

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

RMGT 503.DL1 Administration and Disability Rights in Therapeutic Recreation  
3 Credits, Fall 2024

This is an online class. There are no meetings on campus.

### **Faculty**

Name: John N. McGovern, JD  
Office Hours: By appointment and through Zoom or telephone  
Office Location: Remote, in Illinois, not on campus  
Office Phone: Illinois desk phone is 224-293-6451, cellphone is 847-363-9384  
Email Address: [jmcgove@gmu.edu](mailto:jmcgove@gmu.edu), or [jmcgovern@wtgroup.com](mailto:jmcgovern@wtgroup.com)

### **Prerequisites/Corequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this class.

### **University Catalog Course Description**

Overview of major law and policy issues related to therapeutic recreation services for people with disabilities. Primary focus is the Americans with Disabilities Act and related federal laws.

### **Course Overview**

This course provides an overview of several major law and policy issues to meet law related professional competencies related to provision of community recreation and educational services to people with disabilities. Primary focus is on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related federal legislation (e.g., Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act).

### **Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. 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 the first week of classes. **Under no circumstances, may 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.**

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

(1) Read a series of articles and case reports, which illustrate general legal principles governing disability rights law applicable to therapeutic recreation, sports, and recreation.

(2) Identify general legal principles and rules of law governing disability rights law in therapeutic recreation within the context of sports and recreation as described in PowerPoint presentations, lectures, video lectures, review questions, objectives, and required reading material used in the course.

(3) Identify definitions and terms, which demonstrate a working knowledge of federal civil rights laws and their applicability to therapeutic recreation in sports, recreation, and physical education programs, specifically the Americans with Disabilities Act and related legislation.

### **Professional Standards**

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the *Council on Accreditation of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Related Professions (COAPRT)* professional standard:

- 7.03        Students graduating from the program shall be able to demonstrate entry-level knowledge about operations and strategic management/administration in parks, recreation, tourism and/or related professions.

### **Required Text**

There is no assigned textbook. The "textbook" in this course is a compilation of PowerPoint presentations, case reports and related articles appearing in the monthly "NRPA Law Review" column in *Parks & Recreation* magazine (the official publication of the National Recreation and Park Association), and analysis of decisions or disputes by other groups, including disability rights groups. These case reports and related articles will be available for reading, downloading, and printing on the RMGT 503 Blackboard course site.

### **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/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

- 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.
- Speakers and a microphone or a microphone-enabled headset for use with the synchronous web conferencing tools.
- Note that 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:

Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday and finish on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

- Log-in Frequency:

Students must check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 2 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. Therefore, budget time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

- Workload:

Be aware 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.

- Reasonable Modifications:

Online learners who require reasonable modifications because of a disability or health condition, to ensure inclusion, must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

## **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined below. Students are expected to access and complete all examinations as scheduled on Blackboard.

### Examinations – Weighting

Each weekly unit will have as many as six questions. The answer to each question is worth one point. This is the largest portion of the grade, 45% of the grade, **so do not ignore these questions.**

Each quiz will have ten questions. These will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. The two quizzes combined equal 10% of the grade.

The midterm will have 30 questions. These will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. The midterm is worth 15% of the grade.

The final exam will have 60 questions. These will be multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. The final exam is worth 30% of the grade.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

The exams are based on required readings and class lectures. To prepare for the exams, students will be required to focus on the applicable rules of law illustrated and distinguished by the case reports and court opinions in the required readings.

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

There are two quizzes, one midterm, and one final. These are supported by questions within each unit. See the weighting below:

Unit Questions: 90 points

Quiz One: 10 points

Midterm: 30 points

Quiz Two: 10 points

Final Exam: 60 points

- **Grading**

Final grades are based on the percentage of points earned out of the total number of points available on the weekly units, the two quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam. Breaking court decisions or settlement agreements may be assigned for extra credit. See the grading scale below for final grades based on the number of points earned out of a possible 200 points:

Grading - Earned Percentage of Total Points Available

180 to 200 A+	120 to 139 B+	70 to 79 C
160 to 179 A	100 to 119 B	0 - 69 F
140 to 159 A-	80 to 99 B-	

(Since this is a 500 level course, there are no grades of D or C-.)

All RMGT 503 exams are open book, but you are limited to primary course materials and video lectures posted to the RMGT 503 course webpage, as well as your own notes prepared prior to the exam. The use of any other study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information during RMGT 503 exam is prohibited.

### **Use of Generative AI**

Students may not use artificial intelligence tools to develop answers or alternative answers to questions posed in the assignments. The use of the internet, artificial intelligence, and other resources for research purposes is permitted. Students must cite to any external resources used to prepare answers to assignments. Be honest about using or quoting the work of others.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

**Professional Dispositions (CEHD Student Guide)**

Throughout study in the College of Education and Human Development, students are expected to demonstrate behaviors that reflect the positive dispositions of a professional. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/current-students/cehd-student-guide>.

**Class Schedule**

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

WEEK 1: starts midnight 8/26 and ends 11:59 p.m. 9/1

WEEK 2: starts midnight 9/2 and ends 11:59 p.m. 9/8

WEEK 3: starts midnight 9/9 and ends 11:59 p.m. 9/15

WEEK 4: starts midnight 9/16 and ends 11:59 p.m. 9/22

WEEK 5: starts midnight 9/23 and ends 11:59 p.m. 9/29

WEEK 6: starts midnight 9/30 and ends 11:59 p.m. 10/6

WEEK 7: starts midnight 10/7 and ends 11:59 p.m. 10/13

WEEK OF 10/14 through 10/20 – FALL BREAK, NO CLASSES

WEEK 8: starts midnight 10/21 and ends 11:59 p.m. 10/27

WEEK 9: starts midnight 10/28 and ends 11:59 p.m. 11/3

WEEK 10: starts midnight 11/4 and ends 11:59 p.m. 11/10

WEEK 11: starts midnight 11/11 and ends 11:59 p.m. 11/17

WEEK 12: starts midnight 11/18 and ends 11:59 p.m. 11/24

WEEK 13: starts midnight 11/25 and ends 11:59 p.m. 12/1

WEEK 14: starts midnight 12/2 and ends 11:59 p.m. 12/8

GMU Reading Days: Monday 12/9 and Tuesday 12/10

FINAL EXAM: starts midnight 12/11 Wednesday and ends 11:59 p.m. Saturday 12/14

The instructor reserves the right to post extra credit assignments if interesting or significant court orders or settlement agreements become available.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

**CEHD Commitments**

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to fostering collaboration and community, promoting justice and equity, and advancing research-informed practice. Students are expected to adhere to, and contribute to, these commitments, the CEHD Mission, and Core Values of George Mason University. More information is here: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/about/culture/>

**GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

*Policies*

- Students must adhere to Mason’s Academic Standards (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic-standards/>).
- 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 modifications in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved modifications 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](mailto:viahelp@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/assessments>.
- Questions or concerns regarding use of your LMS should be directed to:
  - Blackboard Learn: <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>
  - TimelyCare: <https://caps.gmu.edu/timelycare-services/>
  - Writing Center: <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**RMGT 503 FALL 2024**  
**SYLLABUS page**

**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](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

