

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Physical Activity for Lifetime Wellness**

RECR 186.006 – Yoga: Introduction  
1 Credits, Fall 2018  
T/R 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm RAC 2002 Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Introduces students to the practice of Hatha yoga. Emphasizes yoga asanas (postures) and pranayama (breathing exercises) to enhance physical fitness and mental concentration.

**Course Overview**

Readings, lectures, demonstrations and class participation will be used to analyze the practice of yoga asana and yoga philosophy.

- Students with injuries or pre-existing conditions that may affect the class must inform the instructor.
- Students with specific medical conditions, limited flexibility or injuries will learn appropriate modifications of poses for their own practice.
- All communication will be through GMU e-mail (Patriot Web Site).
- Students are required to bring their own yoga mat to class.
- Comfortable stretch clothing are required. No street clothes may be worn.
- Please arrive 5-10 minutes before class start time to set up your practice space. We will begin practice promptly at 3:00. It is not safe to join practice late. Arriving to class on time is part of your participation requirement.
- Students have the opportunity to make up TWO classes due to excused absence. Make-up classes must be accompanied by a journal (write up of your experience) to be handed in via Blackboard. Students should complete the make-up practice within one week of the class they missed.

Make-up Details:

- First missed class may be made up at Sun & Moon Yoga at either the Fairfax (9998 Main Street, Fairfax VA 22031) or Arlington (3811 Lee Highway, Arlington VA 22207) location free of charge. Tell them you are a “first class free” student when you arrive.
- Second class may only be made up at Sun & Moon Yoga’s Fairfax location (9998 Main Street, Fairfax VA 22031) on Saturday at either 9:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m.

### **Course Delivery Method**

This course is an activity course.

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Demonstrate at least 20 asanas, including proper alignment, with a strong emphasis on safe practice. Students with specific medical conditions, limited flexibility or injuries will learn appropriate modifications of poses for their own practices.
2. Identify the poses and demonstrate proficiency in “Sun Salutation” (Surya Namaskar); a Vinyasa or steady flow of 12 classic postures linked with breath work in a continuous movement.
3. Name the benefits and contraindications of asanas.
4. State the need for and importance of warm-up practices and poses.
5. Develop proficiency in the practice of three types of pranayama.
6. Demonstrate techniques of basic relaxation.

### **Professional Standards**

N/A

### **Required Texts**

None

### **Articles will be made available online via BlackBoard from the following text:**

Feuerstein, Georg and Bodian, Stephanie (1993). *Living Yoga*. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam, Inc.

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, hard copy).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Class Participation (65 points) **Daily attendance and participation required.** Students will demonstrate proficiency in asana and pranayama.

5 points will be given each day with a deduction of 1 point for each five-minutes that a student is late. Attendance/Participation score will be the number of points a student gains each day. Absences are excused with a doctor’s note or preapproved by the instructor. Phone calls, emails, texts do not excuse an absence. Doctor notes must be presented immediately upon return to class or scanned and emailed immediately.

\*\*One letter-grade will be deducted for two unexcused absences or for classes not made up at Sun & Moon Yoga Studio in a timely manner (within one week of missed class or other **agreed upon timeframe between professor and student**).

Journal Writings (30 points; 6 entries worth 5 points each) Students will complete journals reflecting on topics read in required reading via Blackboard. When readings are assigned, journal responses are due by the 3:00 pm (beginning of class) the next class meeting. Journals are submitted through Blackboard and should be reflective in nature. Points will be deducted for late assignments.

Final Practical Exam (30 points) Students will be guided through a practice which will be cumulative in nature. Students are expected to demonstrate recognition of poses and comprehension of safe alignment. Grades will be based on individual progress.

Total Points 125

- **Grading Policies**

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		

**Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

**Class Schedule**

Day	Topic	Reading/Assignments
8/28	Introduction to Yoga and props Course content and expectations	

	Non-harming guides your practice Warm-ups, Six directions of the spine, Table, Easy Seat, Puppy Dog Shavasana (relaxation)	
8/30	Finding your edge Intro to elements of Sun Salutation: Mountain, Lunges, Plank, Downward Facing Dog Breath Awareness: extending exhale Shavasana (relaxation)	Read Essay on Blackboard: <i>Introducing Yoga</i> by Georg Feurstein
9/4	Continue Intro to elements of Sun Salutation: Forward Folds, Baby Cobra, Mini Sun Salute Diaphragmatic (Belly) Breathing Shavasana(relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>
9/6	Learn first variation of Sun Salutation Shavasana (relaxation)	Read Essay on Blackboard: <i>A Nonviolent Approach to Extending Your Limits</i> by Ken Dychtwald
9/11	Review Sun Salutation and link to breath Learn second variation of Sun Salutation Shavasana (relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>
9/13	Upward Facing Dog and other backbends Learn third variation of Sun Salutations Victorious Breath Shavasana (relaxation)	Read Essays on Blackboard: <i>Posture, Posturing, and Poise</i> by Georg Feurestein <i>Asana: Basic Movement Toward Health</i> by Judith Lasater
9/18	Warrior Standing Postures: Warrior 1, 2, 3 & Reverse Warrior Shavasana (relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>
9/20	Balance Postures: Tree and Eagle Pose Shavasana (relaxation)	Read <i>Balance in Yoga</i> by Donna Farhi
9/25	More Standing Postures: Triangle and Side Angle Shavasana (relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>
9/27	Combine Sun Salutations with Other Asanas Shavasana (relaxation)	Read Essay on Blackboard: <i>Working with the Breath</i> by Richard Miller

10/2	Seated Postures: Staff Pose, Head to Knee, Bound Angle, Wide Legged Seated Pose Shavasana (relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>
10/4	Review Practice and Philosophy Shavasana (relaxation)	Read Essay on Blackboard: <i>Relaxation and Well-Being</i> page 111-113
10/9	NO CLASS	<b>NO ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
10/10	Practical Exam Shavasana (relaxation)	<b>Journal Due at 3 p.m. TODAY</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## 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: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> ).
- 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 Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .**