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REVISED 1-5-2022

# BLAW 451

## Entertainment Law

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### Overview

Entertainment Law (BLAW 451) is designed to provide students with an understanding of the recurring legal problems that arise in the business context of the entertainment industry and the legal relationships between the parties involved in the film, television, theater, music, and online entertainment fields. In particular, the course will address tort law issues, including defamation, invasion of privacy, and the right of publicity; intellectual property protection, including copyright and trademark law and the protection of ideas; contract law issues, including contract formation, contractual obligations, and remedies; and regulation of entertainment content and industry practices.

You will analyze how law applies to factual settings. You will read appellate court decisions, prepare written briefs of the decisions, orally defend your interpretations of the cases and answer hypothetical questions in open class discussion. You will learn to distinguish the application of rules depending on changing circumstances in various cases and hypotheticals. You will learn to argue alternate sides of a dispute regardless of personal belief. You will learn to identify the functions, policies, and trends in the law, and to consider social, economic and ethical influences on the law.

### Class Preparation

This course will be online, with no class meetings. All work will be done online in a [Canvas course](#) and with the use of the textbook. The assignments are listed below. Assignments include reading from the text, online videos and exercises, online quizzes, discussions, and writing case briefs. If you have questions about the assigned material, please ask.

Please note that on Canvas, [Course Summary](#) contains only those assignments that need to be submitted. There are additional reading and briefing assignments, so please be sure to follow this syllabus.



### Technology Requirements

Since this is an online course, reliable internet is required. (Please see <https://www.csun.edu/it/internet-connectivity-users-who-do-not-have-it> for information on acquiring internet service.) You'll also need Microsoft Word (available at no charge from CSUN) for submitting written assignments. You will need access to a computer or tablet; please contact the bookstore for purchasing and borrowing options if needed.

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## Spring 2022 – Section 11249 Online Class - FOA

**Instructor:** Professor Carr  
**E-Mail:** [nanci.carr@csun.edu](mailto:nanci.carr@csun.edu)  
**Phone:** 818/677-3984

**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed 1:45pm-2:45pm (on Zoom), and by appointment

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### Textbook

ENTERTAINMENT LAW, CASES AND MATERIALS IN ESTABLISHED AND EMERGING MEDIA, SECOND EDITION, 2017, Sherri L. Burr. (*You must have the Second Edition. All assignments are not available in the 2011 text.*) The textbook is available in hardcopy at the campus bookstore (no access code is required) and elsewhere.



### Professionalism

You are expected to show respect for your classmates, your professor, and the university, and not to engage in disruptive behavior. Please maintain a professional tone in both online chat sessions and in emails to your professor and classmates. Improper online conduct may require a meeting with the Student Conduct Coordinator.



### Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment, quiz, or exam. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.** Your work must be your own, and Turnitin will report on the amount of your turned-in briefs that are copied. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

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### Canvas

It is your responsibility to check Canvas regularly for announcements and other information related to the course.

## Submitting Work on Canvas

All work will be submitted on Canvas; emails will not be accepted. All cases listed on the syllabus must be briefed using the "IRAC" format, which is explained on Canvas. You will also participate in discussions and take quizzes.

Please do not wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment only to be frustrated by a technical difficulty. Late work will not be accepted, regardless of the reason. **You may not copy from any source, including the textbook.**

## Mission Statement, Learning Goals and Objectives

Our mission is to equip students with the academic knowledge, problem solving, analytical and professional skills in the areas of business law, business ethics, and real estate necessary to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Students will articulate, develop and defend positions, think critically and engage in problem-solving. Students learn to formulate an effective legal analysis by synthesizing information, identifying legal issues, distinguishing relevant from irrelevant facts, using facts and law to support argument, reasoning by analogy and reaching conclusions based on analysis. In addition, students in all BLAW courses study ethical issues in a business context, with actual topics depending on course content.

## General Instructions on Taking Exams

Exams are composed of one or more fact patterns which you will brief using IRAC. They require you to analyze factual situations, identify legal issues and apply the law in determining the outcome of hypothetical cases.

Answer each question fully, clearly, and in the order given. Mere conclusions receive no credit. You should:

- Use the IRAC format, just as we do in class. Discuss the issues involved, the applicable legal rules, and an application of the law to the facts to reach your conclusion.
- Do not ignore any facts.
- Write for "grandma." Do not assume that the reader knows what you're talking about, so be sure to define every legal term used.
- You must base your conclusions on complete and intelligent applications of the facts to the legal principles involved. Thoughtful arguments and detailed analysis are more important than the conclusion that you reach.

**This syllabus is subject to change as circumstances required. I will notify you of any such changes.**

## Grading

Your grade is based upon quizzes, discussions, and two exams. Grade allocation is as follows:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assignments:</b>  | 100 points       |
| <b>Midterm exam:</b> | 40 points        |
| <b>Final exam:</b>   | <u>60 points</u> |
| <b>Total:</b>        | 200 points       |

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| Grading Scale: A-/A – 90% and above |
| B-/B/B+ – 80% - 89%                 |
| C-/C/C+ – 70% - 79%                 |
| D-/D/D+ – 60% - 69%                 |

Plus/minus grading may be used. The grade reached after calculating the grades above will be the minimum grade you can receive in the course. At the professor's sole discretion, your course grade may be raised based on effort and/or improvement.

**\*\*Late work will not be accepted.\*\***

## Disability Resources and Educational Services

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office <http://www.csun.edu/dres> or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) <http://www.csun.edu/ncod>. The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110 and can be reached at 818/677-2684. NCOD is located on Bertrand Street in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached at 818/677-2611. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations with me, please contact me to set up an appointment.

## Legal Advice

**Faculty members may not provide legal advice or legal services to students.** If you need legal advice or information regarding the law, resources can be found on the Department of Business Law web page at <http://www.csun.edu/blaw/student-resources>.

## ? Questions

If you have any questions about the material contained in this syllabus, please contact Professor Carr.

Your continued enrollment in the course evidences your agreement to the policies contained herein.

**Course Topics and Assignments - Tentative**  
Please note that all online assignments are available on Canvas.

| Week (from Mon-Sun) | Date                   | Topics                                      | Reading, videos, etc. Add'l materials may be posted in the modules   | Work due (Unless otherwise noted, all work is due on <b>Sundays at 5pm</b> )                                       |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|
| One                 | 1/24-1/30              | Intro; Review IRAC; Protecting ideas        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read through the open modules watch the videos</li> <li>• Read Ch. 2</li> </ul> | Brief <i>Anderson and Buchwald</i>   |
| Two                 | 1/31-2/6               | Copyright                                   | Read Ch. 3   | Brief <i>Ringgold, Sheldon, Allen and Campbell</i>   |
| Three               | 2/7-2/13               | Finish Copyright                            | Read materials posted on Canvas  | Participate in Canvas Discussion on a copyright story in the news  |
| Four                | 2/14-2/20              | Trademarks and merchandising                | Read Ch. 4   | Copyright Quiz due online. Brief <i>Bell, In re Simon Shiao Tam, Brown and Great Entertainment Merchandise</i>     |
| Five                | 2/21-2/27              | Rights of privacy                           | Read Ch. 5   | Brief <i>Miller, Rodriguez, Johnston and Boring</i>  |
| Six                 | 2/28-3/6               | Right of publicity                          | Finish Ch. 5; read materials posted on Canvas  | Brief <i>Shaw, Zacchini, and Wendt</i>   |
| Seven               | 3/7-3/13               | <b>Midterm</b>                              |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privacy and Rights of Publicity Quiz</li> <li>• Midterm (IRAC)</li> </ul> |
| Eight               | 3/14-3/20<br>3/21-3/27 | Impact of COVID-19<br><b>Spring break!!</b> | Materials on Canvas  | Participate in Canvas Discussion   |
| Nine                | 3/28-4/3               | Defamation and Discrimination               | Ch. 13   | Brief <i>Agnant, Costanza, and Seelig</i>  |
| Ten                 | 4/4-4/10               | Finish Defamation and Discrimination        | Ch. 13   | Brief <i>Cohen and Lyle</i><br>Participate in Canvas Discussion  |
| Eleven              | 4/11-4/17              | Corporate Social Responsibility             | Read Corporate Social Responsibility Chapter on Canvas   | Participate in Canvas Discussion   |
| Twelve              | 4/18-4/24              | Representation – agents, managers           | Read Ch. 6   | Brief <i>Wil-Helm, Friedkin, and Crown</i>   |
| Thirteen            | 4/25-5/1               | Representation - unions                     | Read Ch. 8   | Brief <i>Marino, DGA, and Yari</i>   |
| Fourteen            | 5/2-5/8                | Contracts                                   | Read Ch. 9   | Brief <i>Michael Coppel Promotions, Kass, Gilliam, and SEG</i>   |
| Fifteen             | 5/9-5/15               | Review for exam                             |  | Quiz on Contracts, Defamation, and Representation due 5/16. Take exam when you are ready.                          |
| Sixteen             | Final exam week        | <b>Final exam due at 5pm on 5/16/2021</b>   |  | The exam will be open from 5pm on 5/15 – 5pm on 5/16. There will be no exceptions.                                 |