

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 304.001—Sport, Culture, and Society (3)
Spring, 2010

DAY/TIME: T 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m. LOCATION: Bull Run Hall - 247
PROFESSOR: Dr. Christopher Atwater EMAIL ADDRESS: catwater@gmu.edu
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the role of sport in contemporary society. Through the utilization of scholarly interpretations, students examine the way sport is linked to the structure and dynamics of social life. Particular attention is devoted to an analysis of the interrelationship between sport, society, social organization, and social change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will know:

1. how and why sport, in general, and certain sports in particular, have been created and organized in certain ways;
2. the connection between sports and other spheres of social life, such as family, education, politics, the economy, the media, and religion;
3. how sports and sport participation inform the way people think about their own bodies and about gender, social class, race and ethnicity, and disability;
4. the social organization, group behavior, and social interaction patterns that exist within sport settings;
5. the cultural, structural, and situational factors affecting sports and sport experiences; and
6. the social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

REQUIRED READING

Coakley, J. (2009). Sports in society: Issues and controversies (10th ed.). Boston: McGrawHill.

RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READING

Hacker, D. (2008). A pocket style manual (5th ed.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned on the basis of two tests (Midterm and Final) at 30% (60% total); ten quizzes weighted at 30% and participation at 10%. Final grades and individual assignments will be recorded with “plus/minus” letter grade annotations. You can use the table below to do your own grade calculation. Convert letter grades to numerical equivalents using this scale: A=10, A-9, B+=8, B=7, B-6, C+=5, C=4, C-3, D=2, F=1. Multiply the numerical equivalent by the weight to get the weighted value. Add the weighted values and use the conversion scale to convert the total back to a letter grade. (Note: No credit towards graduation accrues from a failing grade or from a grade that is replaced by a retaken course. For more information, please consult the current edition of the university catalog.)

	Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Weight	Weighted Value
Test 1 (Midterm Examination)			.30	30%
Test 2 (Final Examination)			.30	30%
Quizzes (10)			.30	30%
Participation			.10	10%
TOTAL				

POLICIES

1. **Participation.** Attendance and punctuality are essential for success in this class. Much of your work is based on information from the lectures and participation in class discussions. Your absences and/or tardiness will affect your general progress and that of your classmates. **Zero to one** cut will result in no penalty unless they occur on a day when you are assigned to present a project or complete an assignment. Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted as absent. Some absences may be excused provided **prior** arrangement is made with me. Examples of excused absences may be for medical reasons or field trips in other courses and will be allowed only at my discretion. Students who stop coming to class without discussing the matter with me will receive a failing grade. Should you miss an assignment due to absence, you will be allowed to make it up provided that you have written documentation regarding the nature of the absence.
2. **Written Assignments.** Written assignments will be expected to demonstrate college quality writing. In--class writing will not be stringently evaluated, but ALL work prepared outside of class (papers) will be assessed for content AND for presentation. While a variety of qualities may pass for “college level,” at a minimum it means writing is appropriately concise and clear; words are properly spelled; punctuation is appropriate; sentences are complete; subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent agree. Papers/abstracts/written assignments not turned in on the specified day will be given a grade lower than the one deserved. For example, an “A” assignment submitted late will be given a grade of “B.” No written work will be accepted later than one week after it is due.
3. **Honor Policy.** George Mason University takes its honor policy quite seriously. Examinations, papers, and other assignments must be your own work (except where you hire a typist or proofreader) with only the exception of group projects.
4. **Plagiarism** is representing another’s work as your own or recycling your work and representing earlier work as new work. Remember to use proper source citations in citing the evidence you use in your research. Failure to do your own work, or not to give credit where necessary, may result in failing the assignment, the course, and/or a report to the honor committee.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE		ASSIGNMENT	READING DUE FOR CLASS
January	25	Sociology of Sport and Defining Sport (introduction)	N/A
February	1	Sociology of Sport and Defining Sport (continued) VIDEO - Watermarks	Chapter 1
	8	History of Sport – Chapter 1 Quiz	Chapter 3
	15	Sports and Socialization – Chapter 3 Quiz	Chapter 4
	22	Sports and Children – Chapter 4 Quiz	Chapter 5
March	1	Deviant Behavior and Sports – Chapter 5 Quiz VIDEO – Bigger Stronger Faster	Chapter 6
	8	Aggression and Sports – Chapter 6 Quiz	Chapter 7
	15	Spring Break – No Class	N/A
	22	Midterm Examination - Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7	N/A
	29	Gender and Sports	Chapter 8
April	5	Race and Sports – Chapter 8 Quiz	Chapter 9
	12	Social Class and Sports – Chapter 9 Quiz	Chapter 10
	19	Economics and Sports– Chapter 10 Quiz	Chapter 11
	26	Sports and the Media– Chapter 11 Quiz	Chapter 12
May	3	Sports and Politics– Chapter 12 Quiz	Chapter 13
	10	Reading Day – No Class	N/A
	17	Final Examination - Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13	N/A



School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

- All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.
- University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor.
- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students having documentation on file with the Disability Resources Center should bring this to the attention of the professor.
- <http://rht.gmu.edu>