George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Sport Management  
SPMT613.001– Social Psychology of Sport: Leadership Implications  
(Strategic Leadership in Sport Organizations)  
3 Credits, Spring 2019

Faculty  
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Prerequisites/Corequisites  
None

University Catalog Course Description  
Grounded in social psychological underpinnings, the course examines leadership in groups and organizations. It addresses the theoretical foundations and applications of leadership within sport organizations.

Course Overview  
The learning experiences in this course are afforded through asynchronous online instruction. Opportunities to meet the course objectives are addressed through direct instruction, discussion boards, videos, and student participation. Course content includes, but is not limited to Cohesion; Organizational structures, culture, efficiency, and change; Systems Thinking; Strategic Planning; and Leadership theory and applications. The course will include a) elicited student- and instructor-provided examples, b) the examination and synthesis of the theoretical underpinnings of organizations and leadership, and c) engaging students in the analysis of sport applications.

Course Delivery Method  
This course will be delivered 100% online using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on January 23, 2019.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements  
To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:
  - High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
• Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
• Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
• The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  o Adobe Acrobat Reader: https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  o Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

**Expectations**

• **Face-to-Face:**
  Three class meetings are scheduled. See Course Outline.

• **Course Week:**
  Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday, and finish on Sunday.

• **Log-in Frequency:**
  Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials several times per week.

• **Participation:**
  Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

• **Technical Competence:**
  Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.

• **Technical Issues:**
  Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

• **Workload:**
  Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet specific deadlines and due dates listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

• **Instructor Support:**
  Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

• **Netiquette:**
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

- **Accommodations:**
  Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**
This course is designed to enable students to do the following:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts in management, policy development, and decision-making.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of strategic planning.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of effective leadership practices in sport.
4. Identify prominent sport governance structures.
5. Identify resource allocation and programming principles.
6. Develop an understanding of effective practices in the strategic management of sport.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of human resource management, conflict resolution, and negotiation.
8. Recognize the purposes and processes of feasibility studies.
9. Recognize the fundamentals of community and media relations.

**Professional Standards**
Courses offered in the Sport and Recreation Studies (SRST) graduate program are guided by the principles of the Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA). COSMA (2010, p. 1) “bases its accrediting process on principles, rather than standards.” The eight recommended principles are:
- outcomes assessment;
- strategic planning;
- curriculum;
- faculty;
- scholarly and professional activities;
- resources;
- internal and external relationships; and
- educational innovation.


**Required Texts**
Sports ManagersDISC ([www.athleteassessments.com](http://www.athleteassessments.com)) assessment required.

SELECTED READING CHOICES (MUST be APPROVED by Dr. Baker)

Theory-Grounded/Cross-Disciplinary:

Popular Sport-Related:

Classics:

**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).

**Assignments and/or Examinations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points (% total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement: participation, contributions (e.g., Discussion Boards)</td>
<td>50 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments: Ice Breaker; Sport ManagersDISC</td>
<td>20 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>50 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Reviews</td>
<td>30 (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis Paper, DB Presentation, and DB response</td>
<td>50 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due to the online nature of the course, many activities will be self-paced. However, Discussion Board Reactions and some assignments are time-restricted. Assignments can be turned in prior to the due date, but must be turned by the due date. NO LATE WORK will be accepted!

**Evaluation:**
You are expected to actively participate in class discussion and fulfill assignments. Assignments must be turned in by the specified due date or no credit will be given. Only students with emergencies, documented medical excuses, or University sponsored functions (approved by the professor in advance) will be considered for exception. Please contact the professor for individual clarifications. All written assignments must be typed and follow APA guidelines. It is recommended that students make copies of all submitted work.

**Required Assignments:**
See the ASSESSMENTS section in Blackboard, and submit through Blackboard:
1. Ice Breaker: Produce and post a video or written representation introducing yourself to the class. Who are you professionally? What is important to you?
2. Participation grades will be based on active, thoughtful participation in online Discussion Boards and exercises.
3. Article Reviews: There are THREE Research Article Review papers that will consist of a 1 to 2 page, typed paper related to course topics. The paper should include a brief summary of the article, a discussion of the constructs, and a bibliographic citation. APA format. The academic research journal should be current (within 5 years).
4. Sport Managers DISC: This individual assessment is available online at athleteassessment.com
5. Test: This evaluation may include matching, true/false, multiple choice and short essay; the test will be based on course content.
6. Synthesis Paper: Paper must be in APA format. Project will be evaluated based upon theoretical framework, clarity, and substantive content. You will summarize your chosen book, providing connections to course content (e.g., leadership, organizational theories), and examples or applications in a related posting.

**Grading**
Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>187-200</td>
<td>94% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179-186</td>
<td>90% - 93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175-178</td>
<td>88% - 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167-174</td>
<td>84% - 87%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159-166</td>
<td>80% - 83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155-158</td>
<td>78% - 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139-154</td>
<td>70% - 77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-138</td>
<td>00% - 69%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 200 possible points.

**Professional Dispositions**
Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.
**Class Schedule**
Any circumstance arising that is not explicitly addressed in this syllabus or by George Mason University policy, is implicitly governed under the auspices of common sense and will be dealt with using the instructor's discretion.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-23</td>
<td>*** IN-CLASS: Introduction; Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Organizational Studies and Effectiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Organizational Culture and Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 4    |       | Organizations; Symbolism and Systems Thinking | DUE: Discussion Board – Symbolism in Organizations  
                      |                      | DUE: Book Choice for Paper |
| 5    |       | Strategic Planning | DUE: Discussion Board-  
                      |                      | Strategic Planning  
                      |                      | DUE: Article Review #1 |
| 6    | 2-27  | *** IN-CLASS DISCUSSION: Organizations, Strategic Planning, Leadership ABCs; Management vs. leadership: Best practices |                      |
| 7    |       | Leadership Introduction and Ongoing Book Analysis | DUE: Article Review #2 |
| 8    |       | SPRING BREAK |                      |
| 9    |       | Leadership Adventures | DUE: Discussion Board-  
                      |                      | Adventures in Leadership |
| 10   |       | Leadership Theories; Motivation: Decision making; Applications | DUE: Discussion Board-  
                      |                      | Leadership Applications |
| 11   |       | Leadership Members & Followers | DUE: Article Review #3 |
| 12   | 4-17  | *** IN-CLASS: Communication; Cohesion; DISC  
                      |                      | F2F discussion |
                      |                      | DUE: Post a Presentation on Your Chosen Book |
| 14   |       | Respond to Others’ Postings on Books | DUE: Respond to Presentations |
| 15   |       | Final Test | DUE: Test- Organizations, Strategic Planning, Leadership |

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://coursessupport.gmu.edu/.
- The Writing Center 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/).
- The 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 Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress

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management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see http://ssac.gmu.edu/). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to http://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/.

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