Labor Relations and Professional Sports
ONLINE Syllabus

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WEEK BEGINS ON MONDAYS
Spring 2015

Course Description
This class focuses on labor relations systems in professional sports in the United States. The course will provide a basic understanding of labor relations and labor law, as well as the business of sports. We will learn the history of professional leagues, the unions and the bargaining history for the four major sports (Baseball, Hockey, Football and Basketball) and others. Students are expected to participate in group and individual activities to learn about the collective bargaining process, and the operation of the various labor agreements in regards to salaries, discipline and free agency. As an online course, material will be covered in videos, online lectures, group projects and posted discussion questions. There will be two simultaneous activities that require students to be logged in at the same time to participate, along with one “test” date. The specific dates will be set based on the student questionnaires, due during the first week.

Equipment needed:
USB Headset with a microphone (other types don’t work well); please do not attempt to use an “open” microphone built into a personal computer because it leads to feedback that will bother other students. You also need a personal computer with broadband connection. An I-pad, other tablet, or a smart-phone will not be sufficient.

Covered Texts

- All texts will be assigned on eCollege. There is no textbook for this course. Texts will be drawn from a variety of sources, including the following:
- Other texts will also be assigned.

Course Requirements

- Participate in three synchronous online activities with members in your group
**This requires that ALL students have a USB powered-headset
- Participate in online class activities including two online forums
- Participate in a small group presentation covering a specific labor action in sports
- Midterm and Final written exam, administered online
- Journal questions, and knowledge checks as assigned
- Regularly check your eCollege Course Site at eCollege.Rutgers.edu. You will receive announcements from eCollege at your Rutgers e-mail address, so remember to check that account frequently. I will often assign additional readings as the course progresses.
Policies
- Papers that exhibit significant errors of punctuation, grammar, spelling, or syntax (generally, three or more errors per page) risk failing.
- Papers and exams will be evaluated using Turnitin. Significant plagiarism risks receiving a failing grade for that assignment, the class, and other sanctions.
- You are required to review and abide by the University's Policy on Academic Integrity. This can be found online at [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml)

Grading
Grading will focus primarily on two written exams and projects. Online discussion participation will make up the remaining portion of the grade. Grades distributions are as follows:

Student Questionnaire – 25 Points
Forum 1 - 100 Points
Forum 2 – 100 Points
Knowledge Check
Journal Question 1 – 50 Points
Journal Question 2 – 50 Points
Online Selection of Labor Presentation – 25 Points
Labor Presentation – 100 Points
Midterm Exam – 200 Points
Second Midterm Exam – 200 Points
Salary Arbitration Exercise – 150 Points
Final Student Bargaining – 250 Points
Total – 1250 points

**Schedule Weeks Begin on Monday**

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