

## SAMPLE ONLINE SYLLABUS

### HED 6501 The Law and Higher Education

**Instructor: William R. "Bill" Townsend, J.D., Ph.D.**

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**Available by appointment**

**Prerequisites for the course:** Graduate standing

**Course Description:** This course will introduce students to state and federal laws, regulations, and legal principles affecting higher education both public and private. It will also demonstrate the law's application to various areas of decision-making relating to the administration and governance of higher education.

**Rationale for Course:** Higher education is a multi-dimensional business requiring administrators and faculty to use sound legal judgment in their dealings. This course is a required class for the Masters in Higher Education Administration and will emphasize practical information useful for persons working in higher education.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students should possess:

- A broad understanding of legal and regulatory issues as they relate to higher education law, governance, and operation.
- A basic understanding of legal issues affecting decision-making and policy within higher education.

#### **Textbooks:**

**Primary** - Bon, Susan C., David H.K. Nguyen and Jennifer A. Rippner, eds. *Contemporary Issues in Higher Education Law, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.* Cleveland, OH: Education Law Association, 2019.

ISBN 1-: 1-56534-187-2 ; ISBN-13: 978-1-56534-187-6

**Secondary (optional) Text:** Kaplin, W.A., Barbara Lee, Neal H. Hutchens, and Jacob H. Rooksby. *The Law of Higher Education (Student Version)* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Jossey-Bass, 2020. ISBN 9781119271918 (paperback); ISBN 9781119271962 (adobe pdf); ISBN9781119271949 (epub)

**Methods of Instruction:** The course is an online class. Materials, tests, etc. will be available in Canvas, MC's learning management system (LMS). The instructor posts audio recordings of the lectures for you to use for note-taking. The instructor will assign weekly readings from the textbook and supplemental readings may also be posted on Canvas. Weekly quizzes will be assigned from week to week, based on the material. The instructor will hold an optional, but recommended, weekly ZOOM meeting – probably Monday evening.

**Students with Disabilities:** It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Counseling and Disability Services (601-925-7790). The Office of Counseling and Disability Services works with the student and will

inform the instructor about specific accommodations that the instructor must provide the student. The instructor will then work with the student and the Office of Disability Services as needed to provide a reasonable accommodation.

**Academic Integrity:** Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal from the University. See the MC Student Handbook or University Policy 2.19 for specific information. Unless you are working on a group project you are expected to work independently.

### **Student Responsibilities**

1. Textbook & Class Notes - It is very important for you to keep up with your reading assignments and to take thorough notes on class lectures. I suggest you keep an organized notebook so you can quickly refer back to the notes, if needed.
2. Check your email - your professor will send messages about assignment updates, changes, quizzes, etc. It is your responsibility to check the emails and understand any updates or modifications made to the course along the way.

### **Methods of Evaluating Student Progress:**

1. Two periodic tests will be completed during the term and a comprehensive final will be given at the end of the semester. The periodic tests will be worth 25% of the final grade and the final will be worth 25%.
2. Weekly tests will account for 20%, and class participation will account for an additional 5%.

**Weekly Quizzes:** You should plan on a short quiz most weeks based on assigned textbook readings and any other material assigned.

The various components (tests, quizzes, and participation) of the class will be averaged and calculated according to the published values.

#### Grading Scale

A	91-100
B+	88-90
B	80-87
C+	77-79
C	70-76
D	60-69
F	Below 60

### **Outline of Topics and Class Dates**

#### **Outline of topics to be covered in the course:**

The instructor reserves the right to alter the topic schedule outline as needed during the semester. Examinations will be scheduled based on the class progression through the topic areas and are subject to modification as required by progression of the material.

The materials for the next week will discussed and assigned during class. Any updates or clarifications will be sent to the class via email.

**Important Dates:** *See the Academic Calendar for more information.*

*Class begins*

Last day to drop with 100% tuition refund

Last day to withdraw from a full-semester class

**Course Outline and Projected Schedule** (subject to adjustment as we progress)

- I. Introduction to Higher Education and the Law**
- II. Employees, Students & Campus “Laws”**
- III. Torts, Discrimination, and Disability Laws**
- IV. Athletics, Intellectual Property and Miscellaneous Laws**

**Projected Class Schedule**

**I. Introductions to Higher Education and the Law**

- Week 1 History of Higher Education, the Constitution and Separation of Powers
- Week 2 Higher Education Act and Accreditation
- Week 3 Intro to the American Legal System; Legal Citations;
- Week 4 Governance, State Action; Private v. Public Higher Education; Religious Institutions
- Week 5 TEST WEEK

**II. Employees, Students & Campus “Laws”**

- Week 6 Employment Law Issues on Campus
  
- Week 7 Employment Discrimination Laws
- Week 8 Student “Contracts” & “Due Process” on Campus
- Week 9 Student Privacy and Safety
- Week 10 TEST WEEK

**III. Torts, Discrimination and Disabilities**

- Week 11 Intentional Torts, including Defamation, and Negligence Law on Campus
  
- Week 12 Sexual Harassment (Title IX -Harassment and Sexual Violence)

**IV. Intellectual Property, Business Management, Disability Law for Students, and Athletics**

- Week 13 Intellectual Property and Business Management
- Week 14 Disability Laws; and Intercollegiate Athletics
- Week 15 FINAL EXAM WEEK **(comprehensive final exam)**