

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

EFHP 680 - Ethical Issues in Exercise, Fitness, and Health Promotion (3)
Spring 2012

DAY/TIME:	Tu 4:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.	LOCATION:	BRH 258
INSTRUCTOR:	Gilbert NMO Morris	EMAIL ADDRESS:	juricatus@gmail.com
OFFICE LOCATION:	RHT Suite	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2021
OFFICE HOURS:	By Appt	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITES

Graduate standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines ethical issues in exercise fitness, and health promotion. Covers formulation of coherent framework for ascertaining good, right, and just; and for assessing evidence and reason underlying positions and arguments

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The study of ethics deals with the fundamental issues of right and wrong, good and bad, and moral duty or obligation. Primarily, we aim at determining the complementarity between personal choices and objective rules and their foundations. After completing the course, students should be able to

1. Prepare a research paper examining ethical issues in exercise fitness, and health promotion
2. Present ethical issues in exercise fitness, and health promotion

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will focus on examining ethical principles and practices in the exercise, fitness, and leisure profession. Students will examine current ethical issues in these fields and apply concepts learned from this class towards these issues. This graduate level class is structured in a seminar setting and classroom dialogue and discussion is critical components of instruction.

Professor's Note:

This course provides and excellent means for students to think critically about matters, which arise in a complex world with human actors taking decisions made on information provided at the speed of light. The right approach will be to imagine that there will be few chances (outside of post-graduate study) to deal with these issues in a foundational manner. As such, students will be right to take this course as an opportunity to “place a floor” beneath their thinking on the nature, function and impact of ethical questions in Sport, Health and Leisure. As is ever the case, we are better able to meet unforeseen challenges, when at some previous point, we have considered the permutations of right action; so that the novelty of our circumstances does not leave us to the conscription of whimsy.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Face to face

REQUIRED READINGS

MAIN TEXT BOOK

- 21st Century Ethical Tool Box 2nd Edition by Anthony Weston

SECONDARY TEXT BOOK:

- The First Five Millennia Alan Guttman

Note: For additional readings see Course Outline below.

EVALUATION

Class Participation/In-Class Assignments (34%)

- Graduate study carries a high bar. The expectation in all graduate classes is that you come to each class well prepared and ready to contribute to the topic of the evening. This means that all reading (whether from chapters in the text, supplemental articles, or handouts) should be completed by the start of class on the day for which an assignment is due.
- The readings in the text and any supplemental readings, and in-class assignments will serve as the basis for class discussion and participation.
- Your responses, comments, and general contributions will be the primary criteria for evaluation, but attentiveness in class will also be taken into consideration.

Research Paper And Presentation Paper (33%) / Presentation (33%)

I will select two films and the class will divide into two groups. Each group will watch and analyse a film, identifying the ethical issues in the context of our readings and class discussions.

o Group I film: Moneyball

o Group II film: Any Given Sunday

- Based on the information from the Case Study on Penn State, students will write a 12 page ethical dilemma research paper, using widely available resources, such as the role of football at the university, the alleged participants in the scandal and the ethical questions and their relationship to sport considerations.
- The research paper also needs to incorporate concepts and information from classroom/lecture discussions and readings. Students will incorporate Weston's ethical dilemma framework into the paper.
- As such, the aim is to produce a scholarly paper, containing arguments justified by evidence, frame within the technical parameters of our readings. I am looking for students to write and think from the perspective of an analyst, examining the responsibilities of the institution and the professionals within it, together with the impact of sport – its primacy and prominence - on the behaviors, decisions and failures which lead to the scandal.

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points.

Requirements	Points
<i>Research Presentation</i>	33
<i>Research Paper</i>	33
<i>Class Participation</i>	<u>34</u>
TOTAL	100

GRADING SCALE

A = 94 –100 A- = 90 – 93 B+ = 85 – 89 B = 81 – 84

B- = 80 – 83

C = 70 - 79

F = 0 - 69

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates:	Lectures and Coursework
Jan. 24 th 2012	Introduction to Ethics – Anaximander, Socrates, Aristotle Readings: Weston Ch. 9; <i>Also See: Course Readings Handout, Anaximander's Fragment</i> ; Plato, <i>The Republic</i> ; Aristotle, <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book III, Ch. 1-5
Jan. 31 st 2012	Ethical Dilemmas Readings: Weston, Ch. 1-4
Feb. 7 th 2012	Society and Ethics: Solutions Readings: Weston, Ch 14-17 & Ch. 20
Feb. 14 th 2012	Health, Sport, Ethics and Society Readings: <i>See Course Readings Handout: Sport, Ethics and Philosophy; Context, History and Prospects</i> by Mike McNamee
Feb. 21 st 2012	Professional Codes of Ethics and Sportsmanship Readings: See: <i>Course Readings Handout: Sportsmanship as a Moral Category</i> by James Keating
Feb. 28 th 2012	Conscience, The Law and Ethics -In-class PRESENTATIONS Readings: Weston, Ch. 7
March 6 th 2012	International Sport, Politics and Culture Readings: Guttmann, (Introduction) & Ch. 1-6 & Ch. 9
March 13 th 2012	Case Review: The Penn State Problem: Amateur Sport, Public Institutions and Commercial Profits Readings: <i>See Course Readings Handout: When Morality Bows to Sport and Cash</i> by James Fenton; See also: <i>Sport and Scandal: The Failing American University</i> by H.E. Whitney Jr.
March 20 th 2012	Leisure Sport: Games and Rules Reading: <i>See Course Readings Handout: Philosophising About Physical Activity and Sport</i> by David Carr; See also, Plato, the Gorgias, Book III, part II.

REVIEW: March 28th 2012

April 3 rd 2012	The Meaning of Health Readings: See Handout: <i>Hippocrates and the Bodily Humors</i> ; Se also The World Health Organisation's <i>Definition of Health</i>
April 10 th 2012	Health and Medicine: Care Reading: <i>See Course Readings Handout: Readings on Homeopathy and Care</i>
April 17 th 2012	Health and Medicine: Cure See <i>Course Readings Handout: Readings in Science and Medicine</i>

April 24 th 2012	Technology, Medicine and Society Readings: See <i>Course Readings Handout: Technology and Medicine: Welcoming the Future</i> by Raj Gupta; See also <i>Why the Future Doesn't Need Us</i> by Bill Joy
May 1 st 2012	Leisure & Ethics Readings: See <i>Course Readings Handout: Aristotle's Concept of Leisure</i>
May 8 th 2012	Open Discussion of Issues in the Course
May 15 th 2012	Examination Review

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

