

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism  
460 Sport and Recreation Law (3:3:0)  
Fall 2010  
DAY/TIME: Web based Televideo course

LOCATION: Web based Televideo course, Webstream lectures on GMU-TV website

PROFESSOR: James C. Kozlowski, J.D., Ph.D.

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OFFICE LOCATION: Room 220A Occoquan Bldg., Prince William

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OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

PREREQUISITES: 60 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Emphasizes safety, liability, risk, and insurance. Covers current law and liability issues for administrators of Recreation, Health, and Tourism facilities and programs.

COURSE OVERVIEW: This course examines the issue of personal injury liability in a variety of contexts related to Recreation, Health, and Tourism, including recreation and parks, sports, events, and physical education administration. Case reports and articles will be used to illustrate general legal principles which determine recreational injury liability in a variety of contexts. Negligence liability will be defined through general legal principles, including reasonableness, foreseeability, and standard of care.

In addition to lifeguard and aquatics liability, this course will examine sport injury liability for coaches, participants, and spectators. The course will also examine the validity and enforceability of waivers and releases in sports and recreation. This overview of program supervision liability in sports and recreation will be complemented by an examination of general legal principles governing landowner liability for grounds and facilities used in sports and recreational activities. In addition to recreation injury liability, this course will also review several civil rights issues which impact significantly upon sport and recreation administration.

If you have questions or problems, feel free to send me an E MAIL message at [jkozlows@gmu.edu](mailto:jkozlows@gmu.edu) or call my Cell Telephone: (703) 455-8474 (E mail is preferable.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of this course students should be able to:

(1) To read a series of articles and case reports which illustrate general legal principles governing recreation injury liability in recreation, sports, and physical education programs.

(2) To identify general legal principles and rules of law governing recreation injury liability in recreation, sports, and physical education programs as described in lectures, review questions, objectives, and required reading material used in the course.

(3) To identify definitions and terms which demonstrate a working knowledge of federal civil rights laws and their applicability to sports, recreation, and physical education programs, specifically gender discrimination.

#### REQUIRED READINGS :

The "textbook" in this course is a compilation of case reports and related articles which I have written, in particular my monthly "NRPA Law Review" column in *Parks & Recreation* magazine (the official publication of the National Recreation and Park Association). These case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading and printing on the PRLS 460 site of my GMU homepage at the following address: <http://classweb.gmu.edu/jkozlows/460.html>

#### EVALUATION:

4 EXAMS on Blackboard (open book, weighted equally, each exam worth 25%)

#### Grading Scale (percent)

A = 95 – 100

A- = 90 – 94

B+ = 85 – 89

B = 80 – 84

B- = 76 – 79

C+ = 73 – 75

C = 70 – 72

C- = 66 – 69

D = 60 – 65

F = 0 – 59

**Final grades are based on the percentage of points earned out of the total number of points available on all four exams.**

**As necessary, grades will be curved upward for each exam to reflect a C plus/B minus "Bell Curve" consistent with exam statistics on Blackboard in previous semesters of PRLS 460**

#### CLASS COMMUNICATIONS

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A FUNCTIONAL AND ACCESSIBLE GMU E MAIL ADDRESS FOR MY E MAIL CLASS LIST. THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER, I WILL BE RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES VIA E MAIL. In responding to individual inquiries or concerns which are relevant to the entire class, I will not identify the name or e mail address of the student making an inquiry, or expressing some concerns regarding the course.

STAY CONNECTED TO THE CLASS BY USING AND ROUTINELY CHECKING YOUR GMU E MAIL! If you have questions or problems, feel free to give send me an e mail message. I

can usually respond rather quickly to e mail inquiries. Further, I am better able to deal with inquiries and problems as they arise during the course, rather than first hearing about a problem after a student receives his or her final grade.

#### WHAT FORMER PRLS 460 STUDENTS HAVE RECOMMENDED ON RateMyProfessor.com

Tests are difficult, but if you read all of the bold, you are good to go.

Read the case studies front to back; know the legal vocab and you are good.

He has very high expectations, but you **WILL** leave this class knowing significantly more than before. Well worth the time, work and effort you have to put in.

His tests are directly to the point, and he wants you to know and understand the material.

**NOTICE:** Please be advised, after the fact, there will be no time extensions (nor grades of Incomplete) for failing to take exams as scheduled. **THE HONOR CODE IS IN EFFECT FOR ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS. ANY SUSPECTED VIOLATION WILL BE REPORTED AND MAY RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE IN THE COURSE.**

All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students having documentation on file with the Disability Support Services Office should bring this to the attention of the professor.



- ✦ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [for details, see <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html>].
- ✦ Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Office of Disability Resources and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [for procedures & details, see <http://ods.gmu.edu>]
- ✦ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit our website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>.

#### **OTHER USEFUL CAMPUS RESOURCES:**

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES:** "Ask a Librarian" <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:** The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs