

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PHED144 – 001 —Golf (2)
Spring 2014

DAY/TIME:	MW 3:00 – 5:40 p.m.	LOCATION:	Fairfax campus, Oak Marr Golf Complex, Burke Lake Golf Course, Twin Lakes Golf Course
PROFESSOR:	Joseph A. La Marca, M.A., M.B.A.	EMAIL ADDRESS:	jlamarca@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	As arranged on campus or at Oak Marr golf complex	PHONE NUMBER:	703-475-6962 (cell)
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment	FAX NUMBER:	866-269-0389

PREREQUISITES/COREQUISITES

PHED 140: “Golf for Beginners,” or permission of instructor. Permission usually granted for students who have had golf lessons or have been playing at least one year.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A practical course designed for students with basic golf knowledge/skills. The course will include course strategies, scoring rules, club selection, speed of play, skill building and competition formats.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Explain and demonstrate the proper use of each golf club on the golf course.
2. Identify the different golf formats.
3. Demonstrate proper etiquette for speed of play on the course.
4. Develop a game plan for the golf course that best suits a student’s specific skills.
5. Explain specific rules for on-course situations.
6. Demonstrate improvement in putting, chipping, pitching and sand play by reducing the number of strokes required to complete these tasks when asked.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Face to face.

REQUIRED READINGS

Various required readings not widely available free on the internet are provided by the instructor at no charge.

EVALUATION

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

Requirements

Points

Attendance - As a practical consideration, a single absence will not count against your attendance score; however, to receive attendance credit for any class day in which you have a scheduled tee time, you must notify the instructor of your impending absence no later than noon that day. Moreover, to receive credit for classes after March 26 you must pay the \$34 one-time golf school fee by then or the first class you attend thereafter. Because of the distances from campus classrooms to parking spaces and travel time to our off-campus class location, occasional tardiness is tolerable. Therefore, you may arrive late from a previous on-campus class or leave early to insure your timely arrival at the next one without affecting your attendance score. Drive carefully to and from the golf facility!

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On-Course Etiquette - Intermediate-level golfers should already be aware of the golf etiquette conventions. However, in addition to the refresher on this topic in the first class meeting, you can expect feedback, as needed, before, during, or after, on-course play. You lose points after a second similar etiquette breach or for any breaches during the final golf round. Music playing and ear pieces are prohibited, and cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate. Except for apparent emergencies you may not place or answer calls during classes, although you may do so during golf rounds between holes, so long as you do so without disturbing others or delaying play. 5

Reflections of On-Course Performance - Before 5:00 PM the day before the Skills Enhancement class day that follows designated golf rounds you play, email reports to the instructor with the information provided in the example near the end of this syllabus. These reports help identify your strengths and weaknesses of your golf skills in evidence during golf rounds and track your performance progress. They also help the instructor adjust lesson plans to suit your individual learning needs. Grades are based on the comprehensiveness of your reflections and on the timeliness of the reports. 10

Skills Enhancement Activities Logs - In addition to group learning activities during classes, under supervision and guidance by your instructor, you will work individually during class on skills most needing improvement. Before departing each Skills Enhancement class you attend, provide the instructor the information in the format of the log included near the end of this syllabus. Grades are based on the timeliness of the reports. 10

Research Document - Your document will comprise a summary of your individual skills enhancement activities during the course and a thorough analysis of your relationship with golf. You may keep the topics separate or mix them. Please email your document to your instructor as an attachment in MS Word format, Arial 12 pt. font, double spaced, one inch margins, five to seven numbered pages, not counting any title page or separate reference page. Your grade on this entire document will be based on comprehensiveness and grammar. Turn in your paper by the date due in your course schedule to avoid a 10 per cent final course grade reduction. If it is not received within a week prior to the final day that the instructor must turn in grades, your course grade will be "IN." 15

Grading Scale

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

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR YOUR **TENTATIVE** COURSE SCHEDULE. Please note that faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as needed, especially for inclement weather. **Watch for schedule change announcements via email and the class web site.**

FOLLOWING THE COURSE SCHEDULE, YOU WILL FIND SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE, AS WELL AS SEVERAL FORMS FOR YOUR USE.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DAY	TOPIC	LOCATION	COMMENTS
Wed Mar 19	Introduction to PHED 144, "Intermediate Golf," review of swing/ball flight principles, scoring rules, and etiquette.	Fairfax Campus Aquatic Center, Room 112	We will get acquainted, form any car pools needed, discuss this syllabus, review information intermediate golfers should know about the game, such as important people and resources in the golf industry, ball flight principles, scoring rules, and etiquette. Please do not bring golf equipment to this class.
Mon Mar 24	"Rust removal" on-course play	Oak Marr golf course	Please pay green fees, bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If on-course activity is cancelled due to inclement weather, meet at grey sheltered driving range. Last day to drop w/o tuition penalty is tomorrow.
Wed Mar 26	Benchmarking and upgrading swing skills, videotaping	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. \$34 fee due to golf school.
Mon Mar 31	Benchmarking and upgrading swing skills, videotaping, continued	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class.
Wed Apr 2	Skills Enhancement	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. Turn in S.E.A. log at end of class.
Mon Apr 7	Practicum	Oak Marr golf course	Please pay green fees, bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If on-course activity is cancelled due to inclement weather, meet at grey sheltered driving range. Performance Reflections Report #1 due by 5:00 PM the day before next class.
Wed Apr 9	Skills Enhancement	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. Guest Lecture. Turn in S.E.A. log at end of class.
Mon Apr 14	Practicum	Oak Marr golf course	Please pay green fees, bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If on-course activity is cancelled due to inclement weather, meet at grey sheltered driving range. Performance Reflections Report #2 due by 5:00 PM the day before next class.
Wed Apr 16	Skills Enhancement	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. Guest Lecture. Turn in S.E.A. log at end of class.
Mon Apr 21	Practicum	Burke Lake golf course	Please pay green fees, bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If rain is forecast, this class may be cancelled, so check your email and class web site. Performance Reflections Report #3 due by 5:00 PM the day before next class.
Wed Apr 23	Skills Enhancement	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. Guest Lecture. Turn in S.E.A. log at end of class.
Mon Apr 28	Practicum	Twin Lakes golf course (Lakes Course)	Please pay green fees and meet at the first teeing ground at your tee time. Bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If rain is forecast, this class may be cancelled, so check your email and class web site. Your research document is due before the next class.
Wed Apr 30	Skills Enhancement	Oak Marr practice facility	Please bring rental range balls to class. Guest Lecture. Turn in S.E.A. log at end of class.
Mon May 5	Practicum	Twin Lakes golf course (Oaks Course)	Please pay green fees and meet at the first teeing ground at your tee time. Bring or rent clubs, and bring non-range balls and tees. If rain is forecast, this class may be cancelled, so check your email and class web site.

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/>].
- 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/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>].
- 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.

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/>].



Supplemental information

CLASS WEB SITE: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~jlamarca/phed144.html> or simply, <http://tinyurl.com/phed144>
INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~jlamarca/144prof.html> or simply, <http://tinyurl.com/144prof>
GOLF COURSES: fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf

Attendance: Class attendance is important in any academic course, but as a motor skill, obviously the golf swing is not something you can enhance very well in the library. You must do it and receive real-time feedback from an instructor to obtain good results, and you cannot do that unless you come to class. We typically work to enhance skills one day per week in the practice areas and play on the course the other class day. On the Skills Enhancement days we sometimes use video swing analysis and also learn from guest lecturers who are experts in their fields within the golf industry on such topics as Course Strategy, Alternative Formats, Tournament Competition, Fitness, Sports Psychology, and Careers in the Golf Industry. These guests serve without compensation. Since classes are small, it is important that there be sufficient students on hand as a courtesy to these unpaid guests. Your attendance will help keep these speakers coming back for future classes.

Managers of the Fairfax County Park Authority courses where we meet have historically been very accommodating for GMU students. However, certain events can take precedence over our classes. Moreover, since the facility manager cannot control the weather, you must check the latest class schedule, email, and class web site for any last-minute activity changes.

When necessary we delay the start of skills enhancement instruction until the arrival of students we know have to come late; and, if many students have to leave early for the next class, we typically dismiss class a little early. Tee times for on-course class days are always scheduled later than class starting times to allow for practice or late arrival from previous classes; moreover, you can choose your tee times among those available--first come, first served. **If you anticipate arriving too late to tee off on time, please telephone the instructor's cell phone beforehand (703-475-6962)**, so he can make alternative arrangements to prevent the Fairfax County Park Authority from losing revenue. Unused tee times cost golf complexes money, and we need to maintain our welcome at these off-campus facilities.

Because of the shelter available on the driving range at Oak Marr, **classes usually DO meet in inclement weather**. If weather is not conducive to play on the course, the instructor will cancel the tee times and conduct skill-building sessions in the sheltered hitting stations. **However classes will be cancelled in the event of forecasts of severe storms or sustained periods of lightning**. Look for notices of cancellation in your GMU email box and on the class web site. If weather deteriorates near class start time, you do not have internet access, and you have doubts about the class being held, phone the instructor's cell at 703-475-6962, but **WHEN IN DOUBT, COME OUT!**

Meeting places: All three of the off-campus locations can normally be reached within 15-minutes by car from the Fairfax campus. However, our first class will meet in Room 112 of the Aquatic Center on that campus. You can find directions to the Fairfax County courses on web site address, above.

The club houses at Oak Marr and Burke Lake are small, so kindly minimize time inside them. At Oak Marr convene at the picnic area between the club house and the short game practice area. If weather is unsuitable for meeting there, meet at the grey shelter on the driving range. If you arrive late for class, meet the class wherever we will be learning, as indicated in the Course Schedule. At the other golf courses, meet on the first tee at your designated tee time.

Transportation: Although we will make every attempt to form car pools, you may choose to arrange your own transportation to Oak Marr Golf Complex. Public bus service is available, but requires a transfer. Incidentally, if you have not done so already, you should consider signing up for the Mason Alert system, alert.gmu.edu, which provides emergency information of various sorts, including traffic problems in the vicinity.

Emails: Students must have an active GMU e-mail account that is not over quota. Expect several emails from the instructor during the course. However, none will be sent to an account other than a GMU address. To make sure you have not missed any emails that go to the entire class, check the class web site occasionally to view the log of sent emails.

Dress: As an Intermediate golf student, you should already know about acceptable attire on golf courses. However, the courses we play do have a very relaxed dress code. But like most other courses, they do prohibit metal spikes and open-toed shoes.

Golf Clubs: You may use your own clubs or use free loaner clubs. For classes other than those designated "Practicum" the golf school at Oak Marr provides loaner clubs no charge. For "Practicum" classes you must furnish your own clubs or rent them. (Also, your instructor might have some personal clubs to share.) For rental rates see the course web addresses, above. For practicing between lessons at Oak Marr, you may borrow clubs at no charge at the pro shop. Like most, if not all golf professionals, your instructor advises purchasing only custom-fitted clubs. Custom-fitted clubs do not always cost more, but even when they do, be assured that fewer custom-fitted clubs would serve you better than a complete set of clubs that are not suitable for you. Since the fitter would have your fitting specifications, you can buy as many clubs as you can afford and later order more clubs to fill your bag.

Fees: By the end of the term you can expect to have paid over \$100 in various accumulated fees. Costs relating to clubs are discussed, above. Your individual needs and decisions will determine some of your costs, as you will see in the following paragraphs.

Golf School Fee: The Every Body Golf School at Oak Marr provides various services for GMU students, such as providing guest speakers, reserving hitting stations, answering golf equipment questions, lending golf clubs and training aids, and providing golf balls for the short game learning area during classes. Pay that \$34 fee as soon as you like, but no later than the date indicated elsewhere in this syllabus. Pay it at the golf school trailer next to the driving range.

Practice Ball Fees: The golf school provides golf balls you will need for class meetings in the **short game practice area** as part of your fees paid to the Every Body Golf School at Oak Marr; however you must pick up the balls when finished practicing there and return them. Rent golf balls for use on the driving range by purchasing tokens at the Oak Marr club house to use in the machines that yield the balls. The more tokens you purchase at one time, the less each token will cost. Therefore, if you pool your money with other students to buy them in bulk, the cost per ball will be considerably less. For current rates, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/oakmarrgc/rates.htm>. You can purchase golf balls at the pro shop at Oak Marr or elsewhere for use on the course.

Green Fees: You must pay to play rounds on golf courses. However, Oak Marr is the least expensive of the Fairfax County Park Authority courses, and we play Burke Lake and Twin Lakes courses during their (lower) twilight rates.

Research Document: For the “skills enhancement activities” portion of your report you can simply consolidate and summarize the information reported in your Reflections of On-Course Performance and Skills Enhancement Activities Logs; graphs and charts are encouraged. Because good golfing is a life-long learning process the intent of this requirement is to help you understand what you will need to do in order to meet your performance goals beyond PHED 140. Be sure to list any outside activities in which you have engaged to help you improve your scores, such as on-line research, interviews with relevant experts, extra practice sessions, *etc.* Name these resources you have used. In recognition of the fact that golfers improve performance at different rates, your actual improvement levels will not be a part of your grade. Remember that spell-checkers do not catch "whole," when you mean "hole" or "put," when you mean “putt.” Spell well to score well

Your “relationship with golf” is an open-ended subject, but the content might include such topics as your golf history, your attitude towards the game, your future golfing goals, the aspects of the sport or the people in the industry whom you find interesting or helpful in watching professional golf, etc. For a good example of how learning from the playing professionals can help, see “Lessons from Bobbie Jones.” Find it and other former student papers on the Resources page of your class web site. Note, however, that most students in those classes had different subject requirements. Their papers remain on the site only because some of their topics might be of interest to you and because they offer examples of grammatical errors you would be wise to avoid in order to receive a good grade on this paper.

Photographs: Photos of the class during the term will be posted to the class web site on the world-wide web. Moreover, some might also be used by the university in promoting classes. If you have no objection to being so photographed, please sign and return the form attached to this syllabus. If you do not want your image in the photos, please indicate that on the form.

Forms for use in the course follow this page.

PHED 144

REFLECTIONS OF ON-COURSE PERFORMANCE

NAME: _____ DATE of ROUND: _____

FINAL SCORE	
NUMBER OF PUTTS	
NUMBER OF GREENS IN REGULATION	
WHAT I DID WELL TODAY	
SKILLS I MOST NEED TO ENHANCE	
HOW I PLAN TO ENHANCE THE SKILLS MOST NEEDING IMPROVEMENT	
OTHER COMMENTS	

PHED 144

Skills Enhancement Activities Log

NAME: _____ Date: _____

Today's swing improvement objective(s):

Time spent on each activity



Comments

1	Putting		
2	Chipping		
3	Pitching		
4	Sand		
5	Full Swings Irons		
6	Full Swings Woods		

George Mason University

PHOTO, AUDIO, VIDEO, AND COMMENT RELEASE

Event: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Faculty Staff Student Visitor

GENERAL RELEASE

I, _____ hereby grant permission to George Mason University the absolute and irrevocable right and permission, with respect to photographs, videos, and audio recordings, taken or made of me and /or comments made by me or in which I may be included with others; to use, re-use, and publish the same in whole or in part in any and all media including use on the world wide web, now or hereafter, and for any purpose whatever for illustration, promotion, art, recruitment, publication, advertising, and trade, and if appropriate, to use my name and pertinent education and/or biographical facts as George Mason University chooses. Use of photographs, videos, comments, and audio recordings is granted without any restriction as to changes or alterations (including but not limited to composite or distorted representations or derivative works made in any medium) and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished versions incorporating the photograph, video, audio recording, and/or comments including written copy that may be created and appear in connection therewith.

I agree that George Mason University owns the copyright in these photographs, videos, and/or audio recordings and I hereby waive any claims I may have based on any usage of the works derived therefrom. I release and discharge George Mason University and its employees, assigns, licensees, successor in interest, and legal representatives from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of these photographs, videos, audio recordings, and/or comments, including without limitation any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy. The photographs, videos, audio recordings, and/or comments will not be sold to any other firm or organization.

I am not a minor and have the right to contract in my own name. I have read the foregoing and fully understand its contents. This release shall be binding on me and my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns.

Signed _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____