

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism
Fall 2019
Sport Management
SPMT 480-003 Great Books in Sports (3)

DAY/TIIME:	TR 1:30-2:45pm	LOCATION:	TH L003
PROFESSOR:	Craig Esherick	EMAIL:	cesheric@gmu.edu
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OFFICE HOURS:	By Appointment	FAX:	703.993.2025
CREDITS:	3 hours		

PREREQUISITES: A GPA of 3.0 or higher at the end of junior year or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of the great books in sports literature. The purpose of this course is to develop students' critical thinking skills and understanding of the history of the sports industry. Each student will write a thesis at the end of the semester that is inclusive of the books they will read in this course, the experiences they have had in other classes, and experiences they have had interning or working in the sports industry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to:

1. Identify connections between the books and current events in the sports industry.
2. Identify connections between the books and previous classes.
3. Develop an understanding of the history of the sports industry.
4. Develop critical thinking skills and new and creative ideas to improve the sports industry.
5. Recognize common themes among the books.
6. Learn skills to write well-developed essays.
7. Develop a great appreciation for reading good books.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The learning experiences in this course are afforded through writing assignments and group discussions. Course content includes, but is not limited to, the following: sport history; sport and race; sport and culture; coaching; conflict resolution; sports scandals; understanding the globalization of sports; economics of sport.

HONOR CODE:

George Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code. With this in mind, all students in this course are held to the strictest standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

STUDENT SUPPORT:

Any eligible student with an exceptionality documented through George Mason University's Disability Resource Center must notify the instructor so that suitable accommodations can be implemented. The notification should take place during the **first week** of classes.

Expectations:

1. All assigned reading is to be completed prior to coming to class. Class discussion about the readings in this class is the foundation of this course. You are expected to read all three books, literally 'cover to cover'.
2. All written assignments must be typed (*Word* documents are recommended).
3. Attendance is expected.
4. If the class meets online, those discussions are just as important as the in-class discussions.
5. Students are expected to actively participate in class /online discussions.
6. 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. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but to the class as a whole. We will have fun if everyone is engaged. To be engaged you have to keep up with the reading and be **refreshed** when you attend class. All cell phones, blackberries, and other electronic devices not being used for note taking must be turned off and put away prior and during class. Texting in class is **NOT** acceptable behavior; neither is falling asleep.

Alternative Work:

There is **NO** make-up work and late assignments will not be accepted. Absences supported by documentation may be excused (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 due date. **There will be NO extra credit.**

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Bensinger, K. (2018) *Red Card*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
Knight, P. (2016). *Shoe dog: A memoir by the creator of Nike*. New York: Scribner.
Van Natta, Jr., D. (2011) *Wonder girl: The magnificent sporting life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias*.
New York: Back Bay Books.

EVALUATION:

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points. There is no final exam in this class.

Writing Assignments: **60** [A series of assignments centered on the three books that have been required reading for the class. The papers will be graded on content, writing style, grammar, spelling, creative writing/thinking, critical thinking and knowledge of the subject matter in each case.]

Class Participation: **15** [This course is a seminar class. Participating in the discussion every class period and during the online sessions will be important. Your knowledge of the three books and how regularly you offer thoughts about each book will be how you are evaluated.]

Thesis/final paper: **25** [The final paper will be an opportunity for you to think and write about each of these books and bring the content together into one essay. Writing style, creative thinking/writing, critical thinking, grammar, spelling and knowledge of each of these books will be how this assignment is evaluated.]

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		

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Aug 26/28	Course Introduction/overview/requirements/suggestions <i>Shoe Dog</i> front cover to top of page 15)
Sept 3/5	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 15-116)
Sept 5	Welcome Week Event at The Pilot House 4-6:00pm Meet fellow students, faculty and great food
Sept 9	Sport Psychology Symposium Merten Hall 1204 6:30-8:30pm free pizza and great discussion
Sept 10/12	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 117-217)
Sept 17/19	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 218-321)
Sept 24/26	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 322 to the back cover of the book) Paper assigned for <i>Shoe Dog</i>
Sept 27	GMU Day at Nats Stadium; Panel discussion and game

Oct 1/3	<i>Wonder Girl</i> (Front cover, all pages up to page 69)
Oct 8/10	<i>Wonder Girl</i> (pp. 69-145)
Oct 15/17	<i>Wonder Girl</i> (pp. 145-229) <i>Monday classes meet on Tuesday October 15</i>
Oct 22/24	<i>Wonder Girl</i> (pp. 230 to 294)
Oct 29/31	<i>Wonder Girl</i> (pp. 295 to the back cover of the book, including notes, bibliography and index) Paper assigned for <i>Wonder Girl</i>
Nov 5/7	<i>Red Card</i> (Cover, all pages up to page 43)
Nov 12/14	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 44-138)
Nov 19/21	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 139-220)
Nov 26	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 221-245)
Dec 3	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 246-back cover of book) Final Paper assigned
Dec 5	Questions and discussions on thesis/final paper assignment Opportunity for peer review/Wrap up discussion
Dec 15	Final Paper is due by 11:59pm

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times. Professionalism is an important job skill and one by which you will be judged at your job site by co-workers and your supervisors. 'All times' includes social gatherings at the office and off-site with those who you work with at your internship.

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 follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off 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/>.

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

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.