



## **COUN 589: ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Course Syllabus Spring 2025**

**Independent Study**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Delarious O. Stewart, EdD, LPC-S, ACS, NCC, NCSC

**University Email Address:** [Delarious.Stewart@tamuc.edu](mailto:Delarious.Stewart@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** E-mail

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours, Monday – Friday

**Main Office Location:** Binion Hall, 226-A

Office Hours: Monday: 1:00 pm -4 pm-Mesquite; Tuesday: 5 pm -7 pm-Zoom; Friday: Available upon request

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Textbook Recommend:** Kaplin, W.A.& Lee, B.A. A legal guide for student affairs professionals: Adapted from the Law of Higher Education. San Francisco: Jossey Bass: Case Briefs will be provided as links from Google Scholar.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Catalogue Description of the Course**

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**

Legal Issues in College Student Affairs is a piece of the master's degree program in the Department of Counseling. Although the structure of the course will be commonly encountered in graduate studies, the teaching philosophy of the instructor is invitational. The pursuit of a degree in counseling means different things to different people. In the opinion of the instructor, even those who do not intend to work specifically with students in legal issues, it is still important to be aware. As a graduate of a CACREP accredited program, the professional community and the public will expect you to have basic knowledge of legal issues pertaining to this field.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

In this class, you will utilize the Learning Management System (LMS) entitled D2L for portions of instructional and learning methods, submitting assignments, participating in online discussions, and completing quizzes. You will need to utilize other technologies such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc. If you have issues with this system, it is your responsibility to contact the help desk immediately.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

As a student in this course, you are responsible for the active learning process. Expectations of this course include the following:

1. You are expected to always display professionalism. Be respectful of your professor and peers. Be open to feedback, as you will receive this throughout the program.
2. Prepare for classes. Complete all readings prior to class time.
3. Complete all assignments by the deadline.
4. Adhere to the university student code of conduct.
5. Participate.
6. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition.
7. Regularly check your university email. My suggestion is to check this at least once a day as your instructors and others from the department and University may contact you.
8. Begin your readings as soon as possible. Sometimes it may take more than one attempt to digest the material.
9. Deadlines are the last possible moment something is due—not the first moment to start. Work ahead. I realize this may not always be possible; however, when you can, do so.
10. Be open to the process. This degree takes time, work, effort, and growth.

## EVALUATION/GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

<b>90% - 100%</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>80% - 89%</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>70% - 79%</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>60% - 69%</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Less than 59%</b>	<b>F</b>

<b>Case Briefs (75 points each)</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Research Paper (75 points)</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final Opportunity to Excel</b>	<b>10%</b>

Late assignments may have 10% deduction per day late from the final score.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or

have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

*Communication with your professors is key to your professional growth. I am here to support and guide you along your academic journey. With that being said, I cannot help you if you do not communicate with me. Please make an appointment if you have any concerns or questions. Email is the best way to reach me. I will attempt to answer all emails within 24 hours, Monday- Friday, but at times will need up to 48 hours to do so. When emailing, please use your university email and address me with courtesy and respect.*

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Written assignments are due on the day noted in the syllabus. Late papers will have 10% deduction per day late from the final score.

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

*The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.*

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13student/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity (Including AI Use) Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Graduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150

Fax (903) 468-8148 Email:[studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu) Website:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disabilityservices/>

#### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-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.

#### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/undergrad/administrativeprocedures/#campus\\_concealed\\_carry\\_policy](https://coursecatalog.tamuc.edu/undergrad/administrativeprocedures/#campus_concealed_carry_policy) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

URL: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Counseling Services**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center’s crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



The System has made a significant investment in student mental health in the form of 24/7/365 access to “Telus Health,” a service available via chat, phone, or webinar.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Case Briefs:**

Selected cases/court decisions will be studied in-depth to assist the student in gaining a better understanding of the points of the case and the court decision.

You must provide a one to two (1-2) page synopsis of your case, SUBMIT IN D2L. The synopsis should center on the merit of the case, your agreement/disagreement and other salient points that you feel relevant to the case. Each case you select must be related to student affairs and the law in higher education. You are required to complete FIVE (5) briefs throughout the semester.

#### **DUE DATES FOR CASE BRIEF:**

Sunday, September 15, 2024.....Case Brief #1

Sunday, September 29, 2024.....Case Brief #2

Sunday, October 14, 2024.....Case Brief #3 Sunday, November 3, 2024.....Case Brief #4

Sunday, November 17, 2024.....Case Brief #5

**Research Paper:**

Each student is required to choose a legal topic pertaining to student affairs and provide an in-depth report over it. Once the student has identified a topic, *it must be emailed to the professor for approval*. The paper must be at least ten written pages (excluding reference page), with a cover page. The reference page must include a minimum of seven (7) sources. The sources typically would include other legal cases and references from peer reviewed journals. The entire paper **must** meet all APA guidelines. **(Due date: Sunday, December 1, 2024)**

There will be one final exam: **(Wednesday, December 11, 2024)**

**FLEXIBLE COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**  
**Spring 2025 Semester**

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
January 13, 2025	Student-institutional Relationship	Introduction to Course Chapter TBD & Video	
January 20, 2025	Legal Terminology	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	
January 27, 2025	Risk Management	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	<b>Case Brief #1 Due</b>
February 3, 2025	Contracts	Course Lecture Chapter TBD (Review Case)	
February 10, 2025	Court-defined Legal Action	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	<b>Case Brief #2 Due</b>
February 17, 2025	Duty to Warn	Course Lecture Chapter TBD & Video	
February 24, 2025	Due Process	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	<b>Case Brief #3 Due</b>
March 3, 2025	Student Conduct	Course Lecture Chapter TBD & Resource Material	
<b>Spring Break: March 11-15</b>			
March 17, 2025	Residence Halls	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	

March 23, 2025	Student Organizations	Course Lecture Chapter TBD & Resource Material	<b>Case Brief #4 Due</b>
March 31, 2025	Student and University Publications	Course Lecture Chapter TBD (Review Case)	
April 7, 2025	Private institutions & Ethical considerations in student affairs and higher education	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	<b>Case Brief #5 Due</b>
April 14, 2025	Codified legal action-- Federal regulations & Constitutional amendments	Course Lecture Chapter TBD	
April 21, 2025	Review Course Material	Review ~ Case Briefs and Chapter Information	<b>Research Paper Due!</b>
April 28, 2025	Course Review & Assessment	Reflections and Prep for Course Final	
May 4, 2025	<b>Fall Finals Week</b>		<b>Final Exam (or Final Opportunity to Excel)!</b>

### Case Brief Rubric

	<i>1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-15 points)</i>	<i>2 – Meets Expectation (1720 points)</i>	<i>3 – Exceeds Expectation (2225 points)</i>
Meets length requirement and citations. (25 points)	Demonstrates a lack of knowledge on how to appropriately cite and write basic information	Demonstrates knowledge on how to appropriately write and cite but omits one or two points from small errors.	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge on how to appropriately write with citations and length.
Student clearly addresses case (25 points)	Students do not clearly address case points	Critique writes about a case with some obviousness.	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge with an evident case by providing background, facts, and ruling.
APA Style/Grammar (25 points)	Substantial APA errors (> 6 errors). Poor quality, not indicative of graduate level work.	Some APA errors (3-4 errors). Good quality indicative of graduate level work.	Little to no errors (1-2 errors). Exceptional quality indicative of graduate level work.

### Research Paper Rubric

	<i>1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-15 points)</i>	<i>2 – Meets Expectation (1720 points)</i>	<i>3 – Exceeds Expectation (2225 points)</i>
Meets length requirement and citations (25 points)	Demonstrates a lack of knowledge on how to appropriately cite and write basic information	Demonstrates knowledge on how to appropriately write and cite but omits one or two points from small error.	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge on how to appropriately write with citations and length.
Student clearly addresses topics (25 points)	Students do not clearly address topics	Critique writes about a topic with some obviousness.	Demonstrates exceptional knowledge with an evident topic.
APA Style/Grammar (25 points)	Substantial APA errors (> 6 errors). Poor quality, not indicative of graduate level work.	Some APA errors (3-4 errors). Good quality indicative of graduate level work.	Little to no errors (1-2 errors). Exceptional quality indicative of graduate level work.

**Exam Rubric**

	<i>1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-43 points)</i>	<i>2 – Meets Expectation (40-44 points)</i>	<i>3 – Exceeds Expectation (45-50 points)</i>
Grade Percentage on Final Exam	Less than 80% correct on exam items	Between 80% and 89% correct on exam items	Greater than 89% correct on exam items