

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
***School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management***  
**Fall 2020**  
**Sport Management**  
**SPMT 480-003 Great Books in Sports (3)**

DAY/TIME:	Weekly/asynchronous	LOCATION:	Online
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CREDITS:	3 hours		

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**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 DELIVERY METHOD:**

This course is 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 no later than June 6th, 2020, 12:01AM.

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:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
  - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

## Expectations

- 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 at least 3 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.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

The learning experiences in this course are afforded through writing assignments and group discussions, using Blackboard Collaborate and Discussion Board. 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 discussion. Class discussion, via online tools, 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* document).
3. Attendance on Blackboard Collaborate and participation on discussion board is expected.
4. Students are expected to actively participate in online discussions.
5. Students must abide by the Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.

**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.  
 Berkman, S. (2019) *A team of their own: How an international sisterhood made Olympic history*. Toronto, Ontario: Hanover Square Press.  
 Knight, P. (2016). *Shoe dog: A memoir by the creator of Nike*. New York: Scribner.

**EVALUATION:**

This course is graded on a point system, with 100 possible points. There is no final exam.

Writing Assignments:           **65** [*A series of assignments centered on the three books that have been required reading for the class. The papers are graded on content, writing style, grammar, spelling, creative writing/thinking, critical thinking and knowledge of the subject matter in each case.*]

Class Participation:           **10** [*This course is a seminar class. Participating in the discussion each week online, and your enthusiasm for the course, during the online sessions will be important. Your knowledge of the three books, consistent engagement across the semester, 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:**

Week One	Course Introduction/overview/requirements/suggestions <i>Shoe Dog</i> front cover to top of page 15)
Week Two	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 15-116)
Week Three	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 117-217)
Week Four	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 218-321)
Week Five	<i>Shoe Dog</i> (pp. 322 to the back cover of the book) Paper assigned for <i>Shoe Dog is due</i>
Week Six	<i>Red Card</i> (Front cover, all pages up to page 43)
Week Seven	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 44-138)
Week Eight	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 139-220)
Week Nine	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 221 to 245)
Week Ten	<i>Red Card</i> (pp. 246 to back cover of the book) Paper assigned for <i>Red Card</i>
Week Eleven	<i>A Team of their Own</i> (Cover, all pages up to page 50)
Week Twelve	<i>A Team of their Own</i> (pp. 51-140)
Week Thirteen	<i>A Team of their Own</i> (pp. 141-181)
Week Fourteen	<i>A Team of their Own</i> (pp. 185-266) Paper assigned for this book
Week Fifteen	<i>A Team of their Own</i> (pp. 267-back cover of book) Final Paper assigned <i>A Team of their Own</i> paper due Final Paper is due by 11:59pm

**Dec 14**

### **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](mailto: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>

- Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

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.***