

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
SPMT 320 – 001
Psychology of Sport (3:3:0)
Fall 2012

DAY/TIME:	T/R 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	LOCATION:	FX – IN 207
PROFESSOR:	Dr. Cindy Waddell	EMAIL ADDRESS:	cwaddell@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	FX-AC 112	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-4160
OFFICE HOURS:	TU 1:30–2:30 pm	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

This course will review the major social / psychological theories utilized in current sport psychology research. The practical applications of these theoretical constructs will be emphasized through discussion of techniques used to maximize participation, and healthy behavior in sport.

Course Overview

The course will be presented in three components. The first section will introduce major social/psychological theories that explain sport behaviors. Personality, motivation, attention and anxiety are examples of constructs that will be explored. The second section of the course will discuss intervention strategies and techniques. This will emphasize the practical applications of sport psychology. In the final section of the course the social/psychological response to environment will be explored. Factors such as, aggression, audience effects, team behavior, and drug abuse will be discussed.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course the students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain major theoretical frameworks used in sport psychology research.
2. Understand the major antecedents and consequences of sport participation.
3. Critically evaluate current research.
4. Identify appropriate intervention strategies for sport performance enhancement.
5. Conduct an applied research project utilizing a theoretical framework and a quasi-experimental design.

Required Readings

1. Williams, J.M. (2010). Applied Sport Psychology: Personal Growth to Peak Performance (6th ed.). Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co.

Evaluation

Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University honor code. You are expected to attend all class sections, actively participate in class discussion, and fulfill assignments. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the specified due date or **no credit will be given**. Assignments have been scheduled in advance to provide you with sufficient time to complete the assignment. Only students with emergencies, documented medical excuses, or University sponsored functions (discussed with the professor in advance) will be considered for exception. Please see the professor for individual clarifications. All written work must be typed and follow APA guidelines. It is recommended that students make copies of all submitted work.

Requirements:

1. Participation grades will be based on active, thoughtful participation in class discussions and exercises.
2. Reaction papers will consist of a two page, typed reaction to the current topics being discussed. The paper should include a brief discussion of a theoretical construct discussed in the readings or in class and your personal experience or reaction to this idea.

- The final project will consist of an administration and presentation (written and oral) of an experimental study that explores some psychological aspect of sport.
- Two exams will be administered. The format of the exams will be multiple choice, true / false and essay response.
- This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points.

EVALUATION

Participation	5
Assignments (4)	20
Project Paper	25
Exams (2)	50
Total possible points	100

Grading Scale

A+ = 98 - 100	B+ = 88 - 89	C+ = 78 - 79	D = 60 - 69
A = 94 - 97	B = 84 - 87	C = 74 - 77	F = 0 - 59
A- = 90 - 93	B- = 80 - 83	C- = 70 - 73	

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE		TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENT DUE
T	AUG 28	Introduction		
R	30	Sport Psychology	Chapter 1	Paper #1
T	SEP 4	Motor Skill Learning	Chapter 2	
R	6	Reinforcement	Chapter 3	
T	11	Motivation	Chapter 4	
R	13			
T	18	Self-fulfilling Prophecy	Chapter 5	Paper #2
R	20			
T	25	Leadership	Chapter 6	
R	27	Cohesion	Chapter 8	
T	OCT 2	Exam #1		
R	4			
R	11	Project prep		
T	16	Peak Performance	Chapter 11	
R	18	Goal Setting	Chapter 13	Paper #3
T	23	Arousal / Anxiety	Chapter 14	
R	25	Imagery	Chapter 16	
T	30	Exercise Psychology	Chapter 27	
R	NOV 1	Injury	Chapter 25	
T	6	Burnout	Chapter 24	Paper #4
R	8			
T	13	Exam #2		
R	15	Projects		
T	20	Projects		
T	27	Projects		
R	29	Projects		
T	DEC 4	Projects		
R	6	Projects		

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>].

