

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LABOR RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EMPLOYMENT LAW

38:533:566:02

FALL 2025

Tuesdays 4:30- 7:10 p.m.

Janice Levin Bldg. Room 106

Contact Email: srrubin@rutgers.edu

Office Hours By Appointment

Professor Sheri-Rose Rubin

This course will survey how employment is regulated in the United States by the legislature and the courts and provide students with an understanding of how to interpret that regulation. Through the process of legal reasoning, case studies, historical analysis and review of current events, the student will gain knowledge of:

- The best practices in employer and employee relations;
- How to prevent legal disputes;
- Methods of judicial, administrative, and alternative dispute resolution; and
- The complex statutory framework of employment regulation.

The main topics will include six units:

- The Study of Law
- Employment Relationships
- Worker Classification
- Hiring
- Termination
- Employment Discrimination
- Occupational safety and health

REQUIRED MATERIAL AVAILABLE AS E-BOOK ON CANVAS

Please consult CANVAS for discussions, assignments, and additional reading resources.

Additional information:

- Students are expected to read the daily news in any source you like. Employment law events happen everywhere every day and be prepared to discuss current events every week.

GRADING SCHEME

Mid-Term Exam-20 %

Final Exam -20%

Online Discussions with Partner or Individually - 20%

Debate Project – 20%

Current Event Project – 20%

Class participation makes this course interesting. You are expected to participate **fully**. Every student should expect to be called on in class to answer questions about our material. Please be prepared. All students will be given an opportunity to participate in meaningful ways. I will come to class prepared to teach and learn from you. Your obligation as a student in this class is to attend all classes, come prepared, having already read the material, ready for stimulating discussion. During each class, I will give you a note card to record your participation and ask any questions you wish to discuss in the future.

100 - 90 A

89 - 85 B+

84 - 80 B

79 - 75 C+

74 - 69 C

Below 69 F

Accommodations

Any requests for reasonable accommodations due to disability will be reviewed on an individual basis. Students with documented disabilities who require academic accommodations must comply with the procedures of the Office of Disability Services for Students (<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>) (848) 932-2848; fax (848) If you are having a general problem in this class and need assistance, please discuss your issue with me as

soon as it presents itself. Please do not wait until the end of the semester when your grade has already been determined.

Schedule and Assignments

READING ASSIGNMENTS - SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE ASSIGNED IN A DIFFERENT ORDER DEPENDING UPON OUR DISCUSSIONS

Week	Topic	Assignment – See Canvas
9/2	Introduction to Class and Topics	Chapter 1
9/9	Classification of Workers	Chapter 2
9/16	Employment at Will	Chapter 16
9/23	NO CLASS	
9/30	Hiring	Chapters 4,5, 6,7
10/7	Health and Safety	Chapter 14
10/14	Wages and Hours and Current Event Project Due to present in Class	Chapters 11
Week	Topic	Assignment
10/21	Take Home Mid Term Due, Privacy	Chapter 15
10/28	Benefits and Unions	Chapters 12, 13
11/4	Discrimination	Chapter 3
11/11	Disability and Religion	Chapter 9
11/18	Harassment	Chapter 8
11/25	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING	
12/2	Current Event Project due in Class	
12/9	Take Home Final Exam Due – NO CLASS	GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

SMLR Learning Objectives

Three Core Areas for Success in SMLR

The curriculum in the programs within SMLR focus on different areas (ie. HRM, LSER) and levels of study (ie. UG, Masters', PhD). Across these programs, we strive to advance students cognitive skills and processes, their Knowledge of Theory and Application, and develop their professional skills.

- Cognitive Skills and Processes
- Knowledge of Theory, Practice, and Application
- Professional Development

Cognitive Skills and Processes

The cognitive skills and process area reflects the goal for SMLR programs to help students develop skills central to lifelong learning and participation in society and the workplace.

I) Written & Oral Communication – Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry level professional.

- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
- Produce quality research papers with proper convention of attribution/citation
- Produce high quality executive summaries
- Make an argument using contemporary and/or historical evidence
- Present ideas and arguments in a logical and effective way

II) Quantitative Skills – Apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods for research workplace issues.

- Formulate, evaluate, and communicate conclusions and inferences from quantitative information
- Apply quantitative methods to analyze data for HR decision making including cost-benefit analyses, ROI, etc. (HRM)

- Apply qualitative methods appropriately, alone and in combination with quantitative methods

I) Research Skills – Demonstrate an ability to collect, analyze and synthesize information to make logical and informed decisions impacting the workplace. Use evidence to evaluate hypotheses, theories and approaches to workplace issues.

- Employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
- Assess and critique relevant evidence and research findings
- Access high-quality historical, qualitative, and quantitative evidence or research
- Use evidence-based analysis to appraise the validity of various hypotheses, theories, and approaches to workplace issues

Knowledge of Theory, Practice and Application

The knowledge of theory and application area reflects the goal for SMLR programs to ensure that students learn the key theoretical and foundation areas of study in their domains and realize opportunities to apply that knowledge to practice situations.

IV) Theoretical Perspectives - Demonstrate an understanding of relevant theories and apply them given the background context of a particular work situation.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the practical perspectives, theories and concepts in their field of study
- Evaluate and apply theories from social science disciplines to workplace issues

V) Understanding Context - Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions

- Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experience of and perspectives on work
- Analyze a contemporary global issue in their field from a multi-disciplinary and intersectional perspective

- Analyze issues related to business strategies, organizational structures, and work systems
- Analyze issues of social justice related to work across local and global contexts (LSER)
- Analyze issues related to the selection, motivation, and development of talent in a local and global context (HRM)
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- I) Application – Demonstrate an understanding of how to apply knowledge necessary for effective work performance
- Apply concepts and substantive institutional knowledge, to understanding contemporary developments related to work
- Understand the legal, regulatory, and ethical issues related to their field
- Develop human resource management functional capabilities used to select, motivate, and develop workers (HRM)
- Understand the internal and external alignment and measurement of human resource practices (HRM)

Professional Development –

VII) Professional Development – Demonstrate an ability to interact with and influence others in a professional manner, and to effectively present ideas and recommendations

Develop effective presentation skills appropriate for different settings and audiences

- Develop career management skills to navigate one's career
- Develop capabilities to work and lead in a multicultural and diverse environment
- Work productively in teams, in social networks, and on an individual basis
- Develop cultural agility competencies
- Demonstrate lifelong personal and professional development skills

Written & Oral Communication – Communicate effectively at a level and in modes appropriate to an entry level professional.

- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights
- Produce quality research papers with proper convention of attribution/citation
- Produce high quality executive summaries
- Make an argument using contemporary and/or historical evidence
- Present ideas and arguments in a logical and effective way

Understanding Context - Evaluate the context of workplace issues, public policies, and management decisions

- Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person's experience of, and perspectives on work
- Analyze a contemporary global issue in their field from a multi-disciplinary perspective
- Analyze issues related to business strategies, organizational structures, and work systems
- Analyze issues of social justice related to work across local and global contexts
- Analyze issues related to the selection, motivation, and development of talent in a global context

Application – Demonstrate an understanding of how to apply knowledge necessary for effective work performance

- Apply concepts and substantive institutional knowledge, to understanding contemporary developments related to work
- Understand the legal, regulatory and ethical issues related to their field
- Develop human resource management functional capabilities used to select, motivate, and develop workers (HRM)
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