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

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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:

Staudohar, P. (1996). *Playing for dollars: labor relations and the sports business*. Ithaca: ILR Press.

Epstein, A. (2003). Sports law. Clifton Park, NY: Thomson/Delmar Learning.

Abrams, R. (1998). Legal bases: baseball and the law. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Miller, M. (2004). *A whole different ball game: the inside story of the baseball revolution*. Chicago: I.R. Dee.

The readings <u>must</u> 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.)

Readings: Chapter 6. Legal Bases: Baseball and the Law (Sakai)

DVD: The Curious Case of Curt Flood

February 18- Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sports

Readings: Chapter 11. "Alternative Dispute Resolution in Sports" From *Sports Law* pp. 257-274 (Sakai)

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

February 25- Role of Player Agents

Readings: Epstein. Chapter 1. "Sports Agents" From Sports Law pp. 1-29 (Sakai)

**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