

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management**  
**SPMT 304-005 Sport, Culture and Society**  
**3 Credits, Fall 2020**  
**Wednesdays 7:20 – 10:00 pm**

**Faculty:** Ms. Jodie Wexelberg/Mr. Roger Wexelberg  
**Email:** [jwexelbe@gmu.edu](mailto:jwexelbe@gmu.edu)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Classroom:** Innovation 207

**Prerequisites** None

**University Catalog Course Description**

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

**Course Delivery Method**

Course content will be delivered through a combination of lecture, class discussion, reaction to the text, individual assignments, and in-class viewing of select pieces.

**Class Attendance and Electronic Devices**

You are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Please notify the instructor in advance if you know you are going to miss class, and you are responsible for any missed readings or assignments.

We will discuss an electronic device policy on the first day of class, but, in general, it is expected that any use of electronic devices will not be a distraction from content delivery for you or anyone else. Necessary exceptions should be communicated to the instructor at the start of class.

**Safe Return to Campus Policy**

**All students are required to take Safe Return to Campus Training prior to visiting campus:** it is, however, recommended for all Mason students. Training is available in [Blackboard](#).

**COVID Addendum** can be found on the SPMT 304 Blackboard course. It is advised that students read this information.

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

Disability Services collaborates with students with documented disabilities and with faculty to provide reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids, and support services that are individualized and based on medical documentation, functional assessment, and a collaborative assessment of needs.

**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/>

**Mason Diversity Statement**

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services, and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. Read the full [Mason Diversity Statement](#).

## Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. [know] how and why sport, in general, and certain sports in particular, have been created and organized in certain ways;
2. [understand] the connection between sports and other spheres of social life, such as family, education, politics, the economy, the media, and religion;
3. [discover] how sports and sport participation inform the way people think about their own bodies and about gender, social class, race and ethnicity, and disability;
4. [analyze] the social organization, group behavior, and social interaction patterns that exist within sport settings;
5. [study] the cultural, structural, and situational factors affecting sports and sport experiences; and
6. [identify] the social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

**Required Text:** Coakley, J. (2017). Sports in Society: Issues and controversies (13th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

**Professional Standards:** None

## Course Performance Evaluation

This course will be graded on a point system, with the percentage of points earned of the total possible converted to the corresponding letter grade.

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>5 Class Assignments (one page paper or in-class assignment)</b>  | <b>10 points each</b> |
| Students will select one (1) Sport Management Issue ( <i>outlined at the end of each chapter</i> ) from the chapters previously presented in class and submit no more than a one-page paper stating how they would answer or handle the selected issue. Paper will be graded on thoroughness of answer related to the issue, proper grammar and spelling, and on-time submission. |                       |
| <b>8 Quizzes (administered on Blackboard)</b>   | <b>25 points each</b> |
| Quizzes will consist of true/false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank and essay questions covering announced specific content that has been reviewed in class.  |                       |
| <b>Final Exam (administered on Blackboard)</b>  | <b>100 points</b>     |
| Final exam will consist of true/false, short answer, fill-in-the-blank and essay questions covering all content, including readings, discussions, viewings, and any other material presented throughout the course. A study guide will be provided.   |                       |
| <b>Participation/Attendance</b>   | <b>50 points</b>      |
| To get the most from this course, students need to be present. Attendance and participation points are achieved by being in class and participating in class discussions. Provisions, in the form of submitted materials, will be made for students uncomfortable with open participation in class discussions.   |                       |
| <b>TOTAL Possible Points</b>  | <b>400 points</b>     |

## Grading Scale

|           |          |          |         |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 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 |         |

## Assignments and Grading Policy

Course activity will consist of lectures, readings, written assignments, quizzes, and final exam. In addition, class attendance and participation will be taken into consideration. Specific point values and grading rubrics will be shared prior to each assignment.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

1. Students must adhere to the policies of the Mason Honor Code. ([oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/)).
  2. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. ([universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/)).
  3. 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.
  4. 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 ([ods.gmu.edu/](http://ods.gmu.edu/)).
  5. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless authorized by the instructor.
  6. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>
  7. 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:***
8. 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).

### Course Schedule (subject to change)

We will follow the general outline and contents of the text, covering 1-2 chapters per week. We will utilize the GMU academic calendar and final exam schedule. Current events and experiential experiences will be included as appropriate. Assignments will be posted in timely fashion on Blackboard and announced in class.

| Week                  | Subjects/Readings/Assignments  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Week 1 - 1/27</b>  | Introductions * Safety protocols * Review of Game Plan (syllabus)<br>Tip-off Discussion: <i>Should athletes speak out on social issues?</i><br>Defining "Sport" and the Sociology of Sport (Chapter 1)<br>How Do we Know What we Know? (Chapter 2) |
| <b>Week 2 - 2/3</b>   | <b>QUIZ #1 – Chapter 1 &amp; 2</b><br>Tip-off Discussion:<br>Sport Socialization (Chapter 3)<br>Sport and Children (Chapter 4)   |
| <b>Week 3 - 2/10</b>  | <b>QUIZ #2: Chapter 3 &amp; 4</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Deviance (Chapter 5)  |
| <b>Week 4 - 2/17</b>  | Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Violence (Chapter 6)<br><b>UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #1 Due</b>  |
| <b>Week 5 - 2/24</b>  | <b>QUIZ #3: Chapter 5 &amp; 6</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Gender (Chapter 7)  |
| <b>Week 6 - 3/3</b>   | Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport, Race, and Ethnicity (Chapter 8)   |
| <b>Week 7 - 3/10</b>  | <b>QUIZ #4: Chapter 7 &amp; 8</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Social Class (Chapter 9)<br>Sport, Age and Ability (Chapter 10)<br><b>UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #2 Due</b>  |
| <b>Week 8 – 3/24</b>  | <b>QUIZ #5: Chapter 9 &amp; 10</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and the Economy (Chapter 11)   |
| <b>Week 9 - 3/31</b>  | Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and the Media (Chapter 12)   |
| <b>Week 10 - 4/7</b>  | <b>QUIZ #6: Chapter 11 &amp; 12</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Politics (Chapter 13)<br><b>UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #3 Due</b>  |
| <b>Week 11 – 4/14</b> | Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Schools (Chapter 14)   |
| <b>Week 12 - 4/21</b> | <b>QUIZ #7: Chapter 13 &amp; 14</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br>Sport and Religion (Chapter 15)<br>Sport and the Future (Chapter 16)  |
| <b>Week 13 - 4/28</b> | <b>QUIZ #8: Chapter 15 &amp; 16</b><br>Tip-off Discussion<br><b>UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #4 Due</b><br>Season in Review   |
| <b>Week 14 – 5/5</b>  | <b>Final Exam</b>  |

I look forward to working with you this semester and please email me at [jwexelbe@gmu.edu](mailto:jwexelbe@gmu.edu) if you have any questions.