

ASE 572
FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL SCHOOL LAW
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2007

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides a study of (a) the legal basis of school control, (b) the relation of the federal government to public education, the state as the fundamental legal unit in organization and administration of a state system of schools, (c) the district as the unit of local school control, and (d) legal duties and responsibilities of the state and local boards of education. This course is designed to develop and improve the students' knowledge and understanding of the basic legal parameters that impact organization and control of the Texas and American public schools.

REQUIRED TEXT

Alexander, K., & Alexander, M. D. (2005). *American public school law* (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson West.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Legal Brief – *Due October 3* (10 points)
Prepare two written legal briefs (format provided) from cases in the required text. Briefs shall be no more than two pages.
- Chapter Presentation (30 points)
Each student will lead the class in a weekly discussion from assigned chapters in the required text. The presentation will include a chapter outline or notes. All other students will support the presenter by orally summarizing one or more cases from the chapter.
- Internship Activities – *Due November 7* (30 points)
As required, internship activities must be completed and evaluated as part of the course grade. Write a one-page summary of each of the Internship Activities for ASE 572.
- Final Examination – *Due November 28* (30 points)

NOTE: This syllabus is a guide and subject to revision by the instructor. Students will be notified of any change prior to any due dates.

INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES FOR ASE 572

- Describe your principal's interpretations of three legal actions that were taken within the past three years.
- Describe how your principal ensures that the school follows the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators.
- Describe the school secretary's role in office management, including procedures for securing correspondence, student discipline records, and personnel records.
- Describe changes to the campus discipline management process due to current law.
- Describe the principal's responsibility for monitoring the safety and welfare of the school community.

EXPECTATIONS

1. Graduate students are governed by the Sam Houston State University student code of conduct. Any student with questions about grievances, ethical behavior, etc. should review the Graduate Catalogue and student code of conduct. Particular attention should be paid to the sections on plagiarism and theft of library materials. Academic honesty is expected.
2. Students should practice self-discipline in class. Courtesy should be extended to all students and is required. Thought should be given to the value of all conversation in class to all the students in the class. Class will be more enjoyable and beneficial to all involved if graduate students conduct themselves as the conscientious professionals they are and must be in the roles to which they aspire.
3. All cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class; exceptions may be discussed with the teacher during non-class time.
4. Class attendance and participation is required. Each student will have an assignment for each class meeting. Failure to attend a class will result in a loss of three points. Prior arrangements regarding an absence may alter this point reduction.
5. All assignments are due on the designated date. Late work will be accepted with a minimum of a 10% reduction in points. Prior arrangements regarding late work may alter this point reduction. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students are advised of the existence of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and may request this organization's services by calling (936) 294-1720.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 22

- Introductions/Course Expectations
- The Legal System/Historical Perspective of Public Schools
- Assignment for August 29 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapters 3 & 4

August 29

- Role of the Federal Government
- Governance of Public Schools
- Assignment for September 5 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 5

September 5

- Church and State
- Assignment for September 12 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 6

September 12

- School Attendance
- Admission, Transfer, and Attendance/Parental Rights and Responsibilities (Instructor Presentation)
- Assignment for September 19 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 7

September 19

- The Instructional Program
- Courses of Study; Advancement (Instructor Presentation)
- Assignment for September 26 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapters 8 & 9

September 26

- Student Rights: Speech, Expression, and Privacy
- Student Rights: Common Law, Constitutional Due Process, and Statutory Protections
- Assignment for October 3 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 10

October 3

- Rights of Students with Disabilities
- Educational Programs (Instructor Presentation)
- Assignment for October 10 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapters 11 & 13

October 10

- Tort Liability
- School District Liability
- Assignment for October 17 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 12

October 17

- Defamation and Student Records
- Discipline; Law and Order (Instructor Presentation)
- Assignment for October 24 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 14

October 24

- Certification, Contracts, and Tenure
- Educators (Instructor Presentation)
- Assignment for October 31 – Field Experience, Internship Activities

October 31

- **Field Experience – Internship Activities**
- Assignment for November 7 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapters 15 & 16

November 7

- Teacher Rights and Freedoms
- Due Process Rights of Teachers
- Assignment for November 14 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapters 17 & 19

November 14

- Discrimination in Employment
- Desegregation of Public Schools
- Assignment for November 28 – Alexander and Alexander, Chapter 21

November 28

- School Property and Buildings

December 5

- Oral Review of Final Exam