexico State University (NMSU) (2002); J.D., The University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law (2009); Master of Criminal Justice, NMSU (2012); M.L.S., Sport Law & NCAA Compliance, Drexel University (2017); M.A., Athletic Coaching Education, Ball State University (2018); M.S., Physical Education, Curriculum & Instruction, UNM (2024); and Ph.D., Sport Administration, UNM (2025).

Additionally, I practiced contract, fiscal, and administrative law in the U.S. Army JAG Corps, and later practiced both criminal and civil law in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have served as the Athletic Director at a private school, coached and officiated a variety of youth sports, and was the Director of the Veteran & Military Resource Center at UNM from July 2017 through May 2026. I am currently the Interim County Attorney for Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Welcome

Hello, and welcome to Legal and Ethical Issues in Kinesiology and Sport! I am happy to have you in my class, and look forward to a fun and productive semester. From performance enhancing drug use to injuries in a recreational league, sports and law intersect at various levels.

Before you start, please review the syllabus and make sure you order the required materials. Although there are slides for the chapters, you will need the book to ensure you don't miss anything and get all the readings done.

This class is a mix of readings, short answers, unit tests, a Case Study Assignment, and a final exam. This will ensure you get a solid understanding of the legal and ethical issues that present themselves in sport. In addition, you will be required to locate and synthesize resources to put your final project together, so I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the SRSU library database searches as early as possible.

I encourage you to not wait to read the assigned chapters until the last day of each unit. If you take the time to read a chapter or two per day during the week, you will find that the reading is not overwhelming. I suggest blocking time for this class in your weekly schedule. The due dates for the readings, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and final paper are listed in Blackboard, as well as in your syllabus, so please pay attention to those due dates. All in all, time management will be critical to succeed in this course (as in all your courses).4

My teaching philosophy is simple: if you did not learn, I did not do my job. I design my classes to help you succeed, but success requires communication. If you encounter any challenges during the semester, please reach out to me early so we can find a solution. My preferred contact is email at Axm17kg@sulross.edu (See "Instructor Information" section above for my response time).

I'm looking forward to an interesting, fun, and rewarding semester!

Getting Help

Blackboard
Navigating Blackboard and this course is essential to your success as a student. If you have problems submitting assignments, contact the support staff listed below.

Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC)
Phone: 432-837-8888
Toll Free: 888-837-2882

Mon-Fri 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sandy Bogus: sbogus@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8523

Sat-Sun 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Rusty Klein: rklein@sulross.edu; phone 432-837-8595

Computer and Digital Literacy Skills
To be successful in this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Use a learning management system (LMS); specifically, Blackboard Learn
- Search the World Wide Web and efficiently use a web browser such as Firefox
- Have a basic understanding of their computer operating system
- Use Adobe Reader to view and download PDF documents
- Use email
- Play audio/video files
- Use online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information
- Create and submit files in commonly used word processing formats (specifically Microsoft Office Word)
- Properly cite information sources

Netiquette
When posting or emailing, please remember that professionalism is not only encouraged, but expected. You are practicing your written and electronic communication skills, and want to form good habits before you go out in the work force.

Methods of Evaluation (See below 'Course Requirements' for more details)

Outcome Measure	Points per unit	Available Points
Unit Test	**50**	**250**
Unit Short Answers	**50**	**250**
Case Study Assignment	**250**	**250**
Final Exam	**250**	**250**
Total/Final Grade*	**--**	**1000**

*Letter grading as per SRSU policy will be used in this course, as follows:

90% and above: A 80 to 89.9%: B 70 to 79.9%: C 60 to 69.9%: D

Below 60%: F

Late Work Policy
All coursework must be submitted by the provided due dates in Blackboard. Late work will be subject to the following deductions: Assignments/Tests/Final Exam carry a 5% deduction per day late; up to 30% maximum deduction.

All Course Requirements Deadline
Due to the time requirement for grading purposes, all course requirements must be submitted/completed by the 'Course Requirements Deadline' of *Friday in Week 7at 11:59pm* to be counted for credit towards the final letter grade in this course. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Late deductions will apply as per above policy.

Academic Dishonesty or Misconduct
Sul Ross State University is committed to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. Participating in behavior that violates academic integrity (plagiarism, etc.) will result in disciplinary action and may include receiving a failing grade for the assignment, failing the course, and suspension and/or dismissal from the University. Usage of AI software is not acceptable and may result in a deduction in points, a grade of zero, or up to referral to the Department Chair and/or Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

Drop Policy
Students are responsible to register and withdrawal from courses themselves, either through Banner (LoboOnline) or by contacting the University Registrar by published deadlines. For information regarding enrollment/registration changes please review the website at:
http://www.sulross.edu/page/967/schedule-changes-withdrawals

Tentative Course Calendar

Dates	Unit	Assessments
1 (Oct 19 – Oct 25)	Unit 1	DUE: Unit 1 test (chapter 1) DUE: Unit 1 short answer
2 (Oct 26 – Nov 1)	Unit 2	DUE: Unit 2 test (chapters 2, 3, and 4) DUE: Unit 2 short answer
3 (Nov 2 – Nov 8)	Unit 3	DUE: Unit 3 test (chapters 5, 6, and 7) DUE: Unit 3 short answer
4 (Nov 9 – Nov 15)	Unit 4	DUE: Unit 4 test (chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11) DUE: Unit 4 short answer
5 (Nov 16 – Nov 22)	Unit 5	DUE: Chapter 5 test (chapters 12 and 13) DUE: Chapter 5 short answer
6 (Nov 23 – Nov 29)	Case Study Assignment	DUE: Case Study Assignment due by Sunday, November 29, 2026
7 (Nov 30 – Dec 6)	FINAL EXAM	DUE: Final Exam due by Friday, December 4, 2026

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation: Participation in this class is mandatory. Although the class is self-paced, any student not making progress towards completion of the class by the midway point of the semester may be dropped at the professor's discretion.

Unit Tests: 250 points total (five tests, 50 points each)

Five unit tests will be based on the chapter(s) for the unit and reading completed. Reviewing the PowerPoints for the unit's chapters will be help in selecting important concepts to understand and answer the unit test questions. Each unit test will be completed and submitted on Blackboard. There are five unit tests at 50 points each, for a total of 250 points.

Short Answer: 250 points total (five short answer prompts, 50 points each)

Each unit will have a list of questions on Blackboard. Each student will answer one of the questions listed per unit. Your answer must be a minimum of one page, double-spaced. There are five short answer prompts at 100 points each, for a total of 500 points.

Case Study Assignment: 250 points total

Your Case Study Assignment is in the Unit 6 module.

Final Exam: 250 points total

The Final Exam will be primarily taken from the unit test concepts.

Learner Support

SRSU Disability Services
ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.