MUSB 2355 LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE MUSIC INDUSTRY
SEMESTER AND SEMESTER YEAR (IE: SPRING 2012)
MEETING DAY AND MEETING TIME, SECTION, SYNONYM

INSTRUCTOR:

office:
phones:
e-mail:
web:

office hours:

TEXTBOOK:
The Musician's Business & Legal Guide - Mark Halloran, Esq., Editor

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

COURSE FORMAT:
Lectures, guest speakers, class projects

COURSE OBJECTIVE:
This course is designed to provide the student with an introduction to the legal aspects of the entertainment industry, including general business law as applicable to the entertainment industry, entertainment contracts, US copyright law, and US trademark law.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Copyright law and the various agreements used in the entertainment industry. Emphasizes contracts used by music publishers, record companies, artist managers, record producers, film and television producers, and booking agencies.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Summarize legal issues and contractual arrangements in the entertainment industry including the music business, copyright law, publishing, and recording.

COMMERCIAL MUSIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Acquire insight, skills and expertise in music business, technology and performance.
- Identify and prepare for jobs in these fields.

STUDENT EVALUATION/ GRADING POLICIES:

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:
- Maintain an official ACC Student email account. All email communication from ACC and this class will be sent to that address. You will find more information about ACC Student email at... http://www.austincc.edu/accmail/
- Attend class regularly
- Participate in class discussion & activities
- Completion of work as assigned

WE WILL COVER EACH OF THESE TOPICS DURING THE SEMESTER. SOME WILL BE COVERED IN GREATER DETAIL THAN OTHERS AND WE WILL NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW THIS ORDER.

The Big Picture

Bird's Eye View of the Music Industry, including identification of the major sources of income and key industry players.

Introduction to Law & Legal Systems, Federal and State Law, Statutory and Common Law, Torts

Starting a music business

Business Organizations

- *Proprietorships, Assumed Names, Partnerships (General & Limited), Corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Musical Groups, Group Names; Fiduciaries; Attorneys*

Trademark Principles

Contract Principles

Band Agreements

Copyright law and International Copyright basics

Collaborator/Songwriter Agreements

Copyright Infringement

Sampling
Defenses
Emerging Copyright Issues - Digital Downloads

Introduction to Publishing

Publishing Agreements
Single Song
Exclusive Term
Admin
PRO's,
Music for Film & TV: Master Use and Synchronization Licenses

Recording Agreements (Indies and Majors)

Royalty Statements
Producers
Live performances; Talent Agencies.

POLICIES:

- Makeup exams may be given if arrangements are made prior to the exam date. In case of illness or other emergency, contact your instructor via email.

- *OPTIIONAL* All written assignments must be completed in electronic form, saved in PDF format and e-mailed to the instructor. No hard copies will be accepted unless otherwise instructed.

- *OPTIIONAL* Students will not receive full credit for assignments turned in late.

- Failure to attend class regularly will result in a lower grade.

- If you do not attend class the entire semester you will receive a failing grade.

- Withdrawal from this class is the responsibility of the student. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is submitted before the Final Withdrawal Date. The student is also strongly encouraged to retain their copy of the withdrawal form for their records.

  Students who enroll for the third or subsequent time in a course taken since Fall, 2002, may be charged a higher tuition rate, for that course.

  State law permits students to withdraw from no more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career at Texas public colleges or universities. With certain exceptions, all course withdrawals automatically count towards this limit. Details regarding this policy can be found in the ACC college catalog.

- An incomplete may be given to a student under special circumstances. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor but may not be later than the final deadline for withdrawal in the subsequent semester.

  If you feel an incomplete grade is warranted, you must discuss the issue with your instructor no less than three weeks prior to the end of the semester.

- *Scholastic Dishonesty:* A student attending ACC assumes responsibility for conduct compatible with the mission of the college as an educational institution. Students have the responsibility to submit coursework that is the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, and falsifying documents. Penalties for scholastic dishonesty will depend upon the nature of the violation and may range from lowering a grade on one assignment to an “F” in the course and/or expulsion from the college. See the Student Standards of Conduct and Disciplinary Process and other policies at http://www.austincc.edu/current/needtoknow

- *Students with Disabilities:* Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are encouraged to request accommodations when they register for courses or at least three weeks before the start of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed.

  Students who have received approval for accommodations from OSD for this course must provide the instructor with the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from OSD before accommodations will be provided. Arrangements for academic accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' from the student.

  Students with approved accommodations are encouraged to submit the 'Notice of Approved Accommodations' to the instructor at the beginning of the semester because a reasonable amount of time may be needed to prepare and arrange for the accommodations. Additional information about the Office for Students with Disabilities is available at http://www.austincc.edu/support/osd/

- *Student Rights and Responsibilities:* Students at the college have the rights accorded by the U.S. Constitution to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition, and association. These rights carry with them the responsibility to accord the same rights to others in the college community and not to interfere with or disrupt the educational process. Opportunity for students to examine and question pertinent data and assumptions of a given discipline, guided by the evidence of scholarly research, is appropriate in a learning environment. This concept is accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility on the part of the student. As willing partners in learning, students must comply with college rules and procedures.

- *Safety Statement:* Austin Community College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. You are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Additional information on these can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/ehs. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar
  with the Emergency Procedures poster and Campus Safety Plan map in each classroom. Additional information about emergency procedures and how to sign up for ACC Emergency Alerts to be notified in the event of a serious emergency can be found at http://www.austincc.edu/emergency/.

  Please note, you are expected to conduct yourself professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual will be immediately dismissed from the day's activity, may be withdrawn from the class, and/or barred from attending future activities.