PREREQUISITES
Students must satisfy ALL course prerequisites for all courses offered by the program. Students who register for such courses without the prerequisites may be dropped from those courses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The objective of this course is to learn about different aspects of running a sports team.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The following topics will be covered in class:

1. Principles of Sports Leadership
   Leadership is a critical element to success in any field, and sports are no different. We will discuss in class the basic elements of good leadership that are exhibited by Coaches and General Managers of sports teams. We will also discuss how to develop leaders.

2. Developing Teamwork
   In sports, it is critical for all members of the team to understand their role on the team and the importance of their ability to work together towards a common goal of winning the game. In the class, we will show how a sports team can achieve this. Also, how this can be applied to any organization.

3. Motivation
   It is easy to say that a company will only hire “self-motivated” individuals, but that is not always the case. Furthermore, those who are “self-motivated” are human and will still need motivation at times. In sports, you likewise try to recruit only “self-motivated” individuals, but you do not always end up with an entire team of them. We will discuss how to motivate both individuals and the organization.

4. Media Relations and Crisis Management
   A big part of sports is media relations. Everything done in professional sports – and to some extent, college and high school sports – is covered extensively by TV, radio, Internet, and print media. It is critical in sports to be able to deal with the media on a daily basis. We will discuss in class the principles of media relations that will help the students have guidelines to deal with the media.

   In sports, when a crisis occurs with a team or player, it rarely escapes the news. In class, we will discuss how to deal with a crisis internally, as well as externally (with the media).

5. Hiring and Evaluations
   We will discuss the characteristics to look for in hiring the coach/leader of an organization and how they can be evaluated.

6. Dealing with Different Situations
   I have picked six common situations that happen in sports and will discuss how to handle each situation. These six situations are: Newly-named coach; Extended losing streak; Extended winning streak; Sustaining a winning streak; Sustaining success after a big season; and Rebounding from a poor season.
7. **Interviewing**
   We will discuss how to interview for a job.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

1. **Topic Papers:**
   The papers should be one to two pages (double-spaced) in length and cover each of the below listed topics:

**Due Dates:**
- Leadership – October 18
- Developing Teamwork – November 22
- Motivation – December 20
- Crisis Management – January 20
- Media Relations – February 21
- Taking Over a New Position – April 5
- Situations – April 25

2. **Attendance**
   Attendance will be mandatory. However, it is fully understood that severe illness can make it impossible at times for the student to attend class. It is, therefore, requested that the student clear (or report) any absence with the instructor (just like on a sports team). Remember, executives, managers and negotiators don’t “cut” work or preparation time. The reason for the required class attendance is that most of the course material is being presented in the lectures. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.

3. **Evaluation of Students**
   The students will write one-two page papers relating each of the following topics to the programs they are working in: Leadership, Developing Teamwork, Motivation, Media Relations, Crisis Management, Taking over a new Position and Situations (choose one). Each paper is worth 10% of the grade.

   A. Your writing should be organized. The main point of your argument should be evident, and there is logic in going from A to B.
   
   B. You have justified your arguments using class material. Remember, you are trying to convince your audience as to the “correctness” of your position. They will be skeptical, and the burden is on you to show proof.
   
   C. You have synthesized the discussions to create your own ideas.
   
   D. You offer some implications of your analysis. Try to go beyond the obvious here, but remember, solutions must be critically sound, and there are often tradeoffs involved for any prescription.

**POLICY ON CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

The students will be given outlines of the class lectures before the topics will be discussed in class. They are to study these outlines and be prepared to discuss any of the points in the outlines and how they relate to the sports world.

Clearly, much learning is derived from fellow students’ contributions to class discussions and a failure to fully prepare for class should be construed as breaking a contract with them. Further, late arrivals and early departures are disruptive to the atmosphere we will be trying to create and should be avoided.
No cell phones, IPhone devices, or other means of electronic communications are allowed during class. Violation of this rule could lead to a lowering of the class participation grade by the professor. Furthermore, they must be turned completely off prior to entering the classroom.

The use of laptops is prohibited in class.

**GRADING SYSTEM:**

1. Attendance and Class Participation – 20%
2. Topic Papers – 80% [8 Papers @ 10% each]

Class attendance is mandatory.

**Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<td>88 – 89</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73</td>
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**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

- **September 6** - Class Organization
  - Principles of Sports Leadership/Profiles on Leaders/Developing Leaders

- **October 4** - Complete Principles of Leadership
  - Developing Leaders

- **November 8** - Developing Teamwork

- **December 6** - Motivation

- **January 10** - Crisis Management

- **February 7** - Media Relations

- **March 21** - Taking over a new Position

- **April 11** - Situations

- **May 16** - Hiring and Evaluating Staff

- **May 30** - Interviewing for a Job
  - Dealing with the following situations: Extended Losing Streak, Extended Winning Streak, Coming off a Successful Season, Coming off a Poor Season

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.*
All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12]

University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See www.gmu.edu/student/drc]

For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at http://rht.gmu.edu