

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 304 -001 Sport, Culture, and Society (3)  
Spring 2014

DAY/TIME:	Th 4:30 – 7:10 p.m.	LOCATION:	IN RM:131
INSTRUCTOR:	Mr. Mark Shriver	EMAIL ADDRESS:	mshriver@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	Robinson Hall B105	PHONE NUMBER:	401-419-8951
OFFICE HOURS:	AFTER CLASS OR  BY APPOINTMENT	FAX NUMBER:	

**PREREQUISITES:**

NONE

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Analyzes sport from educational, political, economic, and cultural perspectives.

This course examines the role of sport in contemporary American 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 the interrelationship between sport, society, social organizations, and social change.

**Nature of Delivery:**

Face-to-face.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. How and why sport (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 social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

**POLICIES**

1. Participation: Attendance is essential for the success of the class. Much of your work is based on information from the lectures and participation in class discussions. 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. Papers and 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."
3. Honor Policy: George Mason University takes its honor policy quite seriously. Examinations, papers, and other assignments must be your own work with the only exception of group projects.

**NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY:** Face-To-Face

## REQUIRED READINGS

Coakley, J. (2009). *Sports in society: Issues and controversies (10<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

## EVALUATION:

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 380 possible points.

Requirements	Points
<b>Exam</b>	
#1 Mid Term (Chapters 1, 3-7)	120
#2 Final Exam (Chapters 8-13)	120
<i>Quizzes (3 quizzes worth 10 points each)</i>	
Research Paper	100
Participation	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>

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		

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE		TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
Th	January 23	First Day of Class	
Th	January 30	Sociology of Sport and Defining Sport	Chapter 1
Th	February 6	History of Sport	Chapter 3
Th	February 13	Sport and Socialization MOVIE: Sandlot	Chapter 4
Th	February 20	Sports and Children	Chapter 5
Th	February 27	Deviant Behavior and Sports	Chapter 6
Th	March 6	Aggression and Sports	Chapter 7
Th	March 13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
Th	March 20	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	Chapters 1, 3-7
Th	March 27	Gender and Sports	Chapter 8

DATE			TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
Th	April	3	Race in Sports	Chapter 9
Th	April	10	Social Class and Sports & <b>PAPERS DUE</b>	Chapter 10
Th	April	17	Economics and Sports	Chapter 11
Th	April	24	Sports and the Media	Chapter 12
Th	May	1	Sports and Politics	Chapter 13
Th	May	8	<b>Final Exam</b>	Chapters 8 - 13

*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>].

