

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**School of Sport, Recreation, and Tourism Management**

SPMT 304. DL 1 (Blackboard) – Sport, Culture, and Society  
3 Credits, Fall 2019

**Faculty**

Name: Mr. Jason Becker  
Office Hours: Online via Blackboard  
Office Location: Online via Blackboard  
Office Phone: (716)-397-5786  
Email Address: [jbecke18@gmu.edu](mailto:jbecke18@gmu.edu)

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Analyzes sport from educational, political, economic, and cultural perspectives.

**Course Overview**

This course examines the role of sport in contemporary American society. Through the utilization of scholarly interpretations, students examine the way sport is linked to the structure and dynamics of social life. Particular attention is devoted to an analysis of the interrelationship between sport, society, social organization, and social change.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) 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 August 26, 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 will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- 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: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player: <https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>

### *Expectations*

- Course Week:  
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will **start** on Monday morning at midnight, and **finish** on Sunday at 11:59 p.m.  
Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.
- 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 at least **five** 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 prepares students to gain knowledge and a perspective of sport in society today, while analyzing the aspects within it. Specifically, students will:

- Discuss the unique concepts being practiced in sport and society today, i.e. sport and culture, economics, globalization. This outcome will be assessed through assignment #1, the history of sport analysis assignment.
- Discuss and analyze contemporary issues in sport societies today. This outcome will be assessed through assignment #2, the contemporary issues in sports assignment.
- Discuss and analyze sport and culture today, while breaking down the aspects for the future. This outcome will be assessed through assignment #3, the sport and culture assignment.
- Discuss and analyze the significance of sport lifestyles today and the impact they have on fans/consumers/viewers today. This outcome will be assessed through the final group project (Sports and Lifestyles Today).

## **Professional Standards**

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

*National Flashes of Insight Association (NFIA)*

8.21	Understanding of and the ability to analyze thought processes
8.22	Understanding of procedures and techniques for assessment

## **Required Texts**

Coakley, Jay. (2016). *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies* (12th ed.). McGraw-Hill.

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor.

This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 1000 possible points.

*Table of Assignments and Relative Grade Value (Points)*

Requirements	Points
Participation (Discussion Boards) – 19 x 15 points	285
History of Sport Analysis	50
Contemporary Issues in Sport Assessment	145
Sport and Culture Analysis	100
Case Study Breakdown - Sport in Society (Past, Present and Future)	120
Group Final Project – Sport in Society Today	200
Midterm Exam	50
Final Exam	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

*Grade Scale with Points Converted to Letter Grade*

<i>Points</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Grade</i>
94-100	94-100%	A
90-93	90-93%	A-
88-89	88-89%	B+
84-87	84-87%	B
80-83	80-83%	B-
78-79	78-79%	C+
74-77	74-77%	C
70-73	70-73%	C-
60-69	60-69%	D
Below 60	0-59	F

**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

## Evaluation of Assignments

*History of Sport Analysis* – For this history of sport analysis essay, I want you to analyze and critique the history of sport from an individual or team/sport perspective and the impact this has had on you as a fan today. This can be an analysis on a sport figure (Michael Jordan), a specific sport (history of the NFL) or a sport organization (New York Yankees).

*Issues in Sport Assessment* - For this contemporary issues in sports assignment, I want you to analyze and critique a contemporary issue in sports today. This can be on topics such as steroids in sports, cheating in sports, paying student-athletes, ethics in sports, media's impact in sports, gender equality, etc.

*Sport and Culture Assessment* - For this culture in sport assignment, I want you to detail and critique the sport (s) you've grown up playing/watching that have had an impact on you as a person today

*Case Study Breakdown Assignment* – For this assignment, students will analyze and assess a case study of their choice that focuses and details sport in our past, present and future, while analyzing the impact on society.

*Group Final Project (Sport, Culture and Society)* – For this group PowerPoint project, I want each group to select a topic of choice as it relates to sport in society today. This can be on topics such as youth sports, the history of basketball, the history of the NFL, the impact of sports in the United States today, student-athletes today, etc.

*Midterm and Final Exam* – The midterm and final exam will consist of questions we've discussed in class based on the chapters and supplemental materials. Both exams will be essay format.

## Professional Dispositions

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

## Participation/Attendance (Discussion Boards)

Because of the structure of this online class, it is important for you to come prepared to participate in class activities and assignments. Although this isn't a face-to-face class, it's still highly important for you to treat attendance as an impact on your final grade and overall performance in the course. Group work is also important as we will take time every class and go over assigned readings with the activity that we are currently working on.

**Discussion Boards:** Each week, students will take part in discussion board responses that elicit thought, critical thinking and assessment of the topics being covered.

Students will be required to respond to the initial forum post Wednesday by midnight and student responses Sunday by midnight. Some weeks there will be two discussion forums and the same

requirements will apply in terms of initial postings and student responses.

Students will be required to have at least **two** “thoughtful” responses to each of the weekly discussion questions. However, it is recommended that students take part in more to get the full online interaction between students. The total point distribution of the discussion forum throughout the semester is 285 total points (19 forums x 15 points each).

The responses should be a paragraph long and in full sentence form. The idea of discussion boards is to highlight with other students the discussion question and any other ideas/concepts that may come up from other students. You will be asked to use APA format when using citations and there will also be a rubric to assess your quality of work.

### **Class Schedule**

<b>DATE</b> (MONDAY-SUNDAY)		<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
w. 1	Aug. 26 – Sep. 1	Sociology of Sport	<i>Chapter One/forums 1-1 and 1-2</i>
w. 2	Sep. 3 - 8	Producing Knowledge About Sports In Society	Chapter Two/ <b>forum 2-1</b>
	<b>Sep. 5</b>	<b>Welcome Week Event 4-6:00pm</b> <i>The Pilot House (behind Hampton Roads dormitory)</i>	<i>Food, drink and a chance to say hello to faculty, staff and fellow students</i>
	<b>Sep. 9</b>	<b>Sport Psychology Symposium</b> <i>1204 Merten Hall 6:30-8:30pm</i>	<i>Pizza and a great discussion about how to motivate today's athletes</i>
w. 3	Sep. 9 - 15	Sports and Socialization	Chapter Three/ <b>forum 3-1 ; History of Sport assignment due</b> (Sep. 15th by 11:59 p.m.)
w. 4	Sep. 16 - 22	Sports For Children	Chapter Four/ <b>forums 4-1 and 4-2</b>
w. 5	Sep. 23 - 29	Deviance in Sports	Chapter Five/ <b>forum 5-1 ; Issues in Sport assignment due</b> (Sep. 29th by 11:59 p.m.)
	<b>Sep. 27</b>	<b>GMU Day at Nats Park</b> <i>Washington Nationals v Cleveland Indians</i>	<i>Panel discussion 5:30pm</i> <i>Game 7:05pm</i>
w. 6	Sep. 30 – Oct. 6	Violence in Sports	Chapter Six/ <b>forum 6-1</b>

<b>DATE</b> (MONDAY-SUNDAY)		<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
w. 7	Oct. 7 - 13	Gender and Sports	Chapter Seven/ <b>forum 7-1 ; Midterm due (Oct. 13th by 11:59 p.m.)</b>
w. 8	Oct. 14 - 20	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter Eight/ <b>forums 8-1 and 8-2</b>
w. 9	Oct. 21 - 27	Social Class in Sports	Chapter Nine/ <b>forum 9-1 ; Sport and Culture assignment due (Oct. 27th by 11 :59 p.m.)</b>
w. 10	Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	Age and Ability	Chapter 10/ <b>forums 10-1 and 10-2</b>
w. 11	Nov. 4 - 10	Sports and the Economy	Chapter 11/ <b>forum 11-1</b>
w. 12	Nov. 11 - 17	Sports and the Media	Chapter 12/ <b>forum 12-1 ; Case Study due (Nov. 17th by 11 :59 p.m.)</b>
w. 13	Nov. 18 - 24	Sport and Politics	Chapter 13/ <b>forums 13-1 and 13-2</b>
w. 14	Nov. 25- Dec. 1 Thanksgiving break	Enjoy your break!	<b>No chapter reading or assignment due</b>
w. 15	Dec. 2 - 7 (Mon – Sat)	Sports in High School and College	Chapter 14/ <b>forum 15-1 ; Group Final Project due (Dec. 7th by 11 :59 p.m.)</b>
w. 16	Finals Week (Dec. 11 – 18) (Wed - Wed)	None	None/ <b>Final Exam due (Dec. 18th by 11 :59 p.m.)</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://oai.gmu.edu/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.
- Religious Holidays - A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page (<http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>). Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.
- 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](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/>.
- 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 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/>.**