SYLLABUS
COUN 590: ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN STUDENT AFFAIRS
FALL 2015

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OFFICE HOURS: (Available Online)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE
590. Legal Issues in College Student Affairs. Three semester hours. Provides information about the legal issues common to college student affairs administrators, includes student-university relationship, risk management techniques, civil rights, contracts and federal regulations.

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION
This course is a required course for the Student Affairs program. It is open to both doctoral and masters’ students in any major as an elective. It is particularly valuable to students planning to enter the fields of college or university administration or teaching. Students will examine case law and court decisions related to the student-university relationship, risk management, and civil rights. Constitutional amendments and federal regulations will be considered in the context of college student affairs. There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES include, but are not limited to, the following.
The student will demonstrate understanding of:
1. legal considerations specifically related to the practice of student affairs
2. ethical considerations specifically related to the practice of student affairs

CONTENT AREAS include, but are not limited to, the following:
I. Student-institutional relationship
II. Legal terminology
III. Risk management
IV. Contracts
V. Court-defined legal action
   A. Duty to warn
   B. Due process
   C. Student conduct
   D. Residence halls
   E. Student organizations
   F. Student and university publications
   G. Private institutions
VI. Codified legal action
   A. Federal regulations
   B. Constitutional amendments
VII. Ethical considerations in student affairs and higher education

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION
Lecture and discussion.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Presentation: Selected cases/court decisions will be studies in-depth to assist the student in gaining a better understanding of the points of the case and the court decision. Each student will present one case to the class for discussion and analysis. (DUE: NOVEMBER 1, 2015) As part of your case presentation, you must provide a one or two page synopsis of your case. (EMAIL TO ME) The synopsis should center on the merits of the case, your agreement/disagreement and other information you felt necessary to the case. As each student presents his/her case, your fellow classmates will be required to give their input on your case. The bottom line---each of you is required to give input on the case.

When you select a case study from the book or current law, please let me know. The case selected must be related to student affairs/higher education. If you select a case outside of textbook, please provide information where case may be found so that others will not be lost seeking out your case study.

Research paper: each student will be expected to prepare a written report of 10 to 12 typewritten, double spaced pages. (APA Style) The report will focus on one legal issue (must be different topic than class presentation and will be selected by student in collaboration with instructor. Due date: December 6, 2015)

The will be one exam: (Exam December 2, 2015)

STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

10 points. On-line class discussion. Students are expected to participate in the discussions.

30 points. Class presentation.

30 points. Research paper.

30 points. Exam

REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND/OR READING(S)


SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY includes, but is not limited to, the following:


for housing and other student affairs professionals. Journal of College and University Student Housing, 28, 45-50.


ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY
"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, Conduct) “Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work.” (See Section A13.12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce Procedures.)

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER
Check http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/ regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.