Rutgers University  
School of Management and Labor Relations  

Labor Relations In Professional Sports 37:575:310:80  
Spring 2014  

Tuesday 6:00p.m. – 8:40p.m.  
Western Monmouth Higher Education Center  
Instructor: John Castella  
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Preliminary- subject to change  

Course Description- This course will focus on the basic understanding of labor relations in sports (Baseball, basketball, football, hockey). We will discuss in great detail baseball and the history of unionization in professional sports that followed.  

Readings: A textbook is not required for this class. Most of your reading assignments will come from Sakai. Excerpts from the following books will be used:  


The readings must be done prior class. You will come to class prepared to listen, learn, and participate as this will count towards a percentage of your grade.  

*Violations of academic integrity policies, including cheating, will result in penalties up and including a 0 for the semester.
Final grades are based on the following:

Midterm exam 25%
Attendance/ Participation 20%
Paper 20% - Topic to be discussed March 11
Final 35%

Course Outline

January 21- Course Introduction and Syllabus.

Review syllabus and discuss class rules and expectations.

Overview: Union reality and myths,
Individual contracts (Sports) vs. collective bargaining as a whole (Traditional)

January 28- History of Unionization in Professional Sports

Readings: Chapter 1 & Chapter 2. Legal Bases: Baseball and the Law (Sakai)
Pro Sports Lockouts and Strikes Fast Facts (Sakai)

February 4- Baseball: Antitrust

Readings: Chapter 3 & Chapter 4. Legal Bases: Baseball and the Law (Sakai)
Curt Flood Decision (Sakai)

February 11- Baseball: The Reserve Clause & The Curt Flood Decision (Cont.)


DVD: The Curious Case of Curt Flood
February 18- Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sports


Chapter 3. “Sports and Antitrust” From Playbooks and Checkbooks pp. 59-91 (Sakai)

February 25- Role of Player Agents


**Midterm Review

March 4- Midterm

March 11- Hockey

Readings: Chapter 5 “Hockey” From Playing for Dollars (Sakai)

The Hockey Lockout of the 2012-2013 (Sakai)

March 18- No Class (Spring Break)

March 25- Football

Readings: Chapter 3. “Football” From Playing for Dollars (Sakai)

Creating a Win Through Collective Bargaining: The NFL Salary Cap (Sakai)
April 1- Football Continued

**Readings:** Chapter 6. *Labor Arbitration and the End of the Reserve System* (Sakai) pp. 115-133 Freeman McNeil Case

**Paper Due**

April 8- Basketball (NBA)

**Readings:** Chapter 4 “Basketball” From *Playing for Dollars*

The Basketball Lockout of 2011 (Sakai)

April 15- College Basketball (NCAA)

Mike Rice scandal at Rutgers

**Video:** 20/20 with Robin Roberts

April 22- Current Issues in Labor Relations and Sports

**Final Review**

April 29- Final