

**FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL SCHOOL LAW --- ASE 572**  
**Course Syllabus ----- Fall 2007**

**TIME:** Hybrid/Online.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. D. Sue Horne  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION: ASE 572.** The course provides a study of the legal basis of school control; 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; the district as the unit of local school control; and legal duties and responsibilities of the state and local boards of education.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Alexander, K., & Alexander, D. (2005). *American Public School Law*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. St. Paul: Thomson West Publishing Co.

Kemerer F., & Walsh, J. (2000). *The Educator's Guide To Texas School Law*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION SCALE:**

<b>Final Exam<sup>1</sup></b>	35 pts	<b>A = 90-100 points</b>
<b>Situation analysis<sup>2</sup></b>	10 pts	<b>B = 80-89 points</b>
<b>Legal Brief &amp; report<sup>3</sup></b>	20 pts (2@10pts)	<b>C = 70-79 points</b>
<b>Fact quizzes<sup>4</sup></b>	20 pts (7@4pts)	<b>F = below 70 points</b>
<b>Internship activities<sup>5</sup></b>	15 pts	

1. A take-home final exam will be distributed and due to be returned, completed at the final class meeting; further information will be provided as the course progresses
2. A situation dealing with typical school legal issues will be assigned during the term. Students will develop a written response detailing how the administrator would handle the assigned situation, based on relevant law applicable to the situation; also each student will present orally, their response to the class for discussion
3. Each student will prepare two legal briefs and critiques of important cases in the development of school law as impacting schools today. Each brief will be completed individually and will come from cases either in the course texts or in other materials. In either event, the full text of the case will provide the basis for the legal brief. Briefs should not be more than two type-written, pages utilizing the sample format provided. Students will present a 2-3 minute oral summary of each law case to the class.
4. Fact quizzes from text material, or specific topics of interest will be given at least 7 times during the course; at least five of these fact quizzes will be completed outside of class; given that more quizzes (7) will be given than the number required (5) from this activity to earn the maximum points (20) toward the final grade, fact quizzes missed due to absence or not handed in on the due date will be considered as failing; quizzes will be nine questions each; six correct answers are required to earn 4 points per quiz.
5. Internship activities as determined by the SHSU graduate faculty must be completed and evaluated as part of the course grade. These activities will then be applied through the required coursework for the Internship course.

Student presentations and participation in discussion of course topics with the teacher, other students, guest speakers, etc., should display verbal expression that reflects the student's understanding and insights as to the content and the student's ability to articulate the same.

## **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.

## **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 classes. 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. Classes 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. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student; exceptional situations requiring absence must be discussed. All work is due on the date specified. If the student is forced to miss more than one class session, he/she should contact the instructor, to explain the circumstances and some form of make-up assignments may be required.

## **Imbedded Internship Activities for ASE 572**

Review the faculty handbook, policy manual or administrative handbook regarding child abuse, search and seizure, confidential records, drug abuse, bomb threats, security, and unauthorized personnel on the grounds

Identify areas of legal actions the campus principal has faced in the past three years

Describe how the principal ensures that the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators is followed

Describe and evaluate the role of the school secretary in office management. Observe office management procedures. Describe precautions that are taken for the security of disciplinary files and personnel folders. Describe procedures that are followed in filing staff bulletins, correspondence and student activities

Describe changes to the discipline management process at the campus due to current law.

Describe the principal's responsibility for monitoring the safety and welfare of the school community

## **Description of IDEA Objectives (to be distributed later)**

- SHSU Department of Educational Leadership has determined that for ASE 572, the following IDEA objectives are essential: 1, 3, 9
- SHSU Department of Educational Leadership has determined that for ASE 572, the following IDEA objective is important: 11

## ASE 572 Preliminary Fall 2007 Schedule and Outline

		<b>*Anticipated Topic and Reading Assignments</b>	
August 20-24	FIRST Week	Course expectations, class procedures, etc.	
August 27-31	SECOND Week	Sources of Education Law; school governance	<b>Kemerer, Chap 1 Alexander, Chap 2, 4</b>
<b>Sept. 3-7</b>	THIRD Week	Attendance, eligibility, desegregation	<b>Kemerer, Chap 2, Alexander, Chap 6, 19</b>
<b>Sept. 14</b>	FOURTH Week – September face-to-face @SHSU	Instructional program; Student reports ; Special Education	<b>Kemerer, Chap 2 Alexander Chap 7</b>
<b>Sept.17-21</b>	FIFTH Week	Special Education	<b>Kemerer, Chap 3 Alexander, Chap 10</b>
Sept. 24-28	SIXTH Week	Student reports, contingencies, adjustments, new topics	
<b>October 1-5</b>	SEVENTH Week	Employment--Personnel	<b>Kemerer, Chap 4,5 Alexander Chap 14, 15</b>
<b>October 8-12</b>	EIGHTH Week	Employment--Personnel	<b>Kemerer, Chap 6, 9 Alexander Chap 16, 17</b>
<b>TBA</b>	NINTH Week- October face-to face @SHSU	Student reports, contingencies, adjustments, new topics	
<b>October 22-27</b>	TENTH Week	Student discipline, rights, and privacy; parent rights	<b>Kemerer, Chap 8,9 Alexander, Chap 8,9</b>
<b>Oct. 29 – Nov. 2</b>	ELEVENTH Week	Student reports, contingencies, adjustments, new topics	
<b>Nov. 5 - 9</b>	TWELTH Week	Religion in schools	<b>Kemerer, Chap 7 Alexander Chap 5</b>
<b>TBA</b>	THIRTEENTH Week- November face-to-face @SHSU	Student reports, contingencies, adjustments, new topics	
<b>Nov. 19-23</b>	FOURTEENTH Week	School finance litigation Student reports, contingencies, adjustments	<b>Kemerer, Chap 1 Alexander, Chap 20</b>
<b>Nov.26-30</b>	FIFTEENTH Week	Legal Liability	<b>Kemerer, Chap 10 Alexander, Chap 11, 13</b>

\*Circumstances may arise which will require revision of some components of this syllabus. Therefore, the syllabus is subject to change. However, you will be notified of any change that occurs prior to any due dates.

