

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 302.001– Philosophical and Ethical Dimensions of Sport
3 Credits, Spring 2019

Friday 9:00 – 11:40 AM – Aquatic and Fitness Center Classroom- Fairfax Campus

Faculty

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Prerequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

This course investigates moral issues in sport, and judgments about right and wrong behavior among athletes, coaches, spectators, and others.

Course Overview

This course investigates moral issues in sport, and judgments about right and wrong behavior among athletes, coaches, spectators, and others. The class format is primarily lectures and class discussions, supplemented by group work and discussions of assigned readings and current ethical issues in sports.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered using a lecture format.

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the moral basis of decision making in sport management.
2. Develop a protocol for ethical decision-making within the organizations which govern sport programs.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the various issues and contemporary problems confronting sport managers and how ethical decision making can be applied.
4. Critically analyze various decision-making approaches to resolving ethical issues in sports management.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of ethical theories.
6. Attain the knowledge to understand & refine a personal and professional code of ethics to guide decision making.

Professional Standards

Not Applicable

Required Texts

Schneider, R. (2009). Ethics of sport and athletics: Theory, issues, and application. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Various case studies posted via Blackboard

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

The instructor is solely responsible for assigning grades. As such, the instructor reserves the right to assess student performance in each of the categories identified in the EVALUATION section of this syllabus. Student non-compliance with stated academic, honor, attendance, or participation expectations will result in a '0' for the associated evaluation.

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Exams (3) <i>multiple choice, true/false, matching, short essay</i>	300 points
Participation <i>(attendance, case studies, class participation)- 42.8 points each class</i>	600 points
Sport Ethics Debate Presentation (group project)	50 points
Mini Class Discussion - Current Sport Ethics Event	50 points
TOTAL	1000 points

- **Instructor Expectations**

1. All assigned reading for each class is expected to be done prior to class.
2. All written assignments must be typed (computer word processing is recommended).
3. Regular attendance and participation is expected. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain class materials from sources other than the instructor.
4. Students must abide by the Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.

- **Class Attendance**

It enhances your academic success to be in class; therefore, you should attend ALL scheduled class meetings in accordance with George Mason policy: Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. Excused absences are only those supported by documentation such as a physician's note for an illness. Students are responsible for communicating ahead of time if they will miss class regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused to obtain relevant class work or to reschedule an exam.

In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but to the class. **Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation.** Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

- **Participation**

If you attend, are on time, each day, and participate in class related discussions/activities, you'll receive the full 42.8 points for that day. Students will lose 1 participation point for every minute period that they are late for class. For example, 30 minutes = -30 points. Unexcused absences, late arrivals, misuse of technology (i.e. texting, watching videos, searching the web, utilizing technology for non-class related activity, etc.), and lackadaisical performance could significantly affect the student participation grade.

Respect the free exchange of thought in an academic environment and the participants therein. For example:

- a) do not have any sound emitting devices turned on
- b) wait until the teacher/guest speaker has finished prior to gathering your belongings
- c) do not smoke, chew tobacco, eat, sleep, disrupt others by inappropriate talking, or disrespect the class schedule by being tardy.

You are encouraged to:

- a) feel free to openly and respectfully contribute your thoughts
- b) listen actively to the comments of others
- c) be punctual
- d) ask any and all appropriate questions that you have
- e) maintain civility in your interpersonal communications.

Class discussions will be conducted in a civil, informed fashion wherein disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. **Your contributions are not only welcome, they are essential.**

- **Assignment Descriptions**

Sport Ethics Debate Presentation

Groups (to be determined in class) will be given a debate question to which there will be a “pro” and “con” side. Groups will research information on the topic, practice as a group in class, and participate in a debate judged by the instructor and other Mason staff, arguing their assigned side against an opposing group. **A rubric for the debates will be given to the class closer to project due date.**

Case Study Discussion

Utilizing the case studies at the end of each chapter and/or those provided by the instructor, each student will be responsible for reviewing the assigned case study for the week. During class, students will have an ethical discussion about how to address the situation in the case study. Students are expected to work on this independently and to come to class with minor notes prepared for the discussion prior to class. Contributions to the discussion will be accounted for in the participation grade for the day. **Your contributions are not only welcome, they are essential.**

Mini Class Discussion

Each student will be assigned a class day on which to give a three-minute to seven-minute presentation on a sport related current event. The presentation should relate the current event issue to ethical philosophy, in class material, and must include class discussion questions. This presentation should be created via PowerPoint, Prezi, or another approved method.

- **Alternative Work**

There is NO make-up work. Only those excused absences supported by documentation will be addressed at the instructor’s discretion on an individual basis (e.g. a physician’s note for an illness). Alternative work due to intercollegiate athletic competitions or other legitimate university activity must be arranged PRIOR to the due date. A grade of ‘0’ will be assigned to all missed work unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

- **Grading**

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

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

1	FRI	1/25	Welcome to SPMT 302	
2	FRI	2/1	Moral Reasoning: An Introduction	Chapter 1
3	FRI	2/8	Ethical & Unethical Behavior	Chapter 2
4	FRI	2/15	Moral Education & Development	Chapter 3
5	FRI	2/22	Exam #1	
6	FRI	3/1	Performance Enhancement	Chapter 4
7	FRI	3/8	Violence in Sport	Chapter 5
-	FRI	3/15	Spring Break	
8	FRI	3/22	Race Equity in Sport	Chapter 6
9	FRI	3/29	Debate Day Group Assignments Exam #2	
10	FRI	4/5	Gender Equity	Chapter 7
11	FRI	4/12	Intercollegiate Sport	Chapter 8
12	FRI	4/19	Sport Manager Issues	Chapter 9
13	FRI	4/26	Exam #3 In class debate day work	
14	FRI	5/3	Debate Day!	

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 <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- 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 follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to 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/>.