

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

SPMT304: Section 002 – Sport, Culture and Society  
3 Credits, Fall 2023

Wednesday, 4:30-7:10 pm in **Innovation Hall 135** - Fairfax

**Faculty**

Name: Brian Head  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
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**University Catalog Course Description**

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

**Learning Objectives**

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

- [know] how and why sport, in general, and certain sports in particular, have been created and organized in certain ways;
- [understand] the connection between sports and other spheres of social life, such as family, education, politics, the economy, the media, and religion;
- [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;
- [analyze] the social organization, group behavior, and social interaction patterns that exist within sport settings;
- [study] the cultural, structural, and situational factors affecting sports and sport experiences; and
- [identify] the social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

**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.

**Professional Standards**

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards: Not Applicable.

**Class Preparation**

Readings will include assigned chapters within the text and/or current articles and news to be determined by the instructor. Students may be required to be prepared each week with a reading (article, internet item, etc.) directly related to the course content for class discussion.

**Required Texts**

Coakley, J. (2017). *Sports in Society: Issues and controversies* (13th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill. *(Available in physical and digital formats.)*

## Class Schedule

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

<b>Class #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Notes</b>	<b>Readings/Subject Matter</b>
1	Aug. 23		Course Introduction Chapter 1: The Sociology of Sports
2	Aug. 30		Chapter 2: Producing Knowledge About Sports in Society Chapter 3: Sports and Socialization
3	Sept. 6		Chapter 4: Organized Youth Sports
4	Sept. 13		Chapter 5: Deviance in Sports Chapter 6: Violence in Sports
5	Sept. 20		Chapter 7: Gender and Sports
6	Sept. 27		Chapter 8: Race and Ethnicity
7	Oct. 4	Assign Research Project	Chapter 9: Social Class
n/a	Oct. 11	<b>10/18 Mid-Term Assigned;</b> Turn in via Blackboard by 10 pm on 10/16	Chapter 10: Age and Ability
8	Oct. 18		Chapter 11: Sports and the Economy
9	Oct. 25		Chapter 12: Sports and the Media
10	Nov. 1	<b>Research Projects due by 10 pm on 11/3</b>	Chapter 13: Sports and Politics
11	Nov. 8		Chapter 14: Sports in High School and College
12	Nov. 15		Chapter 15: Sports and Religions
13	Nov. 22	NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break	
14	Nov. 29	Final Exam review	Chapter 16: Sports in the Future
15	Dec. 6	<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>	

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, hard copy).

- **Class Assignments and Class Participation – 25% of final grade**
  - Class assignments and participation may include short class assignments for submission, class discussion, and online class submissions.
- **Mid-Term – 25% of final grade**
  - A mid-term exam will be assigned to complete at home. The exam will primarily be short-answer questions from the first half of the semester.
- **Research Project – 25% of final grade**
- **Final Exam – 25% of final grade**
  - A final examination that covers the assigned materials and topics covered in class. The final exam will be short answers, true/false, and multiple-choice, based on the material covered over the course of the entire semester.

### **Grading Scale**

A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	B+ = 88-89	
B = 84-87	B- = 80-83	C+ = 78-79	
C = 74-77	C- = 70-73	D = 60-69	F = 0-59

### **Campus Closure**

- If the campus closes or class is canceled due to weather or other concern, students should check Blackboard [or other instruction as appropriate] for updates on how to continue learning and information about any changes to events or assignments.

### **Basic Course Technology Requirements (Two options)**

- Activities and assignments in this course will regularly use the Blackboard learning system, available at <https://mymason.gmu.edu>. Students are required to have regular, reliable access to a computer with an updated operating system (recommended: Windows 10 or Mac OSX 10.13 or higher) and a stable broadband Internet connection (cable modem, DSL, satellite broadband, etc., with a consistent 1.5 Mbps [megabits per second] download speed or higher. You can check your speed settings using the speed test on this website.)
- Activities and assignments in this course may occasionally use web-conferencing software (Blackboard Collaborate / Zoom). In addition to the requirements above, students are required to have a device with a functional camera and microphone. In an emergency, students can connect through a telephone call, but video connection is the expected norm.

### **Course Materials and Student Privacy**

- Video recordings — whether made by instructors or students — of class meetings that include audio, visual, or textual information from other students are private and must not be shared outside the class
- Live video conference meetings (e.g. Collaborate or Zoom) that include audio, textual, or visual information from other students must be viewed privately and not shared with others in your household or recorded and shared outside the class

## **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>

### **Academic Integrity**

- The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using the appropriate format for this class. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.
- Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.
- Some kinds of participation in online study sites violate the Mason Honor code: these include accessing exam or quiz questions for this class; accessing exam, quiz, or assignment answers for this class; uploading of any of the instructor's materials or exams; and uploading any of your own answers or finished work. Always consult your syllabus and your professor before using these sites.

### **GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

- 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/)).
- 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/)).
- 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 ([ods.gmu.edu/](http://ods.gmu.edu/)).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless authorized by the instructor.
- 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>

### **Disability Accommodations**

- Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: [ods@gmu.edu](mailto:ods@gmu.edu) | Phone: (703) 993-2474

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

- The College of Education and Human Development seeks to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across identities. We welcome and value individuals and their differences, including gender expression and identity, race, economic status, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age and ability. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from experiences different than their own.

### **Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Interpersonal Violence**

- George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students and employees who believe that they have been sexually harassed, sexually assaulted or subjected to sexual or interpersonal misconduct to seek assistance and support. [University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct](#) speaks to the specifics of Mason’s process, the resources, and the options available to students and employees.
- Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual or interpersonal misconduct: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation 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 or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

### **Campus Resources and Other Helpful Links**

- [Blackboard questions or concerns](#)
- [Student support resources](#) on campus
- [College of Education and Human Development](#)