

Course Syllabus

Name of Course: Law of Higher Education

Name of Instructor: Kern Alexander, Professor
Educational Administration
College of Education
1310 S. Sixth
University of Illinois,
Urbana/Champaign

Telephone Number: (217) 333-2155

E-mail: alexandr@uiuc.edu

Textbook for Course:

The Law of Higher Education, copyright 1997, by Michael A. Olivas, published by Carolina Academic Press.

Objective of Course:

To provide the graduate student with a fundamental knowledge of the law affecting the administration of colleges and universities.

Upon completion of the course, the student should be sufficiently versed in legal issues to enhance administrative effectiveness and to address legal issues that confront the administrator in the daily operation of an institution of higher education. The course content includes information pertinent to the law of personnel management and student affairs.

Further, upon completion of the course, the student should be able to recognize, identify, and conduct basic legal research pertaining to legal issues and to know and understand when to seek professional legal counsel. Importantly, the course does not aspire to invest the student with legal knowledge sufficient to operate without advice of professional legal counsel.

Attendance:

Attendance is required in all classes. The nature of the course, which employs the casebook approach to classroom instruction, emphasizes class participation by all students. Absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade. Absence from class is excused only if pre-arranged and approved by the instructor.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the quality of classroom participation, test scores (mid-term and final), case briefs, and a term paper.

- a. Quality classroom participation requires presentation of case briefs, response to questions and voluntary commentary that enlightens the classroom discussion.
- b. Tests will be administered at mid-term and at the end of the course of study. The mid-term will cover all material presented and discussed in class to the mid-point of the term. The final exam will include all material not covered by the mid-term. Tests will include both short answer and essay questions.
- c. Each student is required to brief each case in the textbook and to present assigned briefs in class. Case briefs will be assigned to designated students for specific presentations to the class. Copies of the case briefs, when specifically assigned, must be duplicated by the presenter and distributed to all students in the class. All students will be required to collect the case briefs for review for examinations.

A case brief must adhere to the following outline:

1. Style (name) of the case
 2. Facts
 3. Issues or legal question(s)
 4. Judgment by court: for plaintiff or defendant
 5. Rationale of the court
- d. A term paper is required and must be researched on an approved topic involving a selected legal issue pertinent to the course of study. Topics are to be pre-approved by the instructor. Research for the paper must be legal research conducted in a law library or by means of electronic access to legal resources. Footnotes should adhere to standard form of legal citations.

Points for grading:

Percentage points for the final grade for the course will be assigned as follows:

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| Classroom Participation and case briefs | 25% |
| Test Scores | |
| Mid-Term | 25% |
| Final | 25% |
| Term Paper | 25% |