

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Sport and Recreation Studies

SRST 796 Seminar in Sport and Recreation Studies
1 Credit, Spring 2024

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

Graduate Standing. All coursework with the exception of concurrent capstone.

University Catalog Course Description

Scholarly forum for the presentation and discussion of contemporary topics in sport and recreation studies. Graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars/practitioners share ongoing research and practical applications. Offered by the School of Sport, Recreation, and Tourism Management. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using a synchronous 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 January 16th.

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 standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Ultra/Getting_Started/Browser_Support
- 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.

Expectations

- Course Week: Our course week will begin on Wednesdays and end on Tuesdays.
- 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. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings.
- 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 is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Critically consider the broad range of topics in sport and recreation studies and allied fields, from theoretical, methodological, and professional practice perspectives.
2. Develop and deliver a scholarly presentation and lead an informed discussion based on research or practice.
3. Engage in opportunities to enhance professional development.

Professional Standards [Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA)]

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

Courses offered in the Sport and Recreation Studies (SRST) graduate program are guided by the principles of

COSMA. COSMA (2016, p. 1) “bases its accrediting process on principles, rather than standards.” The eight recommended principles are:

- outcomes assessment;
- strategic planning;
- curriculum;
- faculty;
- scholarly and professional activities;
- resources;
- internal and external relationships; and
- educational innovation.

For more information, please see: Commission of Sport Management Accreditation. (2016, May).

Accreditation principles manual & guidelines for self-study preparation. Retrieved November 30, 2016 from <http://www.cosmaweb.org/accreditation-manuals.html>

Required Texts

We have been approved in SRTM 796 Seminar to work from WorkinSports. The online site will be paid for by the School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism Management. Further information will be provided once the approval is complete so that you can onboard to the WorkinSports online content and Sports Career Game Plan.

Course Performance Evaluation

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

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

- Grades will be assigned on the basis of participation and activities (25%); abstract/executive summary (25%); and scholarly presentation and discussion based on research for the thesis, project, or internship (50%).

Complete either an Executive Summary or a Thesis Abstract –

Due on Discussion Board February 28th.

What is Included in your Executive Summary

Your Name, Title of your Internship or Project, and Location

Introduction: Please explain your job description at your Internship site. If it is a Project, explain what it is and where it is being completed

Background of the site: Looking into your academic literature (from previous courses or used for preparation at your site) that has prepared you to succeed there

Structure and function of the Internship site: Should include an organizational chart and where you are within it as well as the purpose of the organization

Brief description of your experience: What outcomes have come from this capstone choice? This is where you prove that beyond the leadership, marketing and finance, communication you are also an excellent writer!

Each section must be clear and brief. Write what you want then go back and elevate your language to graduate-worthy (use your thesaurus) and edit down to a word limit-400 words!

Due on Discussion Board February 28th.

What is Included in your Thesis Abstract

Title of your report: Should be centered at the top of the page.

Aims and Purpose of the Research: This section should state the practical or thematic problem your research attempts to answer. Also the purpose/objective of your research.

Background: Include some brief context on the academic relevance and theoretical framing of your topic. Do not go into detailed background information.

Method: This part should be a straight forward description of what you did (or will do) in one of two sentences. Include how you collected the data (e.g. survey, interview), what the key variables are, and how you will analyze your data.

Results: Summarize the key results.

Discussion/Implications: Include a sentence that explains why your findings matter.

Each section must be clear but brief. Get your content out and then go back and edit to a word limit of 250 words! Due on Discussion Board February 28th.

Power Point – Due on Assignments and Presented on Zoom

This final Internship, Project, or Thesis Power Point is limited to ten minutes. Create it like you were going to present the finished product to a potential employer and entice them to hire you based on your proven experiences. Pictures, data, and charts are all welcome to back up your deliverables, but especially what you learned and researched. The date for the *presentation* is April 24th when our Seminar will go two hours. The completed Power Point is due ahead of that date on Assignments – April 16th.

- **Other Requirements**

- Regular attendance is required. A note must be submitted for all absences. An unexcused absence results in a failing grade. Active participation in the discussion, typically at the end of a talk, will enhance the experience for speaker and audience.

- **Grading**

- Since the Seminar in Sport and Recreation Studies is designed to provide a guided learning experience, grades will be assigned on an S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) scale. On this graduate scale, S is equivalent to a B or better, and U is equivalent to a B- or lower. An overall indication of “competence” as assessed by the matrix will satisfy satisfactory completion of the course.

Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

Class Schedule

Date		Topic	Assignments
Week 1	1/17	Blackboard Opens Complete Discussion Board by next Tuesday, 1/23 Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	
Week 2	1/24	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	Meet via Zoom
Week 3	1/31	Discussion Board will populate on Tuesdays throughout the semester.	

Week 4	2/07	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	Introduction of <i>WorkinSports</i> Game Plan
Week 5	2/14	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	Meet via Zoom
Week 6	2/21		
Week 7	2/28	Executive Summary or Thesis Abstract	Due on Discussion Board by 11:59p.m.
Week 8	3/06	Spring Break	
Week 9	3/13	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	Meet via Zoom
Week 10	3/20	Discussion Board will populate on Tuesdays throughout the semester.	See Discussion Board for <i>WorkinSports</i> Game Plan
Week 11	3/27	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	See Discussion Board for <i>WorkinSports</i> Game Plan
Week 12	4/03	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	Meet via Zoom
Week 13	4/10	Work on Internship Power Point, Project Power Point, or Thesis Power Point	Due on Assignments by 11:59p.m. on Tuesday, 4/16
Week 14	4/17	Zoom invitation will be <i>made available the day before</i> in Announcements.	
Week 15	4/24	Power Point Presented from 12:30-2:30	Meet via Zoom Presentations During Finals on Zoom among Chairs and Classmates

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://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://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 <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to VIA should be directed to viahelp@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- 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, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, 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 or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.