



The University of South Dakota.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to EDAD 735: School Law! I hope that you enjoy this opportunity to learn and work together. I have worked in educational organizations throughout South Dakota and the Midwest for the past thirty years. Some of you may know me as we may have crossed paths in the educational community in the past years.

I know we are going to have the chance to study and reflect upon important issues in legal practices, policy and procedures in educational settings throughout the semester. Here are some of the general procedures for how this course is run so that you will be comfortable with the structure and begin to make some time arrangements for how you will approach this class.

The first issue is that this is graduate class. It is not an independent study. The effort is for us to work together as a group towards meeting the learning needs of the class members. As such, you will need to schedule a minimum 5-6 hours of study and activity time for each module in the course. When you put in these hours during is up to you, but you should commit to the course adequate time in order to be prepared for the coursework and various expectations. The textbook and reading materials for the course contain actual legal cases and legal language. The material may take you time to digest.

All of course work is set up in modules. There will be fourteen modules for the course. I will post a module each week. At the beginning each module you simply need to click on the icon the module overview and read through it. The module overview will outline the activities and readings for that module. All communications for the course needs to be sent to me in Desire to Learn (D2L) e-mail, this helps to keep me organized.

You will be participating in the discussion board as one of the activities for each module. There will be small groups of 6-8 members set up at the beginning of the course for the purposes of discussion board participation. Your discussion postings should be timely and focused on the content and your professional practice. I am requesting that you respond to the instructor's prompts or discussion postings by the Friday evening each week that a module is posted. I also request that you respond to two of your peers in your discussion group, for each of the instructor's discussion prompts by Sunday evening of the module or week. For example, module one will be posted on August 31st and you need to respond the instructor's prompts in the discussion board by Friday evening, September 4th. By the evening on September 7th you should respond to two of your peers for each of the discussion prompts. This will mean that you will have to check in on the discussion board frequently.

You will also be expected to complete four legal briefs during the course. You will be assigned a case or topic to complete a one to two page written brief. The format and some example legal briefs to guide your work will be posted in D2L. It is critical that you dedicate the time needed to complete your brief. You will post your brief in the Dropbox of D2L.

The course will also involve a paper as well as three exams. If you have not purchased your textbook for the course please do so as soon as possible. Here is the

information you need: LaMorte, M. W. (2008). *School law: Cases and concepts* (9th ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn and Bacon. This text is available through Barnes and Nobel at USD. You can contact them at bn@usd.edu or by going to their website at <http://usd.bkstore.com> to make your order of the book. They can also be reached at (605)-677-6291.

A webcam with audio or a microphone is also required for this course. The webcam and microphone will be utilized in three chat sessions throughout the course. You will be expected to participate in three Elluminate Live sessions on September 9, October 7, and November 4 at 7-8:30 p.m. CST. All of the details for the course are found in the course syllabus. I encourage you to read through it and e-mail any questions, comments or ideas. I hope this gives you a general overview of how the course will work. I look forward to working and learning together with you!

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