

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 302.002 - Sport and Ethics (3)
Spring, 2010

DAY/TIME: W 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 investigates moral issues in sport, and judgments about right and wrong behavior among athletes, coaches, spectators, and others. The class format is primarily lectures and class discussion, supplemented by group work, group presentations, individual presentations and discussion of assigned readings and current ethical issues in sports.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the moral basis of decision making in sport management
2. Develop a protocol for ethical decision-making within the organizations which govern sport programs
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the various issues and contemporary problems confronting sport managers and how ethical decision making can be applied
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the Managing By Values process
5. Develop an ability to critically analyze various decision-making approaches to resolving ethical issues in sports management
6. Develop an understanding of a variety of ethical theories
7. Attain the knowledge to understand & refine a personal and professional code of ethics to guide decision making

REQUIRED READING

DeSensi, J. T., & Rosenberg, D. (2010). *Ethics and Morality in Sport Management* (3rd ed.). Morgantown, WV: Fitness Information Technology, Inc.

Malloy, D.C. (2003). *Sport Ethics: Concepts and Cases in Sport and Recreation* (2nd ed.). Scottsdale, AZ: Holcomb Hathaway.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned on the basis of three tests weighted at 30% each (90% total); and attendance/participation weighted 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 (Part One)			.30	
Test 2 (Part Two)			.30	
Test 3 (Part Three)			.30	
Attendance and Participation			.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 - (additional supplemental readings will also be required)

DATE		ASSIGNMENT	READING DUE FOR CLASS
Part I – Sport Management and Ethical Theory			
January	26	Sport and Ethics (introduction)	N/A
February	2	Sport and Ethics (introduction continued)	Chapter 1 - (DeSensi)
	9	Moral Discourse – Film: Bigger, Stronger, Faster	Chapter 2 - (DeSensi)
	16	Foundation of Ethics	Chapter 3 - (Malloy)
	23	Sources of Ethical Decision Making	Chapter 4 - (Malloy)
March	2	Test # 1 (Chapters 1&2 DeSensi, Chapters 3&4 Malloy)	N/A
Part II – Ethical Decision Making Principles and Process			
	9	Moderators Influencing Ethical Decision Making and The Process of Ethical Decision Making	Chapters 5&6 - (Malloy)
	16	Spring Break – No Class	N/A
	23	Ethical Principles for Sport and Recreation	Chapter 7 - (Malloy)
	30	Ethical Responsibilities & Functions of Sport Managers	Chapter 8 - (DeSensi)
April	6	Test # 2 (Chapters 5-7 Malloy, Chapter 8 DeSensi)	N/A
Part III – What Lies Ahead			
	13	Concern for the Environment	Chapter 13 - (DeSensi)
	20	The Challenges of Globalization	Chapter 14 - (DeSensi)
	27	The Future of Ethics and Morality in Sport and Sport Management	Chapter 15 - (DeSensi)
May	4	Review of Ethics Materials	N/A
	11	Reading Day – No Class	N/A
	18	Test # 3 (Chapters 13-15 DeSensi)	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>