



## LGST 3701: Sports Law & Ethics

**THE BASICS:**

Fall Quarter 2023

4 Credits

**THE DETAILS:**

LGST 3701 1 (CRN: 3410): Tuesday/Thursday 4-5:50pm

Daniels College of Business | Room 220 Meeting

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Adjunct Professor Ryan Lake

Department: Business Ethics & Legal Studies

Office Location:

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: Ryan.Lake@du.edu

Phone: 720.689.1494

**COMMUNICATION:**

Feel free to email me, call me, or text me with questions. Email is usually the best way to reach me. You are also welcome to call or text my phone number. I will respond to you as soon as possible (almost always within 24 hours).

I will email the class via Canvas. I generally communicate with individual students via email.

Students usually refer to me as “Professor Lake” or “Ryan.”

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION & RATIONALE**

Introduction to Sports Law & Ethics will offer an overview of legal considerations facing amateur (NCAA and Olympic Movement) and professional sports (NFL, NHL, NBA, MLS) in North America. The class will examine the laws and regulations facing athletes as they progress from amateurs to professionals, including contract issues, labor laws, and the role of agents. We will also dive into the significant legal issues facing leagues and clubs in the United States (anti-trust, collective bargaining agreements, concussions, and Covid-19). The course will include classes on the international sports law structure and an exploration of the role of the Olympic movement.

The course will include elements of lecture, interactive class discussions, & guest lectures. Class sessions will emphasize topic introductions, as well as current issue analysis and consideration of future implications.



Throughout the quarter, students will be asked to work individually and in teams to explore many of the topics covered. Students will be graded based on class participation, weekly current event assignments, a group hypo exercises, and a final exam. The course will explore these topics from a historical legal standpoint, providing the students with the skills to perform legal analysis on past cases and view the business of sports from a legal perspective.

Students have two class periods to contest or verify any grade from the date upon which such grade is posted or emailed out. No exceptions will be made. Throughout the quarter, speakers may be invited to class to discuss business, legal and/or ethical issues arising in their professional environments. Students are encouraged to engage these speakers during the question and answer period of these presentations.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to some of the business, legal and ethical implications of sports industry. Class discussions and weekly current event assignments will be very important.

Course objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the important business, legal and ethical implications of the sports industry; and
2. Be familiar with current laws regarding the sports industry.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

1. Sports Law: Governance and Regulation (Aspen College Series) 3rd Edition, by Matthew J. Mitten (Author), Timothy Davis (Author), Barbara Osborne (Author), N. Jeremi Duru (Author)
2. Other required readings will be posted via our Canvas course container under the “Files” link)
3. Weekly review of current event articles and a subscription to the Athletic available here <https://theathletic.com/checkout/?type=student>



## GRADING STRUCTURE, SCALE & POLICIES

| <u>PERCENTAGE RANK</u>        | <u>LETTER GRADE</u> | <u>GRADE POINT</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 94.0 – 100.0% = excellent     | A                   | 4.0                |
| 90.0 – 93.99%                 | A-                  | 3.7                |
| 87.0 – 89.99%                 | B+                  | 3.3                |
| 84.0 – 86.99% = above average | B                   | 3.0                |
| 80.0 – 83.99%                 | B-                  | 2.7                |
| 77.0 – 79.99%                 | C+                  | 2.3                |
| 74.0 – 76.99% = average       | C                   | 2.0                |
| 70.0 – 73.99%                 | C-                  | 1.7                |
| 67.0 – 69.99%                 | D+                  | 1.3                |
| 64.0 – 66.99%                 | D                   | 1.0                |
| 60.0 – 63.99%                 | D-                  | 0.7                |
| 00.0 – 59.99%                 | F                   | 0.0                |

Methods of Evaluation: (1) class participation grade, (2) weekly current event assignments, (3) weekly quizzes (4) group hypo exercises, and (5) a final exam.

Class Participation: Worth approximately 30% of your final grade. Looking for constructive participation that adds to the classroom discussion – not participation merely for the sake of participation. I am also looking for engaged students – those who are not only speaking, but also actively listening to the classroom discussion. Students that should read the material and come prepared to class to discuss the cases/readings in detail. Although I allow technology in the classroom, students who are using phones/computers for non-class related matters during class can expect a lower participation grade.

Weekly Current Events Assignment: Worth approximately 15% of your final grade. Current Events Assignment: You will need to select and read an article relating to sports law (the article must discuss a legal or business issue and not be discussing the events of a game or event), which has been published sometime during the current quarter. Please submit a summary of the article (and include author, title and publication information) and include a copy of the article with your summary. One summary is due at the end of each week of the quarter, except for the last two weeks of class (for a total of 8 assignments). I reserve the right to not accept late assignments.



Weekly Quizzes: Worth approximately 5% of your final grade. Please see Canvas for quizzes posted each Monday and due prior to the start of class on Tuesday.

Group Hypo Exercises: Worth approximately 25% of your final grade. Please see Canvas for Assignment Description.

(Note: graduate students will be grouped with other graduate students (rather than undergraduate students) or may complete the assignment on their own.)

Final Exam: Worth approximately 25% of your final grade.

**ASSESSMENTS**

|    | <u>ENDEAVOR</u>                  | <u>DATE</u>   | <u>WEIGHT</u> |
|----|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1. | Participation                    | In-class participation (see above)  | 30%           |
| 2. | Weekly Current Events Assignment | See assignment description above. These assignments are due via Canvas every Sunday by 12:00pm (noon). Professor reserves the right to not accept late assignments. | 15%           |
| 3. | Weekly Quizzes                   | To be completed on Canvas prior to the start of each Tuesday Class.   | 5%            |
| 4. | Group Hypos                      | Group Hypos must be completed by the stated deadline, and no makeups  | 25%           |
| 5. | Final Exam                       | November 21, 2023   | 25%           |

\*All %s are approximate and are subject to change.

**UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS, POLICIES, AND RESOURCES**

**INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.**

In this class, we will work together to develop a learning community that is inclusive and respectful. Our diversity may be reflected by differences in race, culture, age, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, and myriad other social identities and life experiences.

The goal of inclusiveness, in a diverse community, encourages and appreciates expressions of



different ideas, opinions, and beliefs, so that conversations and interactions that could potentially be divisive turn instead into opportunities for intellectual and personal enrichment.

A dedication to inclusiveness requires respecting what others say, their right to say it, and the thoughtful consideration of others' communication.

Both speaking up and listening are valuable tools for furthering thoughtful, enlightening dialogue. Respecting one another's individual differences is critical in transforming a collection of diverse individuals into an inclusive, collaborative and excellent learning community.

Our core commitment shapes our core expectation for behavior inside and outside of the classroom. Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion website: (<https://www.du.edu/diversity-inclusion/index.html>).

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who have disabilities or medical conditions and who want to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Program (DSP); 303.871.2372/ 2278; 1999 E. Evans Ave.; 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall. Information is also available online on the DU Disability Services website. Please note that academic accommodations cannot be applied retroactively, so it is important for you to register with DSP as soon as possible if you think you may need accommodations at some point while at Daniels College of Business.

If you qualify for extended time on examinations, please note that DSP / LEP requires advance notice for accommodation. I am not responsible for your failure to set up extended time testing. If DSP / LEP does not grant your accommodation, you will not receive extended time. Accommodations will not be provided retroactively, e.g., after an exam or due date.

### **DU HONOR CODE**

All students are expected to abide by the University of Denver Honor Code. These expectations include the application of academic integrity and honesty in your class participation, assignments and assessments. The Honor Code can be viewed in its entirety on the DU Student Conduct website.

All members of the University of Denver are expected to uphold the values of Integrity, Respect, and Responsibility. These values embody the standards of conduct for students, faculty, staff and administrators as members of the University community.

In order to foster an environment of ethical conduct in the University community, all community members are expected to take "constructive action," that is, an effort to discuss or report any behavior contrary to the Honor Code with a neutral party. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of the DU Honor Code. Specifically, plagiarism and cheating constitute academic misconduct and



can result in both a grade penalty imposed by the instructor and disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion. As part of their responsibility to uphold the Honor Code, instructors reserve the right to have papers checked for plagiarism against a database of papers submitted previously at DU, a national database of papers, and the Internet.

### **ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS**

Please review all University Expectations on the Daniels College of Business syllabus website. <http://daniels.du.edu/university-expectations/>

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION, AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

This class is designed to be a learning community with all members of the class recognized as contributors to our knowledge. Participation is a component of your final grade.

Students are expected to attend class, live and in-person, unless students are ill or have had a potential or known exposure to COVID. Please do NOT attend class if you are ill or have been exposed to COVID. Students do not have an option to attend class sessions online, except in cases of medical necessity or specific circumstances, and only with prior faculty approval. Some class sessions *may* be recorded and archived for student review; but students should *not* expect that any or all sessions will be recorded or rely on me to record classes.

Hopefully we will be able to continue with an in-person experience for the entire quarter. IF we are forced to hold class remotely, students will be expected to attend class via Zoom with video-enabled. If your video is not enabled (meaning I cannot see you live), I reserve the right to consider you absent.

While you may not hear me take formal attendance, I do make note of absences, and I reserve the right to fail any student who has been absent from class **4 or more times**, pursuant to the University's attendance policy. I also reserve the right to refuse to allow a student to sit for an exam if a student has missed 4 or more classes.

Students are expected to read the assigned reading materials prior to each class.

*My exams are derived in large part from lecture material*, which consists of: (1) Text material; and (2) Other material, from various sources, not in the text.

If you ever miss a class, for whatever reason, you should get the notes from another student in the class who was present. Do not ask to borrow my notes.

Students are expected to turn on Canvas notifications and check Canvas regularly for updates. This is how I typically communicate with the class about important notices and updates.

While courtesy is expected at all times, feel free to disagree with each other and with me. The issues explored in this class are not without controversy and there is room for many different opinions.



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## SYLLABUS POLICY

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class, and at the sole discretion of the instructor.

### ANONYMOUS COURSE EVALUATIONS

Course evaluations may be distributed during the quarter. These brief surveys will gauge your feelings about the course pace / structure, usefulness of materials and your overall satisfaction level. Because this course is designed to be flexible, I may utilize your feedback to enhance the class format, materials and class dynamics.

### MEET WITH PROFESSOR Ryan Lake

My students are invited to meet with me over the course of the quarter. These meetings allow students one-on-one time with their professor. We can discuss the course, majors/minors, potential career choices, etc..

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

DCB operates as a learning community whereby true success and achievement demand academic integrity. Our community values and standards take written form through the *Code of Academic Integrity*. Please read the *Code* before your first lecture and pay special attention to the academic standards reproduced below:

The academic integrity of the Daniels College of Business is violated when any member of the community appropriates the work of another as his/her own without attribution. Whether in testing, research, case studies, written reports or other academic assignments, using that which is the product of another's intellectual effort and representing it as one's own is a violation intolerable to the integrity of the community of the College.

The academic integrity of the College is also violated when any member of the community takes unfair advantage of his / her colleagues or gives assistance to such conduct, whether in testing or in the development of other academic assignments. Such violations that come to the attention of any member of the community require "constructive action" and failure to take such action is itself a violation of the academic integrity of the College.

### **This is an ethics class! ★ DU also has an Honor Code ★**

[du.edu/studentlife/ccs/index.html](http://du.edu/studentlife/ccs/index.html) ★ all DU students (i.e., you) sign and continuously pledge to abide by the DU Honor Code.

## **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

The Daniels College of Business may use assessment tools in this course and other courses for evaluation. Educational Assessment is defined as the systematic collection, interpretation, and use of information about student characteristics, educational environments, learning outcomes and client satisfaction to improve program effectiveness, student performance and professional success.

### **DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**

The mission of the Daniels College of Business is to foster Enlightened Practice, Professional Achievement and a Commitment to Community among those engaged in management and the business professions. As an institution that emphasizes the scholarship of teaching, our mission is achieved through programs that recognize the diversity of a global economy and embrace:

- ★ Knowledge and technical ability
- ★ Interpersonal skills and intercultural understanding
- ★ Ethically based leadership and social responsibility

### **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ETHICS & LEGAL STUDIES:**

The Department of Business Ethics and Legal Studies (BELS) in the Daniels College of Business - [daniels.du.edu/schoolsdepartments/ethics/index.html](http://daniels.du.edu/schoolsdepartments/ethics/index.html) - offers one of the most popular undergraduate minors at DU. Professionally relevant and fun courses represent the essence of the BELS minor. Our current courses include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ★ Alternative Dispute Resolution          | ★ E-Commerce                                |
| ★ Business Ethics & Social Responsibility | ★ Employment Law                            |
| ★ Constitution and Business               | ★ Ethics Fellows I and II                   |
| ★ Advanced Constitutional Law             | ★ Human Rights                              |
| ★ Contracts                               | ★ Impact of Driverless Mobility             |
| ★ Corporate Governance                    | ★ International Business Law                |
| ★ Sports Law & Ethics                     | ★ Purchasing a Home: Legal & Ethical Issues |
|   | ★ White-Collar Crime                        |





## ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION

| <u>WEEK</u>                    | <u>TOPIC</u>  | <u>READING ASSIGNMENTS</u>  | <u>DUE DATES</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Week 1<br>September<br>12 - 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/12: – Introductions / Syllabus / Intro to Sports Law</li> <li>9/14 - Intro to Sports Law</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/12 - Please review syllabus prior to first class.</li> <li>9/14 - Mitten text Chapter 1</li> </ul> | 9/11 - Introductory Information Assignment Due (see Canvas assignment)                     |
| Week 2<br>September<br>19 - 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/19- NCAA Internal Governance</li> <li>9/21 - NCAA Internal Governance</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitten text Chapter 3 and 4</li> </ul>   | 9/19 – Current Events #1 Assignment due<br>9/21 – Group Hypo #1 provided.                  |
| Week 3<br>September<br>26 - 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/26 - Intellectual Property issues in Sport</li> <li>9/28 - Name, Image, Likeness</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9/26 - Mitten text chapter 9</li> <li>9/28 - See Canvas</li> </ul>                                   | 9/26 – Current Events #2 Assignment due<br>9/26 – Quiz #1<br>9/28 – Group Hypo #1 due      |
| Week 4<br>October<br>3- 5      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/3: NIL Guest Speaker</li> <li>10/5: Sports Marketing and Sponsorship; Non-Fungible Tokens and the new frontier of sports</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/3 - See Canvas</li> <li>10/5 - See Canvas</li> </ul>  | 10/3– Current Events #3 Assignment due<br>10/3 – Quiz #2<br>10/5 – Group Hypo #2 provided. |
| Week 5<br>October<br>10 - 12   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/10 - Gender Equity Issues in Sports</li> <li>10/12 - Racial equity Issues in Sports</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/10 - Mitten text Chapter 5</li> <li>10/12 - Mitten text Chapter 6</li> </ul>                      | 10/10 – Current Events #4 Assignment due<br>10/10 – Quiz #3<br>10/12 – Group Hypo #2 Due   |
| Week 6<br>October<br>17 - 19   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/17 - Guest Speaker John Griffin – Black 14 (TBD)</li> <li>10/19 - Olympic and</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/17- See Canvas.</li> <li>10/19 - Mitten text Chapter 14</li> </ul>                                | 10/17 – Current Events #5 Assignment due<br>10/17 – Quiz #4                                |



|                                   |   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
|                                   | International Sports  |   |  |
| Week 7<br>October<br>24 - 26      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/24 - Olympic and International Sports (Guest Speaker TBD)</li> <li>10/26 – No Class</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/24 – See Canvas</li> </ul>  | 10/24 – Current Events #6 Assignment due<br><br>10/24 – Quiz #5                                      |
| Week 8<br>Oct - Nov<br>31 - 2     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/31 - Intro to Professional Sports League Governance</li> <li>11/2 - Intro to Professional Sports League Governance</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10/31 - Mitten text Chapters 11 &amp; 12</li> <li>11/2 - Mitten text Chapters 11 &amp; 12</li> </ul> | 10/31 – Current Events #7 Assignment due<br><br>10/31 – Quiz #6<br><br>11/2 – Group Hypo #3 provided |
| Week 9<br>November<br>7 – 9       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11/7 - Representing Players and Teams</li> <li>11/9 - Representing Players and Teams</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitten text Chapters 13</li> </ul>   | 11/7 – Current Events #8 Assignment due<br><br>11/7 – Quiz #7<br><br>11/9 – Group Hypo #3 due        |
| Week 10<br>November<br>14 - 16    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11/14: Contract negotiation</li> <li>11/16: Review for final</li> </ul>  |   | 11/14 Contract Negotiation – Group assignment #4   |
| <b>Final Exam<br/>November 21</b> |   |   |  |

**\*\* All are subject to adjustment/change as announced by Professor**